

An Open Letter to President-elect Prabowo Subianto on Youth Aspirations for Indonesian
Democracy

Dear President-Elect Prabowo Subianto,

We the youth of Indonesia—from many backgrounds and professions—respectfully appeal for the commitment of Your Excellency's forthcoming presidency to maintaining and improving the quality of democracy in Indonesia.

As we share the same vision with Your Excellency— a vision of sustainable welfare for Indonesia—we would like to publicly convey 12 major points of aspirations of the younger generation.

We call on Your Excellency to:

1. **Prevent the abuse of power and authority, in order to guarantee the principle of *checks-and-balances* among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.**
2. **Entrust positions in government to persons of integrity, who are qualified in terms of experience and expertise, so that they can faithfully carry out their responsibilities to the people of Indonesia.** We note with regret the decline of meritocracy in Indonesia's officialdom, as as power is increasingly used in bargained political bargaining.
3. **Proactively propose laws to reform the system of political parties and elections, to ensure accountability in the employment of cadre and in the selection of candidates within political parties.** We cannot accept the current situation where officials and political leaders and representatives are habitually involved in unethical political practices at the expense of their programs and policy. Money politics has also become a great barrier against candidates with excellent qualifications, preventing them from seeking elective office on a level playing field.
4. **Strongly reinvigorate the authority and independence of the Corruption Eradication Commission and strictly prohibit political partisanship in the prosecution of corruption cases.** Your Excellency must stand by the people in eradicating corruption, as it is a grievous crime that steals our rights and future. It is ironic that corruption is now perceived as 'normal' in Indonesia. Your Excellency has the power, as well as responsibility, to shield your administration from all attempts to perpetrate such a crime.
5. **Maintain the independence and professionalism of law enforcement agencies to ensure justice and protection of human rights.** We especially highlight the lack of attention to intimidation and discrimination by law enforcers against civil society, as well their practice of unlawfully exploiting their power.
6. **Establish policy and induce efforts to promote political literacy and awareness at the grassroots level.** In our view, the current education system has yet to carry out sufficient political education. Such curriculum should be given as part of basic education

from an early age, so that citizens will be able to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

7. **Create practical and accessible room for public participation in formulating, implementing, and monitoring public policies.** In this regard, creativity and determination to optimize the use of digital technology are essential. We, the youth, highlight the inadequate participation of the citizenry in governance, particularly in the law-making process.
8. **Compel the State to distinguish between civil and military professions to protect civil supremacy as well as fortify the welfare of military personnels.**
9. **Guarantee freedom of expression, in particular freedom of the press, and the protection of the law.** The persistent intimidation against journalists and the public displays irresponsibility of the state in protecting such freedom. The government must warrant safety within the media ecosystem as it plays a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening our democracy.
10. **Strengthen Indonesia's holistic cybersecurity landscape through coordination among responsible national and local agencies in the cyber, information, and communications sector.** Scaling up digital infrastructure, along with upholding good cybersecurity principles, and integrating regulations pertaining to data governance will nurture not only a safer but also a free digital ecosystem.
11. **Develop a downstreaming and investment climate that aligns with environmental protection and restoration efforts.** In this regard, Your Excellency must actively engage all stakeholders, especially the civil society; bearing in mind the principle of ecological justice, as well as its impacts on *adat* communities.
12. **Promote meaningful youth representation in the government, by implementing a fair and inclusive affirmative policy, while preventing discrimination against the youth in the system of governance.** We refuse to be exploited as mere political objects, as we will inherit the leadership of the nation and its future.

We wish to cite an iconic line in Your Excellency's *Kepemimpinan Militer*: **'I believe that no great change can occur without any persistent effort; a great one.'** Therefore, we, the youth of Indonesia, call for a persistent and great effort by Your Excellency to preserve and enhance the quality of democracy in Indonesia in the next five years.

We are committed to walk with you through adversities. We are committed to support and celebrate all milestones that will be achieved by your administration. We are also committed to be your constant reminders that leadership should empower Indonesia to thrive.

Thus, we conclude our aspirational open letter. Thank you for your kind attention, Your Excellency.

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

consolidated by Indonesian Youth Democracy Forum (IYDF)

Tentang Indonesian Youth Democracy Forum

Indonesian Youth Democracy Forum (IYDF) mengumpulkan profesional-profesional muda Indonesia dari Sabang hingga Merauke dari latar belakang dan asal daerah yang berbeda-beda, dimana mereka berpartisipasi atas kapasitas pribadi tanpa terafiliasi institusi masing-masing. Sepanjang program, delegasi berdialog dengan para praktisi, pakar, komunitas masyarakat sipil, dan sesama pemimpin pemuda di seluruh Indonesia selama satu bulan, diikuti dengan forum tatap muka selama satu setengah hari di Jakarta. Dalam beberapa aktivitas, IYDF juga mengakomodasi kesempatan untuk bertukar pikiran dengan negara-negara demokrasi lain mengenai praktik demokrasi mereka.

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Dalam proses formulasi surat terbuka selama rangkaian kegiatan IYDF 2024, kami menggandeng lembaga, komunitas, dan organisasi kepemudaan atau sipil, untuk mengambil bagian dan berkontribusi, antara lain sbb:

- Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI)
- Indonesian Youth Democracy Forum 2023 Cohort
- Bijak Demokrasi
- Central for Digital Society (CfDS)
- ELSAM
- Lab Demokrasi
- Nextage Power
- OIC Youth Indonesia
- PERLUDEM
- Perkumpulan Penyandang Disabilitas Indonesia (PPDI)

- Rembuk Pemuda
- Sindikasi Pemilu dan Demokrasi
- Student Thinktank for Europe Asia Relations (STEAR)
- The Habibie Center (THC)
- Timur Network
- Pemuda Harsa
- Youth Ranger