Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition

Congratulations to Indonesia's new President and renewal of commitment to support Indonesian language learning in NT schools

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CLP Leader Terry Mills has congratulated Indonesia's new President Susilo Bambang Yudiyono on his recent victory and pledged his personal support to build development through strengthening efforts to accelerate trade and investment and deepen economic interdependence in the region.

In a speech to Darwin High School students today Mr Mills urged students to seriously consider the option of language studies in the interest of increasing our capacity to work with our near neighbour.

"Enhancing cooperation between the NT and Indonesia on a broad range of regional and international issues to developing further economic growth in the region is an important priority to the CLP. I hope that the two countries can achieve a balance of interests including the implementation of capacity building for both countries.

"One practical step in achieving this is to renew the Territory's focus on learning the language of our near neighbour, Bahasa Indonesia, in our schools. In recent years support for Indonesian language in our schools has dropped off, in government I will work to increase support for language teaching.

"I can only stress the need for strong support to build better foundations for growth along with the creation of new opportunities to encourage community, investment and strategic alliances between the Northern Territory and Indonesia," Mr Mills said.

Mr Mills congratulated President SBY and his government on a well coordinated chain of accountability networks focused on bettering Indonesia's electoral processes and applauded the orderly re-engineering of the internal organisation of the political processes.

"The CLP pledges its continued support for the country's reform efforts and sincerely hope that economic prosperity and social stability are ongoing and strengthened by this new region

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