



## Empowering Voices: Building an Electronic Petition System for Strengthening Freedom of Speech in Indonesia

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### Abstract

Currently, the issue of freedom of expression poses a significant challenge in Indonesia. Despite being a democratic nation, the scope of people's freedom of expression is largely confined to electoral processes. In order to advance this fundamental right, the implementation of an electronic petition system has been undertaken as a means to facilitate the exercise of freedom of expression. The primary objective of this research is to examine the status quo of freedom of expression in Indonesia and to analyze the pressing need for the adoption of an electronic petition system. This study employs a normative legal approach and conducts comparative analysis with the United Kingdom and Germany, utilizing secondary data sources. The findings of this research demonstrate that Indonesia would greatly benefit from the adoption of an e-democracy system through the implementation of an electronic petition system. The efficacy of such a system has been successfully demonstrated in the United Kingdom and Germany, where it has served as an effective intermediary between the public and the government, ensuring sustained public participation and influencing governmental decision-making processes. In order to implement the electronic petition system in Indonesia, several crucial steps must be undertaken. These steps include the establishment of a Petition Committee, the formulation of Petition Laws, and the official recognition of a dedicated website serving as the electronic petition platform in Indonesia. Additionally, political will and legislative enforcement will be required to ensure the Indonesian Parliament's commitment to act upon the outcomes of these petitions.



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### A. INTRODUCTION

As a democratic country, Indonesia has guaranteed the right to express opinions and participate in government. This is regulated in Article 28E paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (after this, referred to as the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia), which states that everyone has the right to express an opinion. Furthermore, freedom of expression is also explicitly spelt out in various regulations to open up opportunities for citizens to participate in government. For example, if analyzed in Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure (after this, referred to as the Law on Public Information Disclosure), it was made in order to encourage checks and

balances between the government and the community with public information disclosure and encourage active participation of citizens in the policy-making process (Lubis et al., 2018). In line with the Law on Public Information Disclosure, Law Number 12 of 2011 concerning the Establishment of Legislation (after this referred to as Law P3), in particular Article 88 paragraph 2, Article 92 paragraph 2 and Article 96 opens opportunities for the entire community to play an active role in the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations. Even Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 25a of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) also clearly regulate the right to participate in government. This legal basis strengthens the right of the community to voice their aspirations to the government, either directly or indirectly, through any institution such as the parliament or the ombudsman (Kusumaningrum et al., 2019).

Facts on the ground show that, at this time, Indonesia has yet to be able to provide adequate space for public participation. Freedom of opinion to participate in government is only interpreted as community involvement in voting in general elections (Election) (Taufiqurrohman et al., 2021). After the election contestation, public involvement in government in formulating government policies is reduced. Based on the aspect of democracy, it is necessary to mark sustainable community participation. This can be seen from the many problematic laws and regulations submitted to the Constitutional Court (MK). At this time, many of the contents of laws and regulations are tested by the Constitutional Court because they often contradict the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. In addition, the cause of the many submissions to the Constitutional Court is the lack of public participation to be actively involved in policy formulation due to the narrow space opened by the government (Riskiyono, 2015). The Constitutional Court has examined statutory cases in as many as 1651 cases viewed on MK's official website on 5 June 2023 (RI, 2022; Samosir, 2016). Furthermore, currently, there is increasing opposition from the public, such as the rejection of the ratification of the Draft Criminal Code (RKUHP) (Firmansyah, 2022), the ratification of Law Number 3 of 2022 concerning the State Capital (UU IKN) (Sari, 2022), public dissatisfaction with the increase in fuel prices (BBM) (Ernis, 2022), and other regulations. Even Mohammad Jamin, a Law and Society Expert from Sebelas Maret University in article that written by Nurfitriyani stated that current government policies often generate controversy and unsettle the public (Nurfitriyani, 2022).

