## Fasting and Islamic Sharia in Indonesia By Farsijana Rohny Cootje\*)



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In less than a year, the 2024 elections will be held on February 14, 2024, Wednesday. On that date, Christians will observe Ash Wednesday services which mark the forty-day journey of faith during the passion of Jesus Christ before the celebration of Good Friday and Easter. In that service, the priest or pastor places a cross on the forehead of each parishioner as a reminder of human mortality. Humankind comes from dust and returns to dust. This year, Easter is held in conjunction with the implementation of the holy month of Ramadan.

Several predictions have been circulating in society about chaos if the 2024 elections cannot be held. The decision of the Central Jakarta District Court granted all the lawsuits submitted by the Just and Prosperous People's Party (Prima) to the General Elections Commission (KPU). One of those that was granted was a demand to postpone the holding of the 2024 elections. Constitutional law expert Yusril Ihza Mahendra said that there would be a constitutional crisis related to the tenure of public officials filled through elections. For example, the term of office for the president/deputy and his cabinet will end on October 20, 2024.

As a Christian, ending the tribulation period in which Christians also fast on the holy week, I want to reflect on how we can all avoid this catastrophe which must be faced not as destiny. All of us as

the people of Indonesia have to face it, not only the Muslim community who are nationalists and Muslims who are Islamic as supporters of parties based on Islamic sharia. Non-Muslims also play a role in safeguarding the implementation of the 2024 elections. In my opinion, apart from the importance of the legal basis in ensuring the 2024 elections, understanding that Islamic sharia as an ideal in politics in Indonesia has been implemented to protect the religious rights of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

There is a fear circulating among both Muslims and non-Muslims that Indonesia will turn into an Islamic state if Islamic parties win the elections.

R.E Elson wrote about Another Look at the Jakarta Charter Controversy of 1945, stating that Muhammad Hatta when facilitating the interests of Christians in the formulation of the first paragraph of Pancasila said that the state constitution must accommodate the rights of all citizens. The application of Islamic sharia can be carried out in derivative state laws.

It was only after the reform movement that the legal views of Muhammad Hatta were fulfilled. Under the auspices of the 1945 Constitution and regional autonomy legislation, each region can establish local regulations based on Islamic sharia.

Evaluation of the 20 years of the reform movement, there has been a change in views on the application of Islamic sharia, especially to ensure that the equal rights of Muslim and non-Muslim citizens are represented. Equality is not because they are a minority so they must be protected by the majority citizens. So non-Muslim citizens in the concept of Indonesian state administration are not "dhimmi".

Muhammad Hatta's legal thoughts can be seen in Indonesia's preparation to become the center of the world's "halal" industry. The Griya Jati Rasa Cooperative known in English as the Co-op of House of Authentic Sense (HAS), which has members from MSME actors that I facilitated in Yogyakarta, consisting of non-Muslims, is also allowed to be involved in providing products that are consumed by Muslims. Even Muslims and Muslim women are involved as halal supervisors in ensuring the purity of halal products from non-Muslim business actors.

The efforts of Indonesian Muslims to implement Islamic sharia are no different from other adherents who are also guided by religious teachings in realizing safety for others and the universe. The support of non-Muslims for Indonesia to become the center of the halal industry must be spread outside Indonesia. Because the world's political views that still build prejudice and unfair economic structures are directed at countries with an Islamic Sharia economy.

This "halal" industry policy should also inspire the application of Islamic Sharia values in other legal products produced by the government and legislators. Before the covid-19 pandemic, Gadjah Mada Press University published a very important book on the history of the world's Muslims after the death of the prophet Muhammad SAW. The book which was originally published in Arabic and English was translated and expanded by involving Muslim and Christian thinkers in Indonesia to write together in a book called Words Together between Muslims and Christians. The book, which was originally an invitation from 138 world Muslim leaders to respond to a speech by Pope Benedict XVI in Regensburg, on September 13, 2006, can strengthen the views of Islamic

sharia from national leaders, that the teachings of Islam and Christianity are love for God and others. This teaching enables Muslims and Christians to think about the views of other people in Indonesia who are jointly committed to loving God and others in building the nation and state.

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