

Constitutionalism in the Post-Truth Era: Digital Disinformation, Political Polarization, and the Crisis of Constitutional Democracy

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Abstract

The development of digital technology has brought significant changes to communication patterns, information dissemination, and public involvement in democratic life. These changes have not only expanded public access to various information but also presented various new problems related to the increasing spread of inaccurate information, changes in people's political behavior, and the growing fragmentation of social views in the digital public sphere. These conditions pose increasingly complex challenges to the sustainability of constitutional democracy because they can affect the quality of public participation, the level of public trust in state institutions, and the stability of political life more broadly. This study aims to analyze the influence of developments in the digital environment on the sustainability of constitutional democracy, particularly those related to digital disinformation, political polarization, and the various challenges that arise in the post-truth era. This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method through the utilization of various literature sources relevant to the research focus. The results show that the development of the digital environment has changed people's information consumption patterns and influenced how people form views on various political and social issues. The spread of inaccurate information and increasing political polarization affect the quality of public participation, social relations, and the level of trust in state institutions, which can affect the stability of democratic life. Therefore, strengthening constitutional democracy needs to be done by improving the quality of public participation, strengthening the capacity of state institutions, developing adaptive policies, and increasing public literacy in facing changes in the digital information environment.

Keywords: Constitutionalism, Post-Truth Era, Digital Disinformation, Political Polarization, Constitutional Democracy.

A. INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology over the past few decades has transformed the way society communicates, accesses information, and shapes perceptions of various public issues. The internet and digital media were initially viewed as tools capable of expanding public participation in democracy by increasing access to information and opening up broader opportunities for people to engage in public discourse. The digital space has fostered the emergence of various communication channels, enabling the rapid exchange of ideas without the constraints of time and space. Various community groups that previously had limited access to expressing their aspirations have gained new opportunities to engage in political and social processes. This situation has fostered hopes that technological developments can strengthen democracy through broader public involvement, increased

information transparency, and increased oversight of government administration (Asimakopoulos et al., 2025).

The changes occurring in the public communications ecosystem have, in fact, demonstrated a far more complex dynamic than the optimism that prevailed during the early days of the digital transformation. The increasing use of social media has altered the patterns of public interaction in obtaining and disseminating information. Information circulating is no longer entirely produced and distributed by conventional media institutions, which previously had specific filtering mechanisms, but also originates from individuals, groups, communities, and various digital accounts that can disseminate information widely in a relatively short time. This situation has resulted in the flow of information evolving extremely rapidly with relatively limited oversight. While this situation offers the advantage of increased speed of information distribution, it also presents serious challenges in the form of difficulties in ensuring the quality, validity, and accuracy of information received by the public (Eom & Lee, 2022).

This situation becomes increasingly complex as developments in communication technology coincide with the increasing intensity of political competition in various countries. Increasingly competitive political contests encourage various parties to use digital media as an instrument to gain public support. Social media is no longer simply a communication space; it has evolved into an arena for political competition, bringing together diverse interests and increasingly diverse strategies. Political actors, interest groups, social organizations, and various other parties utilize digital technology to build their image, convey narratives, garner support, and influence public views on various political issues. This competition demonstrates that the digital space functions not only as a means of exchanging information but also as an arena for the struggle for influence, crucial for the formation of public opinion (Hinterleitner et al., 2024).

In practice, these developments present increasingly real problems for the quality of democratic life. Information circulating in the digital space often no longer develops through a process of argumentation based on rational considerations and reliable data. Public issues are often shaped through the dissemination of information that emphasizes emotional aspects, group sentiments, and various narratives designed to elicit a rapid response from the public. Information that is provocative, controversial, and elicits emotional reactions often receives far more attention than factual and analytical information. This situation indicates a shift in the pattern of societal interaction in responding to public information, which ultimately influences the process of forming political views (Bi, 2022).

This phenomenon is increasingly evident in various political events in various countries, including general elections, public policy debates, and various social issues that attract widespread public attention. Various international studies and reports indicate that the spread of inaccurate information in the digital space has increased in recent years. Various forms of information manipulation have developed through the use of social media, digital networks, and various communication technologies that

enable the massive and systematic dissemination of information. This situation not only raises issues related to the quality of public information but also impacts the stability of political life and the level of public trust in democratic institutions (Chen et al., 2022).

This issue is becoming increasingly important to address because democracy fundamentally depends on the public having access to adequate information to make choices and form political views. When the public is faced with a situation filled with conflicting information, manipulated narratives, and various forms of information distortion, the public decision-making process has the potential to undergo significant changes. The public no longer only faces the challenge of obtaining information but also faces difficulties in distinguishing between reliable information and information disseminated for specific purposes (Fischer & Jarren, 2024).

At the same time, developments in the digital space also demonstrate a trend of increasing political polarization in various countries. Differences in political views, which previously developed within certain boundaries, are now showing increasing intensity and involving the formation of groups that tend to be closed to dissenting views. Digital interactions that occur through various social media platforms often reinforce this tendency, as people interact more with groups that share similar views. This situation has resulted in the emergence of social segregation in the digital space, gradually creating distance between groups with different political orientations (Wara, 2026).

Increasing political polarization not only impacts relations between social groups but also impacts the governance process and democratic life more broadly. Differing views that develop in society often escalate into protracted conflicts, hampering public policymaking. In some situations, political polarization even fosters distrust in state institutions, the judiciary, the legislature, and various other democratic institutions. When political differences develop into increasingly intense identity conflicts, the space for compromise, a vital component of democratic life, has the potential to shrink (Scholtz, 2024).

These conditions demonstrate that the challenges facing democracy in the digital era are no longer limited to institutional issues or formal political mechanisms, but also relate to changing patterns of social interaction within society. The emerging issues concern not only how the political system is run, but also how society builds trust in information, public institutions, and democratic mechanisms themselves. The weakening of public trust in various state institutions has become an increasingly prominent issue in discussions on the development of contemporary democracy (Rattanasevee et al., 2024).

This situation ultimately raises concerns about the ability of the democratic system to maintain stability and legitimacy amidst rapid social change. The rise in disinformation, growing political polarization, and declining levels of public trust in democratic institutions demonstrate increasingly serious challenges to the sustainability of the constitutional system. The principles that have long been the foundation of national life are facing pressure not only from formal political dynamics

but also from changes in the structure of communication and social interaction developed through digital technology (Zhuang, 2025).