Dissatisfaction from the public regarding the policies taken by the government is a sign of the need for a media that can accommodate representative public opinions to create policies that are by the conditions of the community. Therefore, it is necessary to have a technological approach in today's democratic countries or referred to as e-democracy (Dewi & Widyawati, 2021). The electronic petition system can be a space for community involvement to actively participate

in determining the strategic direction of policies to be taken and implemented by the government. The definition of an electronic petition basically comes from the meaning of a petition. Based on the Black Law Dictionary, a petition means a request to a ruler with the aim of making improvements in exercising his power (Garner, 2004). The electronic petition system is a manifestation of the entry of the era of society 5.0, which will be able to solve problems in society through technology (Morva, 2016; Sugiono, 2021). The concept of an electronic petition system will also impact the creation of e-government so that it can become a means of bridge between the community and the government. In addition, the presence of the electronic petition system is also a protector of people's rights because the electronic petition system aims to make complaints and tests related to policies taken and implemented by the government. This is also in line with Barry M. Hager's view, which states that the state needs to establish means and methods for the public to file protests or objections to a policy (Hager, 1999). United Kingdom (UK) (Bochel, 2016) and Germany (Lindner & Riehm, 2009) is a country that uses the electronic petition system as a bridge between the community and the government to create a policy.

Research on the electronic petition system has been carried out several times, namely: 1) Research conducted by Ralf Lindner and Ulrich Riehm with the title "Electronic Petitions and Institutional Modernization: International Parliamentary E-Petition Systems in Comparative Perspective" (Lindner & Riehm, 2009). This study examines the electronic petition system carried out by parliaments in Scotland, Queensland, and the Bundestag. The results of this study indicate that electronic petitions arguably represent a safe "playing field" from the perspective of established political institutions. This particular channel of participation is very much in line with the principles of representative democracy, and its transformative potential is very moderate; 2) Research conducted by Suci Oktaviani and Komang Pradnyana Sudibya with the title "Online Petition Arrangement in the Legislation of the Republic of Indonesia" (Oktaviani & Sudibya, 2019). This study examines the regulation of the electronic petition system through the context of legislation. The results of the study state that there are cases the government does not care about, so it can be concluded that the government often does not listen to the people's aspirations. Therefore, this study builds an argument to strengthen the role of the electronic petition system by being linked through Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia; and 3) Research conducted by Moch. Marsa Taufiqurrohman, Zaki Priambudi, and Avina Nakita Ocativa with the title "Organizing Petitions in Legislation: Efforts to Strengthen People's Positions Against the State in the Framework of Protecting Freedom of Expression" (Taufiqurrohman et al., 2021). This study examines the relationship between the electronic petition system and increasing public participation. The results of this study state that in several countries, the electronic

petition system can become an effective medium to connect society and the state. This research initiated the establishment of law on petitions.

Looking at previous research, this research has a common theme, namely the electronic petition system. However, in this study there is a legal novelty issue, namely examining the relationship between the electronic petition system and freedom of expression in Indonesia, reviewing the application and legal umbrella of the electronic petition system in the UK and Germany, as well as conducting legal formulations and proposing an independent platform for the electronic petition system managed by the government. Therefore, two problem formulations will be studied, namely: 1) How is the existence of freedom of expression in Indonesian society and its relation to the urgency of implementing the electronic petition system?; and 2) What is the strategy for implementing the electronic petition system as a solution to increase freedom of expression in government?

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses normative legal research and comparative studies. Normative legal research is used to examine policies on freedom of expression, human rights, and the existence of the electronic petition system in national and international contexts. On the other hand, a comparative study method is used to strengthen the electronic petition system research by looking at the practice and legal umbrella in UK and Germany as comparison material. This study used secondary data. The secondary data used are primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. The primary legal materials used is regulations relating to human rights, freedom of expression, and the electronic petition system in Indonesia, UK, and Germany, as well as reviewing international conventions. Furthermore, secondary legal materials include books, journals, and others supporting research. As complementary legal materials, tertiary legal materials are used to analyze the situation in the community by using government websites, online news, and others. This study uses a qualitative technique. Qualitative techniques are carried out to collect literature or library materials that will help research (Sugiyono, 2015). After the data is collected, data processing and analysis are carried out using a deduction pattern to describe the legal facts that occur and obtain solutions to legal problems.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **The Existence of Freedom of Expression: An Overview of the Urgency of the Implementation of the Electronic Petition System**

