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GISB is not an Islamic economic model, but a misuse of religion

☐ Guest Submission ☐ October 4, 2024

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Despite the swift efforts by the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) and other relevant agencies in uncovering the crimes of Global Ikhwan Services and Business Holdings (GISB) and rescuing their victims, it is alarming that some voices are urging authorities to consider GISB's alleged contributions to Islamic economics as a mitigating factor in the legal actions taken against them. This is not only misleading but also dangerous.

Islamic economics is fundamentally based on justice, welfare, and the protection of the rights of all individuals, particularly those oppressed by economic circumstances. Any form of injustice that leads to one party oppressing another is prohibited. GISB, however, has been involved in practices that betray these core tenets. Reports of abuse, exploitation, coercion, and financial misconduct have surfaced, with numerous victims coming forward to share harrowing experiences. Their actions are a blatant misuse of the guise of religious and economic responsibility, casting a shadow over genuine Islamic economic practices.

Supporters of GISB claim that the organization has built a successful business empire and created job opportunities. However, economic success cannot be measured solely by material profit, especially when it is achieved through oppression and violations of ethical business conduct. Islamic economics emphasizes holistic success, encompassing material, moral, and spiritual aspects. GISB is not a true example of an Islamic economic model because it operates through manipulation and fear. An economic model that thrives on such manipulation is inconsistent with Islamic values and will not sustain itself in the long run. The financial

success claimed by GISB should not blind us to the fundamental wrongdoings occurring.

GISB also exploits religious symbols to gain public support. This is a betrayal of Islamic principles. Using religion as a tool to achieve business profit while violating human rights and dismantling family structures is extremely dangerous. In the context of Shariah law, the preservation of wealth cannot be achieved at the expense of core principles such as religion, life, lineage, and intellect.

The authorities should not allow GISB's economic impact to impede legal actions against their misconduct. Religious agencies must also assist in protecting society from religious exploitation and upholding true Islamic economic principles. If GISB is allowed to continue operating, it sends a dangerous message that religious exploitation for economic gain is acceptable.

We must clearly distinguish between legitimate Islamic economic practices and those that exploit religion for business interests. Islamic economics must uphold justice, promote welfare and protect the rights of all. GISB does not represent this model; rather, it exemplifies the misuse of religion. Government agencies, religious authorities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must collaborate to raise awareness among the public that GISB is not a genuine Islamic economic model. The article was adapted from: GISBH bukan model ekonomi Islam tetapi penyalahgunaan agama – Sinar Harian***

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