In the Indonesian context, these dynamics demonstrate increasing relevance for study. The high use of social media, the increasing intensity of political debate in the digital space, and various phenomena of information dissemination that have triggered social conflict demonstrate that the development of digital technology has presented new challenges to national democracy. Various political events in recent years have demonstrated how the digital space can shape public perceptions at large and influence national political dynamics. This situation demonstrates that emerging issues can no longer be understood solely as issues of communication technology, but also relate to the stability of democratic life and the sustainability of the state system (Earl et al., 2022).

Based on these developments, this study aims to analyze the changes occurring in the digital era, which have presented increasingly complex issues for modern democracy. This research also aims to examine the relationship between the dissemination of digital information, increasing political polarization, and declining levels of trust in state institutions, as part of a major shift that requires more in-depth attention. Furthermore, this study aims to conduct a more comprehensive study of how changes in the information environment affect the sustainability of constitutional democracy amidst the increasing dynamics of digital politics. This research was conducted because the various challenges that are currently developing are not only related to short-term political issues, but also concern the direction of development of the democratic and constitutional systems in the future.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Constitutionalism

Constitutionalism is a principle or ideology that affirms that government power must be exercised based on the constitution or the state's fundamental law. This means that all actions of state institutions—whether executive, legislative, or judicial—must not conflict with the constitution. Constitutionalism emerged as a reaction to past practices of absolute power. This principle emphasizes that the government is not an absolute ruler, but rather an implementer of the people's mandate, limited by law. In the Indonesian context, constitutionalism means that all state officials must comply with the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945) as the highest source of law (Allan, 2023).

Constitutionalism has several key characteristics that distinguish it from authoritarian systems of government, including:

- a. Limitations on government power through the Constitution and law.
- b. Division of power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to prevent it from being concentrated in one branch.

- c. Guarantee of human rights and citizen freedoms.
- d. The rule of law is a principle where everyone, including state officials, is subject to the law.
- e. The existence of checks and balances between state institutions (Bellamy, 2023).

In Indonesian constitutional practice, constitutionalism is reflected in various aspects, such as:

- a. Popular sovereignty is realized through free and fair elections.
- b. Separation of powers between the President, the House of Representatives (DPR), and the Supreme Court/Constitutional Court.
- c. Protection of citizens' constitutional rights by the Constitutional Court (MK).
- d. Term limits for the president and vice president demonstrate a commitment to limiting power (Ardhanariswari et al., 2023).

The Constitutional Court (MK) plays a crucial role in maintaining constitutionalism in Indonesia. Through its authority to adjudicate laws against the 1945 Constitution, the Constitutional Court ensures that every legal product remains in line with the basic principles of the constitution (Gunawan, 2026).

Constitutionalism is not only a legal matter, but also a vital pillar of democracy. In a democratic state, the constitution serves as a shield for the people against potential abuses of power. It ensures that voting rights, freedom of expression, and equality before the law are fully protected. Without constitutionalism, democracy can degenerate into a tyranny of the majority, where the majority vote overrides the rights of the minority. Therefore, constitutionalism maintains a balance between government power and people's freedoms (Bulman-Pozen & Seifter, 2023).

2. Post-truth

Truth theory is an attempt to explain the nature and criteria for the truth of a statement. There are various approaches to truth theory, such as correspondence theory, coherence theory, and pragmatic theory. Correspondence theory states that truth lies in the correspondence between propositions and real-world facts. Truth is considered true if it corresponds to facts observable by objective people. Coherence theory emphasizes the harmony between propositions within existing systems of knowledge and belief. In this theory, truth does not depend on correspondence with real-world facts, but rather on the logical relationships between propositions themselves. Pragmatic theory emphasizes the usefulness or consequences of a belief in a practical context. Truth can be determined by the benefits gained from applying a belief in everyday life. In pragmatic theory, truth is viewed as relative and subject to change according to circumstances and desired goals. This approach emphasizes the importance of considering the consequences and impact of a belief in a practical context, rather than focusing on the correspondence between propositions and real-world facts (Navarrete, 2024).

Jürgen Habermas states that truth is the ultimate goal of communication. Habermas identifies three validity claims: truth, normative justice, and honesty, which are related to the three functions of language: cognitive, interactive, and expressive.

This claim is the basis for all speech acts and has its origins in the social, subjective, and objective realms of reality. Truth is a claim of validity, but it also requires consensus among the parties involved, so that nothing can be left out. Given that agreement is the goal of communicative endeavors, rational speakers assume that achieving consensus, or truth, is the ultimate goal of communication (Febriani et al., 2025).

Richard Rorty's view of truth is the usefulness, or effectiveness, of certain propositions for achieving practical goals, which differs from traditional theories of truth. Rorty rejects the idea that there must be objective standards for judging truth, but rather sees truth as a social construct that changes depending on the situation and human needs. Thus, truth is not simply something fixed and universal; it is also influenced by language, culture, and individual subjectivity. Furthermore, truth can also be closely related to the advancement of human knowledge and understanding. Rorty is more interested in focusing on the usefulness or effectiveness of certain propositions in solving practical problems than in the search for absolute truth (McWilliams, 2022).

"Post-truth" refers to a deliberate strategy that diminishes objective truth to influence public opinion. It is based on the word "post," which indicates when a concept (such as "truth") can be safely abandoned as no longer necessary. By undermining theoretical frameworks, abandoning scientific truth, and using the word "post" to make it more difficult for people to understand certain events or phenomena, this tactic aims to create an environment of confusion and uncertainty. Today, the term "post-truth" is widely understood to mean that truth is no longer important (Hartley, 2023).

In the "truth" era, truth was considered objective and verifiable with clear facts and evidence. However, with the advent of the "post-truth" era, truth has become more subjective and dependent on individual opinions and views. Truth and lies are combined with ambiguous statements that fall only slightly short of their lies. The post-truth phenomenon is the result of humans' ability to create stories or narratives, such as myths and ideologies, involving cooperation and bonds between strangers. This currently leads to a preference for power over truth, with humans investing more time in governing the world than in understanding certain things. The post-truth era is characterized by the spread of fake news or hoaxes that can easily spread through social media and digital platforms. This causes confusion and uncertainty among the public, as it is difficult to distinguish between true and false information (Gili & Maddalena, 2022).