#### **People's Position in the Country**

The concept of democracy has clearly explained the position of the people in a country as the holder of the highest power (Claassen & Magalhães, 2022). Based on Responsive Law Concept by Philippe Nonet and Philip Selznick, in responsive

law, legal validity based on justice substantives and rules is subject to principle and discretion. Discretion carries out in order to achieve the goal. More coercion appears in positive alternatives such as incentives or systems of independent obligations. The apparent morality is "the morality of cooperation", while legal and political aspirations are unified. Non-compliance assessing in terms of size and substantive losses seen as a growing problem of legitimacy. Chance for participation expanded through the integration of legal aid and social assistance. This theory states that public participation in policy-making is a must and needs to give a platform. In Jean Jacques Rosseau opinion, the people have the sovereignty to make decisions based on a majority vote, and Rosseau also believes that the will of the people (*volonté générale*) by participating in making decisions is also justice and the right for the people to participate (Taufiqurrohman et al., 2021). Therefore, the democratic system wants equality between citizens to participate in the process of making laws and policies (Urbinati, 2006). As a country that uses a democratic system in its government, Indonesia has an obligation to place the people as the highest authority over the government.

Indonesia's journey as a country that adheres to a democratic system does not run smoothly and has not been appropriately fulfilled. It can be seen that the government and the products still make many policies of laws and regulations that often conflict with human rights and the lack of public participation. Several controversial law products that have yet to be approved by the public from the start are Law Number 11 of 2022 concerning Job Creation (after this referred to as the Ciptaker Law) for violating the principles of establishing good laws and regulations (Sundari & Amalia, 2020). In addition, the RKUHP that will be passed is also closed and minimal community participation (Firmansyah, 2022). Furthermore, the policy of moving the new capital city also lurks environmental problems (Faqih, 2022), even BPJS policies for public health often reap problems in increasing contributions. This proves that the government often ignores the people's aspirations to participate in the formation and discussion of policies and legal products in Indonesia. The government also severely limits the people's rights to express their opinion. It can be seen that during the administration of President Jokowi, there were several types of terror against government critics, which included criminalization, hacking of cellphone data (such as the hacking of the cellphone belonging to the Central Coordinator of BEM, Kaharuddin, before the demonstration on April 11, 2022 (Yahya, 2022)), intimidation (the case of the 2022 BBM demonstration (Indonesia, 2022)), and cases of threats physique. The restriction of opinion and the absence of a forum for the aspirations of the Indonesian people have indicated that the community's position towards the state does not have the highest power to supervise and control the government, as well as decision-making by the government without involving the community (Kusumaningrum et al., 2019).

The concept of an excellent democratic state depends on community participation as the owner of the highest power (Van Veelen, 2018). Seeing the apprehensive condition of freedom of expression in Indonesia, the Indonesian government should begin to improve to realize the dream of a democratic state concept. Therefore, the government needs an effective means to listen to public criticism and public aspirations in making or evaluating a policy. This must be done so that the community has a control mechanism to monitor government actions in making policies or laws and regulations.

