



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

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PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (7 FEBRUARY 2024) — SUHAKAM acknowledges and commends the Indonesian Embassy's initiative in organizing the voting process for the Indonesian General Elections 2024 (PEMILU) in Malaysia. The establishment of multiple voting centers across Malaysia on 12th February 2024, highlights the strong democratic values shared by both nations.

The historical relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia is deeply rooted in mutual support and cooperation, especially in preserving democratic processes. This collaboration is a vital component of not only our bilateral ties but also the broader ASEAN community, committed to fostering a culture of dialogue and respect for human rights. ASEAN's dedication to human rights, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, corresponds closely with the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Supporting democratic processes, such as the forthcoming Indonesian election in Malaysia, serves as a tangible expression of these shared values.

It is pertinent to emphasize the right to vote as a fundamental human right, integral to democratic governance, civic participation, and regional stability. Although Malaysia is not a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the core principles within it resonates with our own dedication to human rights and democracy. Article 25 of the ICCPR explicitly states that every citizen has the right to engage in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections. This underscores the universality of the voting right, transcending national boundaries and political affiliations.

Therefore, to ensure a conducive environment for the Indonesian electoral process in Malaysia SUHAKAM calls upon Malaysian authorities to provide in assistance to smoothen the voting process, ought to mirror the noble principles under the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Human Rights Declaration as encapsulated in the UDHR, which are symbiotically reflected in PEMILU's model on multiple voting centres proposed to be implemented locally via-a-vis the Indonesian General Election 2024. By providing a free, fair, and unhindered election, we demonstrate our shared values and commitment to human rights and democracy and showcase regional solidarity and support for our Indonesian neighbours.

SUHAKAM also encourages all Malaysians to display their support and understanding during this crucial event, further extending the spirit of goodwill and unity in the ASEAN community. SUHAKAM extends our best wishes to all Indonesian voters in Malaysia. The participation significantly contributes to the democratization of the region and reflects both country's mutual commitment to upholding human rights and democratic principles.

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
7 February 2024**