3. Political Polarization

Political polarization refers to a situation where society is divided into two or more camps/groups based on political views. This division gives rise to mutual distrust and hatred, leading to hostility. Political polarization is not only manifested in differences of opinion, but also refers to emotional attitudes, fanaticism, rejection of opposing arguments, and the emergence of negative stigmas against other groups

perceived as "opposing." This phenomenon is not new, but is currently more pronounced due to the faster spread of information. The information disseminated is also not always verified (Schedler, 2023).

Political polarization is increasingly emerging and intensifying within society as national political contests approach. This condition is not simply a matter of differing preferences but is also triggered by several interrelated factors, ranging from ideology to elite dynamics to the influence of digital media (Shah, 2025). Some factors that trigger political polarization include:

a. Differences in Ideology and Political Interests.

During elections or when debates about public policy arise, society tends to be divided according to its respective views and affiliations. The intense contest for power makes public opinion easily drawn into the "competition" of camps (Liu et al., 2026).

b. The Role of Media and Social Media.

Digital platform algorithms create echo chambers, where users receive only one-way information without accepting alternative perspectives. This leads to the widespread spread of hoaxes, disinformation, and even provocative content, further strengthening the distance between polarized groups (Zhang et al., 2026).

c. Emotional and Identity Manipulation.

Identity-based campaigns, racial, ethnic, and intergroup relations (SARA), and hate narratives. Narratives based on fear or hatred are considered effective in mobilizing support for election participants, but they leave social residue that is difficult to recover quickly (Reddi et al., 2023).

d. Lack of Political and Digital Literacy.

Many people accept chain messages or viral posts without verifying the context or source. This causes public opinion to be formed based on perceptions whose veracity is uncertain (Majerczak & Strzelecki, 2022).

e. Competition among Political Elites.

Conflicts between political elites, political parties, and support groups often shift from policy issues to personal attacks, which are then re-consumed by the public, creating social distance (Bennett & Kneuer, 2024).

C. METHOD

This research was conducted using a qualitative approach to understand and analyze various issues related to constitutionalism in the post-truth era, particularly those related to digital disinformation, political polarization, and their impact on constitutional democracy. This approach was chosen because it can provide a more in-depth picture of developing phenomena by exploring various conditions, dynamics, and relationships between factors that influence the research problem. Through this approach, the research is directed to gain a more comprehensive

understanding of the development of the issue under study, so that the analysis conducted does not only focus on the general picture of a phenomenon, but also considers the various aspects that underlie it. Research data was obtained through a literature review using various sources related to the research focus, such as previous research results, scientific articles, books, journals, documents, and various other literature that still has relevance to the object of study. All collected data will then be processed and analyzed systematically through the stages of data reduction, grouping data based on discussion themes, and interpretation of the various information obtained. This process is carried out so that the research can produce findings that are in line with the research objectives and are able to provide a clearer picture of the issues being studied (Setiyani et al., 2026).

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Changes in Digital Information Patterns and the Dynamics of Contemporary Political Space

The development of digital technology has brought significant changes to the way people obtain, receive, and manage information in their daily lives. These changes not only affect the technical aspects of the media used to access information but also influence people's habits, preferences, and interaction patterns with the various information sources available. Before the widespread development of digital technology, the process of information dissemination tended to occur through relatively structured mechanisms through print media, television, radio, and various other information channels with specific editing and monitoring systems. Information received by the public at that time generally underwent a selection process before being published, leading to a tendency for people to obtain information more centrally from specific sources. With the increasing development of the internet and social media, these patterns have begun to gradually shift, ultimately creating an information environment that is much more open, fast, and involves various parties in the information distribution process.

These changes in the information environment have subsequently influenced the information consumption patterns of the wider public. While previously, people primarily positioned themselves as recipients of information, the development of digital technology has encouraged them to actively participate in the process of searching for, disseminating, and even creating information. Individuals no longer rely solely on conventional media for news or information on various public issues, but are increasingly turning to digital media, which offers faster and easier access. This ease of access allows people to obtain vast amounts of information in a relatively short time. Various digital platforms provide continuously updated information, creating a situation where information is available almost without limits.

This shift in information consumption patterns can also be observed through the increasing use of the internet and social media in Indonesian society. The high level of use of these two media platforms indicates that the digital space has become a primary means for people to seek, receive, and exchange information.

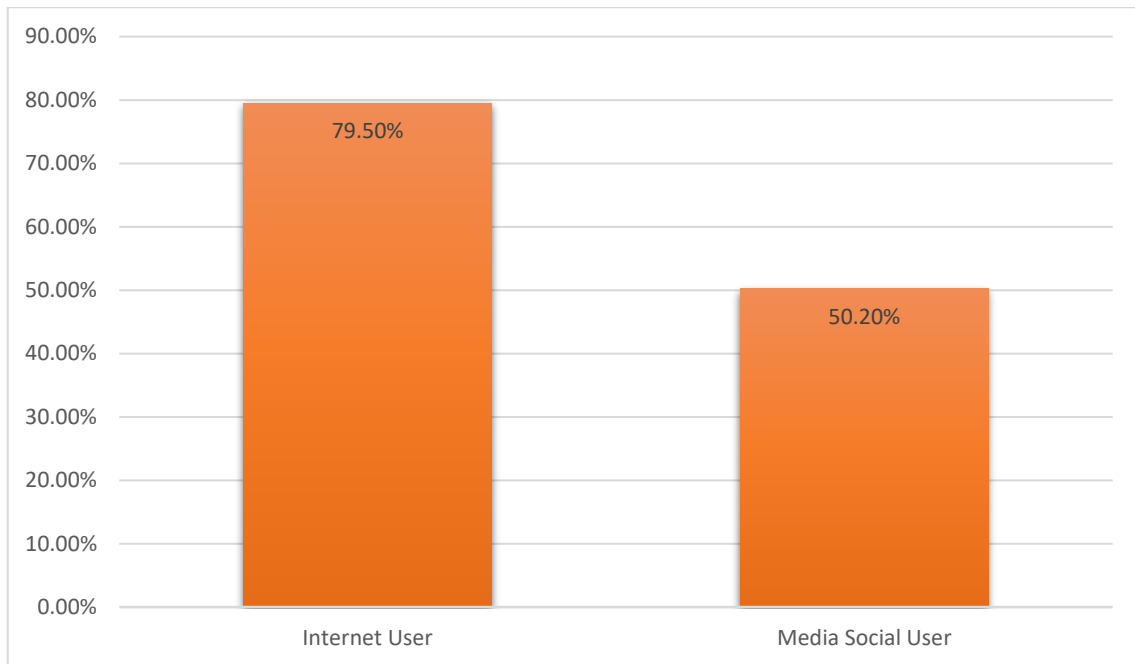


Figure 1. Percentage of Internet and Social Media Usage in Indonesia 2024-2025

Source: Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII)

The data in Figure 1 shows that internet penetration in Indonesia has reached 79.5% of the total population, while social media usage has reached 50.2%. This situation indicates that the internet is no longer merely a supplementary means of communication but has evolved into a vital part of people's social activities. The high use of digital media demonstrates a shift in information access patterns, increasingly shifting toward the use of digital platforms as the primary source of public information.