### **Implementation of the Electronic Petition System: Efforts to Increase Political Participation and Public Interaction with the Government**

As a democratic country, Indonesia guarantees the right to express opinions and participate in government. However, so far, people's voices have only been interpreted as narrowly as the ability to vote in general and/or locally in elections with the principle of "one person, one vote" (Kusumaningrum et al., 2019). The important thing related to public participation in government is the extent to which the government listens to protests and criticisms from the public (Riskiyono, 2015). However, in reality, freedom of speech to participate in government has a narrow space. Thus, one of the spaces that become the final way to express opinions is to conduct demonstrations. Demonstrations are a means of channelling aspirations. On the other hand, riots often occur, resulting in law violations and interested parties ridicule deviations from moral values. One example of a recent case was a demonstration carried out by students on June 28, 2022, regarding the problematics of the RKUHP. The demonstration ended in chaos. This case is a reflection of other cases where at this time, demonstrations that should be a means of aspiration often end up in chaos (J, 2012; Rojab, 2022; Yamin et al., 2021). This shows that demonstrations which sometimes end in violence are impractical, but not out of date.

Therefore, e-democracy emerged as the use of new technology that attracted the public's interest to give their participation role in government (Lindner & Riehm, 2009). One of the methods of e-democracy that is considered in conveying criticism, protests, and suggestions to the government is the electronic petition system. The UK pioneered the system and is developing it worldwide as a vehicle and bridge between society and government. (Leston-Bandeira, 2019). The application of the electronic petition system can provide space or a forum for the community to voice their aspirations to increase public political participation. Furthermore, according to Budiardjo, political participation can be interpreted as the activity of individuals or groups of people to actively contribute to political life by choosing state leaders and directly or indirectly influencing government policies (Iskandar, 2017). Thus, the electronic petition system can create public control in the democratic process.

In addition, the application of the electronic petition system can also be a means of community interaction because, with it, the community can have more

freedom in voicing their aspirations anytime and anywhere (Harrison et al., 2022). Furthermore, the government can also expand the net of community aspirations that must be fulfilled as a form of responsibility for serving the nation and state. So that the application of the electronic petition system as a medium for political participation and community interaction with the government is urgent because democracy is related to public participation, namely, the extent to which the government listens to the community's voice.

The electronic petition system has grown with the inclusion of a platform called Change.org in 2012 in Indonesia (Taufiqurrohman et al., 2021). The enthusiasm of people using Change.org to protest or object to a policy can be said to be very large. However, freedom of expression through the electronic petition system, in fact, still raises legal problems, such as the absence of a legal umbrella and the absence of guarantees for state institutions to carry out the petition.

### **Electronic Petition System Arrangements in UK and Germany Review of the Regulation and Practice of the Electronic Petition System in the UK**

In history, the initiation of the electronic petition system was first carried out by the UK and regulated in the Bill of Rights in 1689 and the Magna Carta in 1215 (Clark & Lomax, 2020). In 1628, the UK Parliament drafted and submitted a petition for a statement of civil liberties which contained the refusal of parliament to finance the king's policies which were not supported by the majority of UK society. Since 2000, several parliaments and governments in various countries have introduced an electronic petition system (Lindner & Riehm, 2009). The electronic petition system in the UK is legal until it is regulated in detail in the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (UK) Regulations 2000, and the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (Wales) Regulations 2001, which state information to the procedure for granting petitions by the public to the government or parliament.

Petitions in the UK can now be accessed more easily by keeping up with technological developments. The UK's electronic petition system is now systematized on a platform provided by the British parliament that uses an online system as a forum for the aspirations of the British people (Lindner & Riehm, 2009). The entire community can access the UK's electronic petition system openly at the address (<https://petition.parliament.uk/>). In the electronic petition system on this official website, there are guidelines and information on the electronic petition system mechanism. The mechanism for the electronic petition system is explained that it requires the support of 5 people before the petition is published on the official website, 10,000 endorsements with signatures to get the government's response, and requires 100,000 support signatures to be discussed by the British parliament (Blumenau, 2021). The published petition will last for six months on the official website. However, this petition system is structured in

detail to avoid unfair and irresponsible petitions. In this regard, the British government sets stringent standards to sort out every petition submitted to the government that deserves a response or discussion.

