



Independent Group To Verify The Voters List

Press Release
3 August 2006

Banda Aceh - Jurdil Aceh, a network of Aceh-based voluntary organizations, announced today that it will conduct a voter registration audit to verify the accuracy of the new voters list. The group made the decision following the announcement by acting Aceh Governor Mustafa Abubakar that the voters' list is now one hundred percent complete. Jurdil Aceh will conduct a Voter Registration Audit (VRA) for the upcoming Gubernatorial and District Head elections. This independent civic monitoring of the voter registration list will support the transparency, fairness and peaceful implementation of the scheduled December 10, 2006 local elections in Aceh (Kompas, 1 August 2006).

The Voter Registration Audit will evaluate the quality of voters list and assist the Independent Election Commission (KIP) to improve it. The audit will also help ensure eligible voters are registered, deter manipulation, provide voters with information regarding the voter registration process, and increase public confidence in the election process. The KIP is aware of Jurdil Aceh's plans for this audit and welcomes the audit results.

Jurdil Aceh is a network of four civic organizations including Aceh Development Fund (ADF), Community for Aceh Resources Development (e-Card), the Aceh NGO Forum and Katahati Institute. Jurdil Aceh is supported by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the Australian Indonesian Partnership and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The voter registration audit is a proven and reliable methodology based on statistical principles to assess the voter list using a two-way test and involving more than 500 volunteer monitors deployed to 400 villages across the length of Aceh. This scientific method was developed by NDI and has been conducted by domestic civic groups in dozens of countries including Indonesia. The first of the two tests is a List-to-People Test which will check names that are on the voters list actually belong to a eligible voters. The test will also verify the voter information of each selected name on the list. Jurdil Aceh monitors will check the accuracy of 3,200 names randomly selected from the voters list to the actual people. The second test is a People-to-List Test. This test will check if eligible voters are absent from the voters list. Jurdil Aceh monitors will interview 4,800 eligible voters selected randomly and then search for their names on the voters list. They will also check the accuracy of the information of interviewed voters on the list.

For further information:

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