This situation has subsequently shaped changes in the way people consume information. The process of seeking information, which was previously more planned, has shifted to a rapid and repetitive activity. People no longer wait for information to be delivered on a specific schedule, as was the case with conventional media, but can instead access various information directly through the digital devices they use at any time. This change has resulted in increased public reliance on digital media as a primary source of information. The intense use of smartphones and various social media platforms has made obtaining information an almost inseparable part of daily life.

The increasing use of digital media also demonstrates a shift in public preferences regarding the form of information consumed. Information presented concisely, visually, and easily understood tends to garner greater attention than information that requires lengthy and in-depth reading. Various digital platforms are gradually forming new habits in the information consumption process by presenting content designed to capture users' attention in a relatively short time. This situation influences how people perceive an issue, as attention to the substance of the information often shifts toward more emotional and visually appealing aspects.

At the same time, the increased use of digital media has also led to a significant increase in the intensity of information dissemination. Developments in communication technology allow information to travel from one party to another in seconds without encountering significant geographical barriers. Events occurring in one region can be learned about by people in other regions almost simultaneously. This situation demonstrates that the modern information space has evolved into a communication environment that allows for extremely high-speed information distribution.

The increase in digital media use is not only evident in the high number of internet users but can also be observed in the upward trend in internet usage in recent years. This change demonstrates that digital information consumption is experiencing a continuous increase over time.

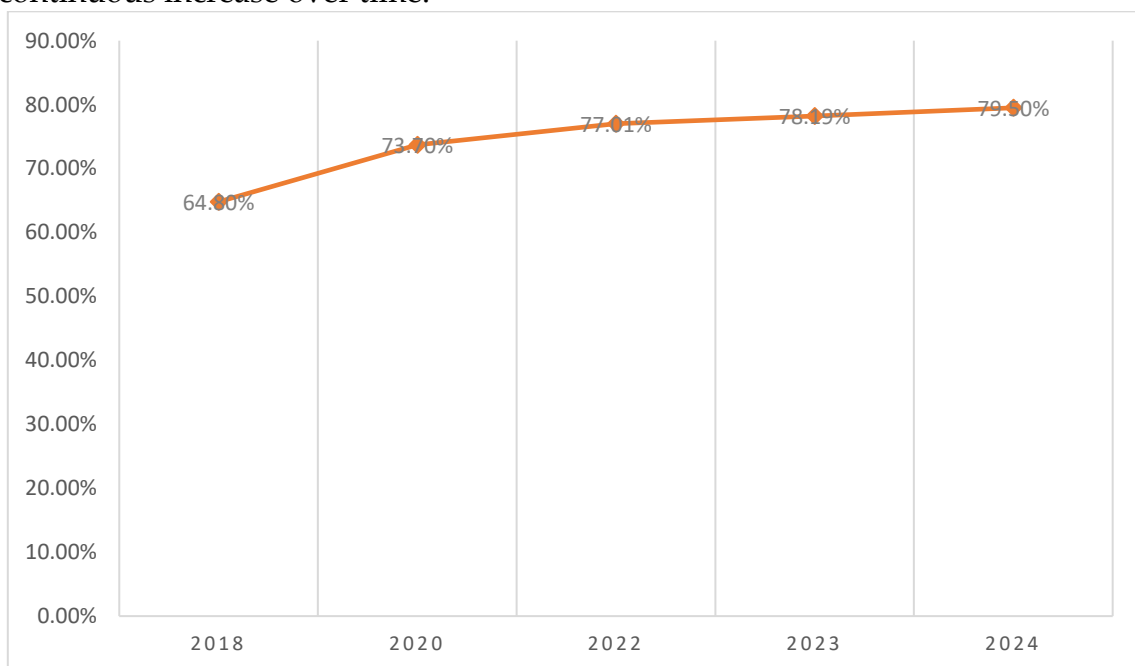


Figure 2. Trend of Increasing Internet Penetration in Indonesia 2018–2024

Source: Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII)

The data in Figure 2 shows a gradual increase in internet penetration in Indonesia over the past few years. This increase demonstrates that public access to digital spaces continues to expand and is becoming an increasingly important part of daily life. This condition also explains the increasing intensity of information flow within society, as broader internet access allows the distribution and reception of information to occur at a faster rate than before.

This increased intensity of information dissemination ultimately results in a situation where the public is constantly confronted with multiple streams of information coming simultaneously. Various social, economic, legal, and political issues develop rapidly and compete for public attention. This situation results in the public receiving a much greater volume of various forms of information than in previous periods. While this situation opens up ample opportunities for the public to

obtain information from various sources, the increased volume of information also creates new challenges in the form of difficulties in filtering the information received.

In the digital environment, the process of information dissemination is no longer a one-way process, as was often the case with conventional media. Information can develop through interactions involving multiple parties simultaneously. Any individual can become a disseminator of information without requiring access to a specific media institution. Through various features available on digital platforms, information can be repeatedly disseminated by other users, thus expanding its distribution reach. This situation demonstrates that the public is not merely a consumer of information but also plays a role in determining how information develops and gains public attention.

These changes have also influenced public behavior in responding to various political issues developing in the digital space. Public involvement in political issues has increased because digital media provides greater opportunities for individuals to express their views, responses, and criticisms of various public issues. The digital space allows the public to respond directly to developing issues through various forms of interaction, such as comments, discussions, and the re-dissemination of information. This situation demonstrates that public participation in the discussion of political issues has become more open than before.