In implementing the electronic petition system in the UK, the UK government has received more than 30,000 petitions with different aims and objectives. Of the thousands of petitions, the majority of the electronic petition system facilities are used by individual British citizens, not by interest groups (Wright, 2015). Several petitions have succeeded and were signed by 6,103,056 people who are British citizens with the topic Revoke Article 50 and remain in the EU (Petition 241584) with requests in the petition “*The government repeatedly claims exiting the EU is 'the will of the people'. We need to put a stop to this claim by proving the strength of public support now, for remaining in the EU. A People's Vote may not happen - so vote now*”, which came to fruition On 26 March 2019, so the Petition Committee approved the motion for debate in Parliament (Wright, 2015).

### **Review of the Regulation and Practice of the Electronic Petition System in the Germany**

The petition is one of the rights that the German people can use to participate in politics in government. This is even regulated in the German constitution (Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland) namely in art 17 “*Jedermann hat das Recht, sich einzeln oder in Gemeinschaft mit anderen schriftlich mit Bitten oder Beschwerden an die zuständigen Stellen und an die Volksvertretung*”. According to data from the Deutscher Bundestag, the German Federal Parliament, it is stated that since the filing of the petition in Germany in the 1990s, there have been data about 20,000 *Einzelpetitionen* per year (Deutscher Bundestag, 2010). In 2005, Germany started a two-year trial period on the establishment of an electronic petition system inspired by Scotland's electronic petition system (Jungherr & Jürgens, 2010). The trial carried out at that time was that the German public could submit a petition via email or submit or sign someone else's petition by visiting (<http://epetitionen.bundestag.de>). The overall result of this trial period was very successful (Briassoulis, 2021). During the trial period, all petitions, regardless of category, will be managed by the Petitions Committee (Petitionsausschuss) of the German parliament. A public petition that attracts at least 50,000 votes in the first week after publication will be proposed for a hearing before the Petitionsausschuss. So in 2007, Petitionsausschuss decided to develop and update the electronic petition system platform for the needs of expressing aspirations in Germany.

The Guidelines for Public Petitions also regulate what can be filed in a petition in Germany. Several types of Petitions are regulated in Chapter IV, Principles of the Petitions Committee Governing the Treatment of Requests and Complaints (Procedural Rules), which explains that there are three types of



petitions, namely requests, requests, and complaints (Deutscher Bundestag, 2014). Application is a submission to submit a request or complaint for oneself, a third party, or it can be for the public interest; A request is a claim and suggestion against an act or omission by a state institution, authority, or other institution that carries out public functions; and a Complaint is an objection to the actions or omissions of a state institution or other authorities and institutions that carry out public functions. After the signing and the commenting period have been carried out through the electronic petition system, the petition will be closed and examined by the Bundestag. Next, the committee will decide whether to hold a general meeting or a public hearing for the applicant. Finally, the results of the petition decision will be published online for the public to know.

This electronic petition system was greeted with a good response from the community; this can be seen from the public petition that received wide attention, namely the request for basic income guarantees. (Deutscher Bundestag, 2014). Fifty-two thousand nine hundred seventy-three (52,973) votes co-signed the petition. Then there is also a petition that is also in the public spotlight is a petition against indexing and blocking websites, this petition which was submitted on 22 April 2008 managed to have more than 50,000 supporters co-signed in four days and with a total of 134,015 at the time of co-signing when the petition was finished. (Deutscher Bundestag, 2014). This proves that the electronic petition system, which the government accommodates, can develop greater public political participation in a country that adheres to a democratic system.

## **Adoption of Electronic Petition System in Legislation and Implementation Strategy in Indonesia**

### **Construction Adoption of Electronic Petition System in Indonesia**

Technological progress cannot be avoided, as is the use of electronic media by the government sector in public services. Especially now that the era of society 5.0 has entered, where humans are expected to coexist with technology and be able to solve social problems using technology. The problem of the low freedom of expression in government makes the need for technology adoption. The electronic petition system answers the current problems related to freedom of expression. Several countries, such as the UK and Germany, have implemented the electronic petition system. The two countries have succeeded in using the electronic petition system to gather public opinion, as well as being a bridge between the community and the government. By looking at the UK and Germany, Indonesia should be able to implement the electronic petition system. This is reinforced by the probability that internet users in Indonesia have reached 210 million users (Dewi & Widayawati, 2021). However, adopting an electronic petition system requires careful consideration, so a scheme and mechanism are built with prudence principles and prioritize security, effectiveness, and efficiency. In terms of security

in the electronic petition system, it is necessary to adopt blockchain to store user data more securely.

