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# STRATEGIES FOR ACCELERATING INTERNET ACCESS IN INDONESIA

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## Abstract

*Indonesia ranks among the lowest in internet speed across ASEAN countries, with an average speed of 41.24 Mbps, far below regional peers. This paper examines strategies for accelerating internet access in Indonesia and the expected positive outcomes. The government has launched the 2025 Internet Village Program to expand connectivity at 1,194 beneficiary sites. Equal-access initiatives aim to provide fixed connections of up to 100 Mbps in areas lacking fiber-optic networks. The SATRIA-1 satellite supports connectivity in remote and frontier regions (3T) at speeds of 3–4 Mbps, while 5G coverage expansion is underway across the 700 MHz, 1.4 GHz, 2.6 GHz, and 26 GHz bands. The Special Committee (Panja) of Commission I DPR RI on Monitoring the Acceleration of Internet Access is expected to identify current bottlenecks, evaluate government strategies, and determine priority policies for national acceleration of internet access.*

## Introduction

At its internal meeting on 19 September 2025, Commission I of the DPR RI decided to establish a Special Committee (Panja) to oversee the acceleration of internet access in Indonesia. The goal is to analyze policies of the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (Kemkomdigi) related to internet speed, equitable access (especially in blank-spot regions), and updates on 5G deployment (Secretariat of Commission I, 2025).

According to the Speedtest Global Index (June 2025), Indonesia ranks 87th of 103 countries for mobile internet (41.24 Mbps). Within ASEAN, Indonesia remains at the bottom, while Brunei Darussalam (185.54 Mbps), Singapore (159.10 Mbps), and Malaysia (156.55 Mbps) lead the region. Fixed broadband speeds are similarly low at 35.96 Mbps (Haryanto, 2025b).

Minister Meutya Hafid reported that digital connectivity development has reached 80.8 percent of the population (Kemkomdigi, 2025c). The ministry has targeted 1,194 beneficiary points across five provinces (Kemkomdigi, 2025a). Experts such as Heru Sutadi (ICT Institute) argue that Indonesia must aim for 100 Mbps broadband speeds (Haryanto, 2025c). This paper offers recommenda-

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tions to the Panja Commission I DPR RI regarding strategies to accelerate internet access and the expected economic and social impacts.

## Strategies for Accelerating Internet Access

While the government has initiated several measures, further enhancement is needed. Acceleration strategies must prioritize digital infrastructure expansion, equitable access, 3T region connectivity, and 5G spectrum optimization.

The Directorate General of Digital Infrastructure at Kemkomdigi emphasizes equal access and improved oversight of national digital infrastructure (Wandi, 2025). The government has instructed telecom operators to provide fixed internet access of up to 100 Mbps in non-fiber-optic regions, including schools, health centers, and village offices. Currently, 86 percent of schools (190,000) lack fixed connections; 75 percent of community health centers (7,800) remain unconnected; and 32,000 village offices still lie in blank-spot zones. Fixed broadband penetration reaches only 21.31 percent of households. To improve access, new spectrum allocations will be issued transparently under an open-access model, obliging license holders to share infrastructure with other providers (Kemkomdigi, 2025b).

Further acceleration requires increasing the number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) to ensure nationwide coverage. The five provinces with the fewest BTS are North Maluku (1,715), West Papua (2,124), North Kalimantan (2,311), West Sulawesi (2,523), and Maluku (2,725) (Kemkomdigi, 2025).

To expand coverage in remote 3T areas, Kemkomdigi is deploying the SATRIA-1 satellite, known as the “space toll road”, providing connectivity of 3–4 Mbps for vital sectors such as education, healthcare, governance, and defense. The ministry also plans to accelerate 5G rollout, as current coverage remains just 4.44 percent four years after introduction. The government is preparing four frequency bands, 700 MHz, 1.4 GHz, 2.6 GHz, and 26 GHz, for allocation in 2025, with each requiring 100 MHz bandwidth to deliver optimal 5G speeds (Haryanto, 2025a).

## Positive Impacts of the Acceleration Policy

Faster internet access brings significant economic and social benefits. In Singapore, for example, 5G expansion has contributed to digital economy growth: the digital sector accounted for USD 106 billion (17 percent of GDP) in 2022, up from 13 percent in 2017 (Fauzi, 2025).

Indonesia's 5G Availability (1.5 percent) and Coverage Experience score (0.1) lag behind Singapore (35.9 percent and 9.0 respectively) (OpenSignal, 2024). Broader 5G adoption could enable business monetization, operational efficiency, and cost reduction. It would also stimulate innovation, particularly among SMEs, and encourage greater use of digital platforms.

Improved internet connectivity can reduce social and economic inequality by expanding access to essential services. In rural areas where traditional banking

is limited, internet-based financial services (mobile banking, e-wallets) enable inclusion. Similarly, telemedicine and remote monitoring allow remote communities to access specialist care without long-distance travel, enhancing quality of life and reducing regional health disparities (datalake.id, 2025).

Overall, accelerating internet access supports digital economic growth and public-service transformation. Fast, equitable connectivity enables SMEs to digitize operations, expand markets, and increase productivity, while also improving access to online education, health, and administrative services. Internet acceleration thus forms the foundation of national digital infrastructure and a driver of economic transformation.

## Conclusion

Indonesia's internet speed remains among the slowest in ASEAN. The government must target broadband speeds of 100 Mbps through comprehensive strategies: the Internet Village Program, fiber-optic expansion, digital infrastructure development, 3T connectivity, and 5G spectrum optimization. Together, these strategies will strengthen Indonesia's digital economy and public-service delivery.

The Panja Commission I DPR RI should continue scrutinizing the causes of slow access and monitoring government strategies for acceleration. The Panja can also urge the government to maximize the positive impacts of internet connectivity across all sectors of national life, ensuring equitable digital transformation for all Indonesians.

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