Nevertheless, the increasing public involvement in responding to political issues also reveals certain trends in public behavior patterns. Public response to an issue often evolves rapidly following the flow of information that is gaining significant attention at a given time. The intensity of attention to an issue can increase significantly in a short period of time, but can also decline rapidly when a new issue emerges that garners greater attention. This situation demonstrates that public attention to political issues is increasingly influenced by the patterns of information movement developing in the digital space.

This behavioral change is also related to the increasing tendency of people to form views based on information continuously received from the digital environment. Repeated interaction with certain information can influence how people view a public issue. Individuals tend to pay greater attention to information that aligns with their pre-existing views or beliefs. This situation causes the digital space to gradually shape an information environment that can influence how people evaluate political events.

The rapid flow of information also has a significant influence on the process of public opinion formation. In a situation where information is constantly circulating, people often form views on an issue based on the information they first receive or the information that appears most frequently in their digital environment. This condition causes the process of forming public opinion to no longer fully develop through an in-depth exchange of views, but is also influenced by the intensity of the dissemination of information received by the public.

The rapid circulation of information also causes changes in the cycle of public perception formation regarding a political event. A particular issue can become a national concern in a very short time and generate a variety of reactions from the

public. At the same time, changes in the direction of public attention can also occur rapidly when other issues emerge that are deemed more interesting or relevant. This situation demonstrates that public opinion in the digital environment experiences a relatively high rate of change compared to previous periods.

Changes in digital information patterns have ultimately transformed the patterns of political communication that develop in modern society. Political communication no longer occurs through formal and centralized mechanisms, but rather through digital spaces that enable direct interaction between various parties. Political actors, government institutions, social organizations, and the general public now find themselves in a relatively open communication environment with increasingly blurred boundaries.

These changes have caused political communication patterns to adapt to the characteristics of the current digital environment. Political messages tend to be structured more concisely, more quickly, and more easily capture public attention. Various communication strategies have been developed to adapt to changes in public behavior in consuming information. This condition shows that the development of digital technology has not only changed the communication media used but also influenced the way political messages are formed, delivered, and received by the public.

2. Digital Disinformation and Its Challenges to the Stability of Democratic Life

The development of digital communication technology has brought about significant changes to the information environment that shapes modern society. These changes have not only affected the speed of information dissemination but also the patterns of relationships between people and the various available information sources. The ease of producing and disseminating information has created a much more open communication space than in previous periods. Every individual has a relatively equal opportunity to convey ideas, views, and information to the wider public without having to go through the strict oversight mechanisms that existed in conventional media. This situation was initially seen as a development that could expand public participation in various social and political issues. However, this development has simultaneously presented new problems in the form of increased dissemination of information that does not always have a sufficient level of accuracy.

The increasing flow of information in the digital space demonstrates that the process of information distribution does not always coincide with an increase in the quality of information received by the public. Information circulating in the digital space often develops so rapidly that various pieces of information can gain public attention before undergoing adequate verification. This situation makes it increasingly difficult for the public to distinguish between factual information and information containing errors, manipulation, or incomplete presentation. This issue becomes increasingly important when the information that develops relates to political issues, public policies, and various problems that have an impact on the lives of the wider community.

The increase in digital information flow has not only resulted in expanded access to information but has also been accompanied by an increase in the discovery of various pieces of information with low levels of validity. This situation can be observed through government findings regarding the spread of hoaxes in the digital space, which indicate that the circulation of inaccurate information remains a growing problem in the public communication environment.