Building an electronic petition system in Indonesia requires a complementary instrument, namely a legal umbrella, by establishing the Petition Law. In addition, there is a need for supporting legal instruments with the need for ratification of the Cyber Crime Bill and the Personal Data Protection Act No. 27/2022. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to establish an integrated national data center development to integrate the electronic petition system with other public services. In terms of managing the electronic petition system in Indonesia, there are ten requirements for submitting a petition that must be obeyed by the applicant, which include: 1) The application must be addressed to the government or parliament; 2) The topic of the petition is aimed at fulfilling the duties of the government or parliament; 3) Knowing that the topic of the petition submitted is triggered by the responsibility of the Indonesian government, both executive, legislative, and judicial; 4) Avoiding personal or individual problems from society; 5) Avoid ambiguous or ambiguous language; 6) Avoiding slanderous or false or provocative issues; 7) Avoiding provocative issues; 8) Avoid representing political parties; 9) Avoiding problems that could potentially violate the law; and 10) Avoiding problems that have the potential to cause other problems for others that will harm others. On the other hand, an independent institution is needed to implement, control, and supervise the electronic petition system. Therefore, by comparing UK and Germany, there is an urgency to establish a Petition Committee as an independent institution.

Table. Duties of the Petition Committee

No.	Duties	Explanation
1.	Verification of user data	The Petition Committee must verify the applicant's data. The applicant is an individual Indonesian citizen with a minimum age of 17 years or an organization/legal entity.
2.	Petition Verification	The Petition Committee will verify a petition based on ten petition submission requirements. If the petition is successfully verified, the petition will be published. If the petition is not successfully verified, then the petition cannot be published.
3.	Collecting Petitions	Petitions that have reached 100,000 signatures will be collected by the Petition Committee and submitted to the House of Representatives (DPR)

The role of the DPR in the electronic petition system is vital because, as in Table 1, once the petition reaches 100,000 signatures, it will be submitted to the DPR. Therefore, there are two design tasks for the DPR in the electronic petition system, namely: 1) If the petition is targeted, then the DPR can directly evaluate the petition; and 2) If the petition is targeted at government administrators, then the DPR can use the right of interpellation, supervision, questionnaires to issue warnings, and other actions.

### **Petisi Merah Putih Website as an Example of Electronic Petition System in Indonesia**

The development of information technology has provided developments in expressing opinions or arguments in public. This causes people to be connected with the development of information technology and form a digital society. Digital society is a form of social order that involves interactions and activities by utilizing information technology developments, namely internet networks and social media (Husna, 2017). The actual manifestation of the development of information technology is the emergence of electronic petition platforms. Electronic petitions are a form of renewal of communication and information facilities that various groups of people can use to convey aspirations and participate indirectly in realizing the desired changes (Alifa et al., 2021). Currently, many electronic petition websites can be used by the public to channel their aspirations boldly. One is the change.org site, founded in 2006 in Delaware, United States. In 2021, Change.org won 983,524 winning petitions and made fundamental changes to the country's condition (Change.org, 2022). Electronic petitions can be classified into two types, including formal and informal types. Non-governmental or private organizations create and manage electronic petitions on the Change.org petition system. Change.org Indonesia, an electronic petition platform, has various roles and functions, including functions at the individual level. At the individual level, the Change.org Indonesia electronic petition platform plays a role in facilitating the public in submitting company complaints or complaints to the government or changes, assisting in making specific policies or efforts, highlighting issues that are the object of policy-making petitions, gaining support from the community and NGOs on specific issues, as well as helping interest groups or communities to mobilize supporters and attract mass media attention.

