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Ministry Issues Letter on Restricting Gadget Use in Schools to Promote Healthy Digital Culture

MALANG, July 13, 2026 – The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) has issued Circular Letter of the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Number 18 of 2026 regarding the Restriction of Gadget Use in Educational Units. The policy aims to encourage students to use digital technology wisely, safely, and responsibly.

The Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Abdul Mu'ti, emphasized that the policy is not intended to ban gadgets entirely, but rather to regulate their use so that they are targeted properly and support the learning process.

"The restriction is not a ban, but rather about how they use digital technology, especially gadgets, wisely, prudently, and for educational purposes," the Minister said.

Through the letter, the ministry aims to foster a safe and comfortable learning culture, enhance student concentration, strengthen peer interaction, support the Seven Habits of Great Indonesian Children Movement (7 Kebiasaan Anak Indonesia Hebat), protect students from inappropriate gadget use, build a responsible digital culture, and optimize technology for learning.

The restriction on gadget use applies during school hours and learning activities. This policy is part of a broader effort to protect children from the risks associated with digital technology, such as digital addiction, exposure to negative content, online-based violence, cybersecurity threats, and disruptions to physical and mental health. Strengthening digital literacy is also a critical component to ensure students can utilize technology productively and responsibly.

The Minister noted that this policy is particularly relevant given the high intensity of internet usage in Indonesia. Data indicates that the average Indonesian spends seven hours and 32 minutes browsing the internet daily.

"If they do not use this technology for positive things, it will create many issues concerning mental and physical health. Therefore, we greatly anticipate cooperation among schools, families, communities, and digital service providers," he added.

Through Circular Letter Number 18 of 2026, school principals are encouraged to adjust school disciplinary codes regarding gadget restrictions to match the specific characteristics, needs, and conditions of their



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respective educational units. This approach allows flexibility for using digital technology in learning under clear guidelines.

Additionally, educators and school personnel are expected to set a positive example by using digital technology wisely, safely, and responsibly while within the school environment.

The ministry also invites parents and guardians to play an active role in supporting the implementation of this policy at home. Parents are encouraged to cultivate wise gadget use by applying the 3S principles: screen time, screen zone, and screen break, tailored to the age, developmental stage, and needs of the child.

Through collaboration among schools, families, communities, and various stakeholders, the ministry hopes that the gadget restriction policy will help build a healthier digital culture while creating a learning environment that is safe, comfortable, and optimal for student growth and development.

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