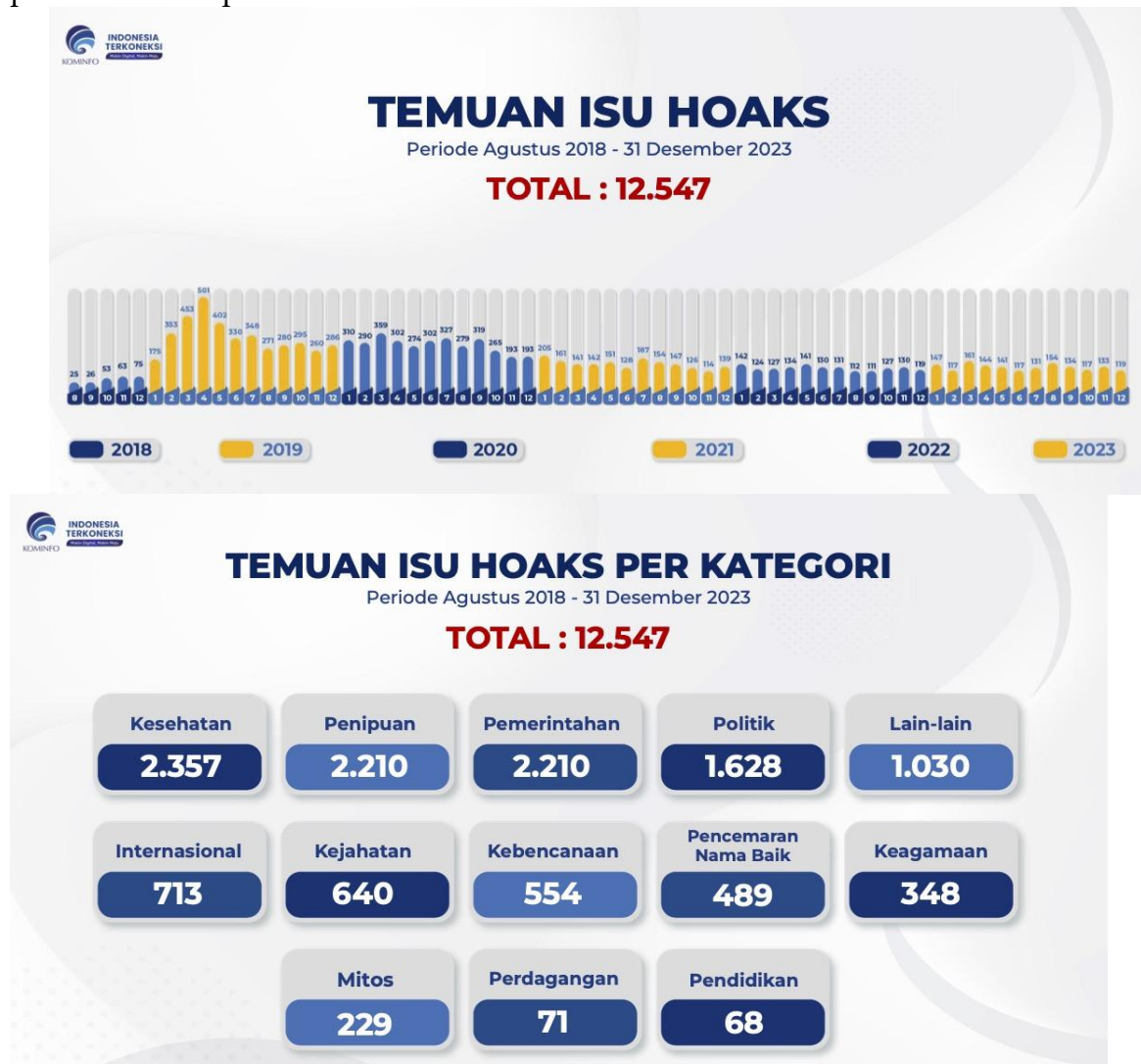


Figure 3. Findings of Hoax Issues on Digital Platforms Until the End of 2023
Source: Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia (2024).

The data in Figure 3 shows that by the end of 2023, the government had addressed 12,547 hoaxes spread through various digital platforms. These findings indicate that the spread of inaccurate information is not an isolated issue but has become a significant part of the digital information environment. Furthermore, the variety of hoax categories identified demonstrates that the spread of misleading information is not limited to one specific area but has impacted various aspects of people's lives. This situation demonstrates that society currently lives in an increasingly complex information environment, making the ability to evaluate

information increasingly crucial for maintaining the quality of public participation and the process of forming political views.

In a democracy, public involvement in various political processes depends heavily on the public's ability to obtain adequate information. Public participation fundamentally requires conditions that enable the public to understand various emerging issues, allowing individuals to form views and determine attitudes based on rational considerations. When the information the public receives is filled with various forms of inaccuracy, the quality of public participation has the potential to experience significant changes. People can engage in various political activities without adequately understanding the substance of the issues at hand.

The spread of inaccurate information in the digital space is gradually impacting the quality of public engagement in the political process. Public engagement is no longer entirely based on understanding formed through reliable information, but is also influenced by a variety of information that develops rapidly without adequate vetting. This situation tends to influence public participation in various public issues through spontaneous responses to specific issues. People can form political attitudes based on information received quickly without having sufficient opportunity to examine it in greater depth.

This situation demonstrates that the increasing amount of available information does not automatically result in an increase in the quality of public participation. In some circumstances, the vast amount of information can actually make it difficult for people to determine what information is appropriate for their consideration. Individuals faced with conflicting information often struggle to develop a comprehensive understanding of an issue. As a result, the public participation process can develop based on perceptions formed from fragments of information that do not always reflect the true situation.

This problem becomes increasingly complex when information distortion begins to influence society's decision-making process. In a democracy, decisions made by the public are closely related to the information received and understood by individuals. Political choices, views on public policy, and attitudes toward various social issues are generally formed through a continuous process of information processing. When the information underlying considerations changes, the resulting decisions have the potential to change as well.

Information distortion can arise through various forms of incomplete information presentation, the use of selectively selected data, or the dissemination of narratives designed to direct public perception to certain conclusions. These conditions cause the public to form judgments about an issue based on images that do not fully reflect the actual situation. In some circumstances, the public may make political decisions that are more influenced by perceptions formed through specific information flows than by assessments based on a more comprehensive understanding.

The decision-making process that develops in such situations can pose broader problems for democracy. Public decisions formed through distorted information have

the potential to produce choices that do not fully reflect the needs of society objectively. This problem not only affects individuals in determining political attitudes but can also influence the direction of public policy formation more broadly. When the information that forms the basis for forming public opinion does not have an adequate level of accuracy, the quality of the resulting decisions also has the potential to decline.

On the other hand, the increasing spread of inaccurate information has also led to changes in public trust in political information. The digital space, filled with various forms of information of varying quality, increasingly confronts the public with situations of uncertainty. Individuals receive a variety of information from numerous sources, often conveying differing narratives on the same issue. This situation makes it difficult for the public to determine which sources of information are trustworthy.

This increasing uncertainty is gradually fueling public skepticism about the political information circulating within society. Political information, previously viewed as a means of understanding various public issues, is now being viewed with greater caution. The public no longer accepts information directly as entirely trustworthy, but tends to question the motives, interests, and background of the information they receive. In certain situations, this skepticism develops into a broader skepticism toward various information related to political life.

This growing skepticism within society is not limited to information from specific sources but can also extend to impacting public relations with state institutions. The information environment has a significant influence on how the public views government institutions, political institutions, and various other public institutions. The ever-evolving information in the digital space can shape public perceptions regarding the performance, integrity, and legitimacy of state institutions.

When the public consistently receives information that portrays state institutions in a negative light, public perception of those institutions can gradually shift. This situation can occur regardless of the accuracy of the information circulating. The intensity of information dissemination in the digital space often has a significant influence on the formation of public perceptions. Information that is repeatedly repeated and receives widespread public attention can shape certain views, even though the substance of the information may not fully reflect the actual situation.

The decline in public trust in state institutions has significant consequences for the stability of democratic life. Public trust is a crucial element in maintaining the relationship between the public and state officials. When public trust declines, support for various public policies also has the potential to change. The public may display a more critical attitude, become more suspicious, and even more resistant to various decisions made by the government and other state institutions.

At the same time, the development of the digital information environment also presents various obstacles to maintaining the quality of public communication. The open digital space allows a variety of information to develop simultaneously at a very high intensity. This situation complicates the process of monitoring circulating information because the amount of information produced constantly increases.

Various parties with different backgrounds and interests can be involved in the public communication process, resulting in the information space becoming a highly complex environment.

Another obstacle that arises relates to the increasing tendency to use information designed to quickly capture public attention. In the digital environment, public attention is a highly valued element, so various information is often structured to emphasize aspects that can elicit an emotional response. This situation poses an increasing challenge to the quality of public communication, as public attention is not always directed to the substance of the issue but is also influenced by the way the information is presented.

3. Political Polarization and Changes in Social Relations in Democratic Life

The development of modern political life demonstrates significant changes in the patterns of social relations within society. These changes occur in tandem with the increasing use of communication technology, the expansion of digital interaction spaces, and the increasing intensity of public involvement in various political issues. Political life, which previously developed primarily through formal interactions in specific spaces, is now shifting toward a more open pattern with much broader public involvement. Various political issues can be accessed, discussed, and debated directly by the public through various available communication channels. On the one hand, this situation provides greater space for public involvement in public affairs, but on the other hand, it also gives rise to changes in the social relations that develop in democratic life.