Change.org, an electronic petition platform, utilizes social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to support the petition function. This platform uses Internet media to campaign and support petitions while maintaining the essential elements of conventional petitions by entering signatures. Change.org Inc., an American B-certified company, currently operates the Change.org electronic petition platform. The company claims to have more than 100 million worldwide and has hosted campaigns supported by international user organizations. Change.org, made in America, was initially developed by Benjamin

Michael Rattray, Stanford University alumni, in 2007. After being introduced globally in 2011, Change.org quickly spread and was adopted by many countries, including Indonesia (Destrity, 2014). However, platforms owned or managed by private parties result in petitions being obtained only for archives because they do not have perfect legal force who feel they are still reluctant to have a dialogue with the public by looking at the arguments of netizens who support the petition, who then only consider petitions in cyberspace to be unreal.

Implementing the electronic petition system requires an independent and single platform to accommodate the aspirations of the community in an integrated manner. Therefore, the author initiated the blockchain-based Petisi Merah Putih as an independent platform for the electronic petition system in Indonesia. The Petition Committee will manage the Blockchain-based Petisi Merah Putih.

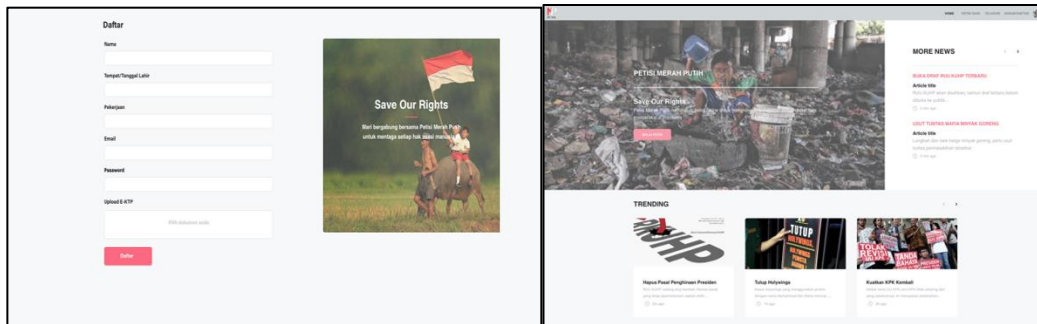


Figure 1: Petisi Merah Putih Website Display (Author's Idea)

Regarding the procedure and flow for submitting a petition on the Petisi Merah Putih website until the government responds to it, the author initiated a design that will be contained in Figure 2.

