



# Kemendikdasmen

Kompleks Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah,  
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Senayan, Jakarta 10270

**Posel:** [pengaduan@kemendikdasmen.go.id](mailto:pengaduan@kemendikdasmen.go.id)

**Laman:** [www.kemendikdasmen.go.id](http://www.kemendikdasmen.go.id)

**Pusat Panggilan:** 177 **Whatsapp:** 081218040427

# Press Release

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## Quality Education from Eastern Indonesia: ADEM Students Raise the Red and White Flag at the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

**Jakarta, August 18, 2026** — On Monday morning (August 17), the Red and White flag flew over the grounds of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (Kemendikdasmen). Among the participants at the 81st anniversary ceremony of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia, 30 students receiving support through the Affirmative Secondary Education Program (ADEM) stood proudly as members of the flag-raising squad.

The students came from Papua, Disadvantaged, Frontier, and Outermost (3T) regions, as well as families of Indonesian migrant workers. Their presence reflected how education can open opportunities for children from across the country to take part on the national stage.

For Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Abdul Mu'ti, equal access to education is an important part of the aspirations of independence. He expressed hope that more Indonesian children would receive equal opportunities to receive a quality education. Mu'ti also urged young people to grow in an environment that upholds the values of solidarity and concern for others.

After completing her duties as a flag-raising squad member, Yunita L. Lewedalu of Siwalima State Senior High School in Ambon spoke about the meaning of independence. She said independence embodies the value of unity. As a young person, Yunita said, independence should be marked by a commitment to study hard, continue developing skills and be prepared to navigate the digital world.

Ananda Jitotika, a Bintang Sobat SMP (BSS) student from Bekasi, expressed a similar view. For her, independence provides space to grow while making a positive contribution. "Independence means having the freedom to develop ourselves, do what we enjoy and make a positive impact on the people and environment around us," she said.

Ananda encouraged her peers to care for the environment and revive the spirit of *gotong royong*, or mutual cooperation. "We can start by taking care of our environment and helping one another because the spirit of helping one another has declined in recent times. So, I want us to bring *gotong royong* back and make it part of everyday life again," she said.

Meanwhile, Narin Repanian Nayotama, a student at UPTD Junior High School 40 in South Tangerang, viewed independence as a way of honoring the nation's heroes. "For students, teachers and schools, I believe independence means honoring the heroes who struggled and sacrificed their lives so that we can live in peace today," Narin said.



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She expressed hope that young people would follow the example set by the nation's heroes. "I hope we can show greater respect for our heroes and follow the example of these national figures so that we can continue to be a truly independent nation," she added.

This year's Independence Day commemoration also reflected the nation's concern for children and young people in Flores, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), who were affected by the earthquake on August 15. Singer Rimar Callista delivered a message of encouragement to them. "Stay strong, young people of Flores. Let us reach out and help our brothers and sisters who are in need. I hope there will be no difficulties in distributing assistance," Rimar said.

### **\*2026 Independence Day Commemoration Activities\***

The 81st anniversary of Indonesia's independence featured a range of performances by talented students. These included the raising of the Red and White flag by the flag-raising squad made up of recipients of the Affirmative Secondary Education Program (ADEM) scholarship from Papua, musical performances by the Cikini School Orchestra, and a theater performance by Bintang Sobat SMP titled "The Independence We Inherited Must Be Valued."

The ceremony continued with the presentation of Satyalancana Karya Satya service medals to six employees from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. The event concluded with a variety of traditional competitions held in the courtyard of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Jakarta.

Children from different parts of Indonesia showcased their outstanding talents throughout the event. Their performances demonstrated that efforts to provide quality education are reaching, and continue to reach, children across the country. Minister Mu'ti expressed hope that these efforts would help nurture a generation that is confident, strong in character and caring toward others — the next generation of Indonesians carrying forward the message of independence by continuing to grow and work together to achieve quality education for all.

**Biro Komunikasi dan Hubungan Masyarakat**  
**Sekretariat Jenderal**  
**Kementerian Pendidikan Dasar dan Menengah**

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#PendidikanBermutuuntukSemua





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