These changes are increasingly evident in the increasing tendency of society to place political issues as an increasingly intimate part of everyday life. While previously political issues primarily developed within formal institutions, political organizations, and specific groups, the development of digital media has made political issues present in almost all areas of social interaction. Various issues related to public policy, the political process, and various events that capture public attention can develop rapidly through digital spaces and become part of everyday conversation. This situation has made the boundaries between social life and political life increasingly difficult to separate.

This situation then demonstrates the increasing fragmentation of political views within society. People in a vast information environment receive a variety of information from diverse sources with varying perspectives. These differences in information sources gradually influence how individuals understand public issues. Continuously receiving information can shape certain tendencies in how individuals assess various emerging issues. As a result, society no longer simply displays general differences of opinion but begins to exhibit the formation of groups with increasingly distinct political views.

This increasing fragmentation arises not solely from differences in political preferences but is also influenced by changes in the communication environment that reinforce society's tendency to interact with information that aligns with their pre-

existing views. Individuals tend to access information that supports their beliefs more frequently than information that presents dissenting views. This situation causes society to gradually find itself in an information environment that is increasingly limited to certain viewpoints. As this process continues, the space for different perspectives to converge begins to narrow.

These developments ultimately resulted in a situation where differences in political views became increasingly apparent in social life. Differences that previously developed within certain limits began to show a growing distance between social groups. Various public issues that should have been understood from various perspectives began to be viewed more narrowly through the positions of certain groups. This situation demonstrated that society was no longer simply facing differences of opinion but also facing a process of forming increasingly strong social boundaries based on political orientation.

The increasing fragmentation of political views then influenced patterns of interaction between social groups in society. Social interactions that previously developed through relatively open relationships began to change into various forms. Individuals tended to build more intensive relationships with groups holding similar views, while relationships with groups holding differing views became increasingly limited. This process gradually resulted in the formation of an increasingly visible social distance in social life.

These changes in interaction patterns can be seen in various social settings, including families, communities, work groups, and the broader societal environment. Political issues emerging in the public sphere are often no longer viewed as external to social relations but begin to impact the quality of interpersonal relationships in everyday life. Differences in views on specific political issues can develop into sources of tension, impacting previously well-functioning social relationships. This situation demonstrates that changes in the political environment are having an increasingly significant influence on social relations.

These changes in social relations are then linked to the strengthening of group identities in political life. People in environments with high levels of political diversity often tend to strengthen relationships with groups perceived as sharing similar views. Shared political orientations gradually develop into part of social identity, influencing how individuals position themselves within society. This situation means that group identity is no longer constructed solely through cultural aspects, regions, or specific social relationships, but also through the political positions held by individuals and groups.

The strengthening of group identities in political life has a significant influence on how society views other groups. Individuals with strong attachments to a particular group often tend to judge various issues based on their own group's perspective. Judgments of other groups can be developed not based on the content or substance of an issue, but rather on the group's position within the political environment. As a result, differences of opinion, which should be part of the diversity

within a democracy, begin to develop into increasingly difficult-to-bridge social barriers.

This situation ultimately impacts the existence of dialogue spaces in a democracy. Dialogue spaces essentially play a crucial role in creating healthy relationships between community groups because, through dialogue, differences can be reconciled and mutually understood. However, the increasing strengthening of group identities presents a growing challenge to the dialogue process. Individuals and groups often prioritize their own group's interests as the primary basis for responding to emerging issues.

This situation significantly hinders the communication process between groups with differing views. Dialogue, which should be a means of building shared understanding, often devolves into a space of conflict, emphasizing the defense of each group's position. This situation means that the exchange of views does not always result in better understanding, but instead reinforces the existing distance.

The decline in dialogue also impacts society's ability to build political compromise. In a democracy, compromise plays a crucial role because differing interests need to be reconciled through a process that allows for mutual agreement. However, as society becomes increasingly divided based on group orientations, the process of finding common ground becomes increasingly difficult. Each group tends to defend its own position, limiting the opportunity for reaching a mutual agreement.

The difficulty in establishing compromise not only impacts relations between community groups but also has a broader impact on the conduct of political life. Various public issues that require cooperation and mutual agreement can face obstacles due to increasing differences within society. This situation can result in a less effective resolution of various social and political issues.

In the longer term, increasing political polarization can also impact social cohesion within a society. Social cohesion is crucial for maintaining inter-community relations because it is related to a society's ability to build a sense of togetherness, mutual trust, and a sense of connection to life together. When a society experiences increasingly strong divisions based on political views, the social relationships formed in daily life have the potential to change.

Declining intergroup relations can lead to a decline in mutual trust within society. Individuals can become more cautious, more withdrawn, and even more suspicious of groups with differing views. This situation not only impacts social relationships at the individual level but also social relations within the broader community. When mutual trust declines, society's ability to build cooperation is also potentially weakened.

This condition can ultimately impact the process of societal integration in a democracy. Social integration requires relationships that allow various groups within society to feel part of a shared life despite their differing views. However, as polarization intensifies, differences are no longer seen as part of diversity but rather as boundaries that separate one group from another.

4. Strengthening Constitutional Democracy in Facing the Challenges of the Digital Era

The development of digital technology has brought about sweeping changes in social and political life, as well as the relationship between society and the state. The continuous advancement of communications technology has created an information environment with distinct characteristics compared to previous periods. Information moves at breakneck speed, public interaction spaces have become more open, and the public has increasingly broader access to various issues related to national life. On the one hand, these changes present significant opportunities for strengthening democracy through expanded access to information and increased public involvement in various public affairs. However, on the other hand, these changes also present increasingly complex challenges to the sustainability of the constitutional democratic system. Various issues, such as the dissemination of inaccurate information, increasing social fragmentation, and changing patterns of political communication, demonstrate that technological development does not always go hand in hand with strengthening the quality of democratic life.

This situation demonstrates that strengthening constitutional democracy in the digital era is not solely related to the formation of regulations or strengthening formal institutions, but also relates to the ability of various elements within the state to adapt to ongoing changes in the social environment. A democratic system requires the ability to maintain a balance between technological development and the protection of the principles of national life that have become the foundation of state governance. As social change occurs rapidly, the ability of democratic systems to adapt becomes an increasingly crucial factor in maintaining the stability of political life and the relationship between the state and society.