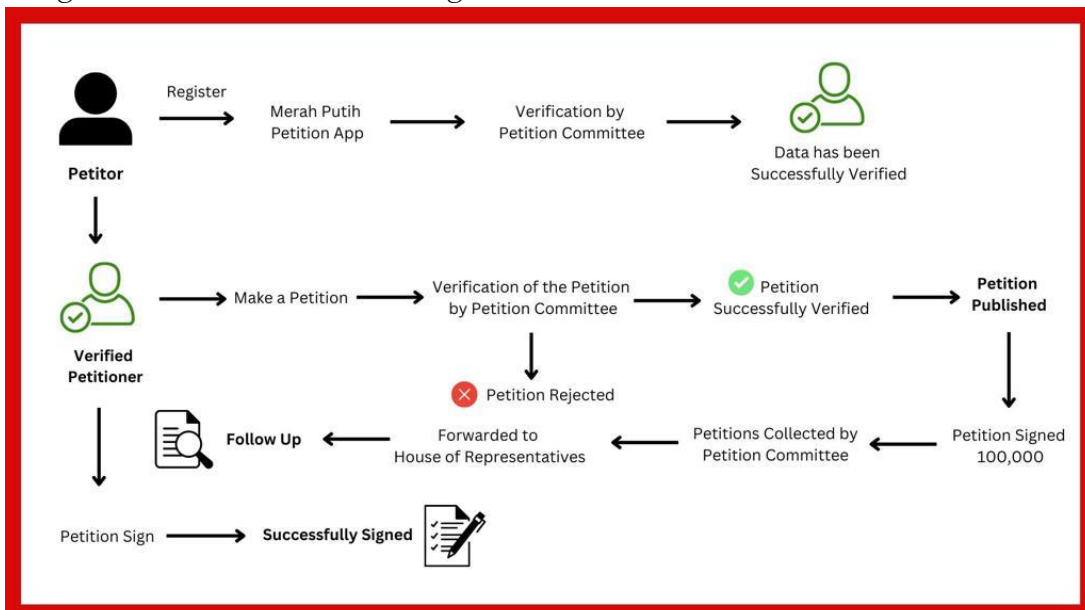


Figure 2: Petition Submission Procedure and Flow (Author's Idea)

Applicants in registering the Petisi Merah Putih require Identity Card (KTP) data. The use of ID cards is the main thing to minimize the occurrence of falsification of data and other misuses. However, ID card data will be stored safely because it uses a blockchain system. Furthermore, the petitioner in the Petisi Merah Putih has two schemes: a petition maker and a petition signer, who are integrated. In the case of making a petition, petition verification must be carried out with ten petition submission requirements that the applicant must obey. The ten requirements for submitting a petition that the applicant must: 1) The application must be addressed to the government or parliament; 2) The topic of the petition is aimed at fulfilling the duties of the government or parliament; 3) Knowing that the topic of the petition submitted is triggered by the responsibility of the Indonesian government, both executive, legislative, and judicial; 4) Avoiding personal or individual problems from society; 5) Avoid ambiguous or ambiguous language; 6) Avoiding slanderous or false or provocative issues; 7) Avoiding provocative issues; 8) Avoid representing political parties; 9) Avoiding problems that could potentially violate the law, and 10) Avoiding problems that have the potential to cause other problems for others that will harm others. If met, then the petition submitted will be accepted. The successfully verified petition will be published on the website to collect 100,000 signatures and given to the DPR for follow-up as the two designs for the DPR's duties in following up on the electronic petition system. In the case of signing the petition, the applicant will enter the petition feature, which will then be directly presented to the signature page by clicking on the signature. To strengthen the position of the Petisi Merah Putih Website, it is necessary to have legal legitimacy and socialization with the broader community.

However, implementing the Petisi Merah Putih also had obstacles; the Petisi Merah Putih, which the government will manage, can conflict with the legal and political interests of the DPR as the Legislator of the National Legislation program that has been formed. Other than that, there are no rules or laws, which can provide legal certainty over the results of the Petisi Merah Putih, so it is necessary to have complementary arrangements for implementing the Petisi Merah Putih. For that, a mature policy is needed in implementing electronic petitions in Indonesia.

#### D. CONCLUSION

As a country that adheres to a democratic system, Indonesia has accommodated freedom of expression in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia to special laws. However, the implementation process still raises problems. The critical thing about freedom of expression for public participation in government is the extent to which the government listens to protests and criticisms from the public. This can be seen in the facts on the ground, which shows that people's freedom of expression in government is only about voting in elections.

Therefore, e-democracy emerged as an initiative to make the government more open to its citizens through a technological approach. One application of e-democracy is the electronic petition system. The electronic petition system has been implemented in the UK and Germany, proving successful. The electronic petition system is a manifestation of society 5.0 and is an urgency that must be implemented under the Petition Committee as an independent institution. However, the option of implementing the electronic petition system in Indonesia requires a legal basis to legalize the action. Furthermore, there is a need for an independent and single blockchain-based website to accommodate the aspirations of the community in an integrated manner. In addition, there is a need for political will and coercion for the DPR to follow up on petitions signed by the community.

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**COMPETING INTEREST**

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