One aspect that receives significant attention in efforts to strengthen constitutional democracy relates to the quality of public participation in the public sphere. Democratic life fundamentally places the public as a vital part of the policy-making process, oversight of state administration, and various other processes related to the public interest. Increased public access to digital spaces has opened up far broader opportunities for engagement in various public issues. Various digital platforms enable the public to express opinions, provide responses to specific policies, and participate in various forms of discussion related to social and political issues.

Although the digital space has expanded opportunities for public involvement in public life, increased participation does not necessarily indicate an increase in the quality of that participation. The high intensity of public involvement in the digital space is often accompanied by an increase in spontaneous, brief responses and responses that are not always based on an adequate understanding of an issue. This situation indicates that the quality of public participation requires greater attention than simply increasing the number of public engagements. Participation that can contribute to strengthening democracy requires public involvement based on a deeper understanding of emerging issues.

Efforts to improve the quality of public participation require a public environment that allows the public to have access to adequate information and a space that supports the healthy exchange of views. Democratic life requires not only freedom of expression but also conditions that enable the public to understand various issues more comprehensively. When the public has the opportunity to access broader and higher-quality information, the process of forming views on various public issues can also develop better.

Beyond its relevance to society, strengthening constitutional democracy also requires increasing the capacity of state institutions to respond to changes occurring in the digital environment. Technological developments have brought about significant changes in the way society interacts with the state and in the way various public issues develop in social life. Various issues can emerge and gain public attention in a very short time, so that state institutions face situations that demand faster and more effective response capabilities than before.

These conditions demonstrate that state institutions require adequate capabilities to understand changes in the social environment influenced by the development of digital technology. Improving institutional capacity is crucial because the challenges emerging in the digital era are no longer solely related to administrative or procedural issues, but also involve the ability to understand public communication patterns, changes in public behavior, and various issues that develop through the digital space. State institutions that are unable to adapt to these changes potentially face difficulties in maintaining effective relationships with the public.

Institutional capacity enhancement is also related to the state's ability to build a better information management system. The development of the digital environment generates a vast amount of information at a rapid rate of change. This situation demands a system capable of supporting the effective collection, management, and use of information in state governance. This capability is increasingly crucial because public decisions in the digital era often require rapid responses to changes occurring in society.

In addition to strengthening the capacity of state institutions, developing policies that adapt to changes in the information environment is also a crucial part of efforts to strengthen constitutional democracy. Changing communication patterns and the increasing use of digital media have created a situation that differs from the information environment of the previous period. Various new issues emerge in the digital space with characteristics that often develop faster than the ability of policy systems to respond to them.

These conditions demonstrate that public policies need to be formulated taking into account ongoing changes in the social environment. Policies that are rigid and unable to adapt to these changes are likely to face various obstacles in their implementation. Developing policies that respond to changes in the information environment is crucial for the government system to maintain its effectiveness in addressing the various new issues emerging in society.

At the same time, strengthening constitutional democracy is also closely linked to increasing public literacy in dealing with the ever-expanding flow of information. The digital environment, filled with a variety of information with highly diverse characteristics, requires the public to be able to more critically evaluate the information they receive. The public no longer simply needs the ability to access information but also the ability to understand, evaluate, and manage that information appropriately.

Improving public literacy is crucial because an individual's ability to understand information has a significant impact on how society forms its views on various public issues. Individuals with strong literacy skills tend to have a greater opportunity to understand an issue more comprehensively and are better able to place information in the appropriate context. Conversely, limited ability to manage information can make the public more susceptible to being influenced by information that lacks sufficient accuracy.

Increasing literacy also has a significant impact on the quality of social relations in a democracy. Communities with a better ability to understand information tend to have a greater opportunity to build more open communication regarding differing views. This ability can support the creation of a healthier public sphere, as citizens are not merely passive recipients of information but are also able to evaluate the various emerging sources.

All of these efforts ultimately serve a broader purpose: maintaining democratic stability and the sustainability of the state system amidst ongoing change. The stability of democratic life is not only determined by the existence of strong political institutions but is also influenced by the relationships between society, the state, and the developing social environment surrounding it. When these various elements can adapt to changes, democracy has a greater chance of surviving emerging challenges.

The sustainability of the state system requires the ability to maintain a balance between change and stability. The development of digital technology will continue to produce new changes that impact society's social and political life. Therefore, strengthening constitutional democracy cannot be understood as a temporary process, but rather as a continuous effort to ensure the state system maintains its function in the face of ever-changing environmental conditions. Therefore, various steps related to strengthening the quality of public participation, increasing the capacity of state institutions, developing adaptive policies, enhancing public literacy, and efforts to maintain the stability of democratic life are interrelated components in building a sustainable constitutional democratic system in the digital era.

E. CONCLUSION

The development of digital technology has brought about sweeping changes in democratic life through shifts in information consumption patterns, increased intensity of information dissemination, and changes in how society responds to various political issues. The digital space has expanded public access to information and opened up opportunities for greater participation in public life. However, these

changes also present new challenges, as the high flow of information is not always accompanied by an increase in the quality of information received by the public. This condition influences the formation of public opinion, alters patterns of political communication, and gives rise to changes in the relationship between society and the modern political sphere. On the other hand, the dissemination of inaccurate information and increasing political polarization have significantly impacted the quality of democratic life. Distorted information can influence the process of forming public views, reduce the quality of public participation, and increase skepticism about political information and state institutions. At the same time, the increasing fragmentation of political views also impacts social relations by strengthening group identities, reducing spaces for dialogue, and weakening the public's ability to build compromise. This situation demonstrates that the challenges emerging in the digital era are not only related to communication technology issues, but also concern social relations, public trust, and the sustainability of democratic life more broadly. In the face of these conditions, strengthening constitutional democracy is a crucial step to maintain the stability of national life and the sustainability of the state system. These efforts can be achieved through improving the quality of public participation in the public sphere, strengthening the capacity of state institutions to address evolving digital environments, developing policies that adapt to changes in information, and increasing public literacy in understanding the ever-evolving flow of information. Through these steps, the democratic system is expected to maintain its function and sustainability amidst the ongoing social and political changes in the digital era.

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