

5 April Polling Day Transparent and Fair despite technical problems

Jakarta, 12 April 2004

The 5 April Election Day was transparent and fair according to 4000 LP3ES election observers. Despite a number of technical problems, a statistical sample of polling stations show that election day administration, was on the whole, consistent and competent.

The overwhelming majority of polling stations (98 %) conducted vote counting in a transparent manner. The majority of polling stations officials (97%) publicly inspected and displayed ballot boxes and ballots. Levels of voter intimidation were low (7%). Overall, LP3ES observers considered 98% of voting and counting process at polling stations as run smoothly and according to established rules. This figure is obtained from 51% of observers who considered the observed polling station extremely transparent and fair plus 47% of observers who observed irregularities but still believed the administration at the observed polling station was transparent and fair.

As part of the *JURDIL Pemilu 2004* coalition, LP3ES deployed 4,000 observers in 2000 villages in 32 provinces in Indonesia. The villages were selected using *stratified random sampling method*. To date, the LP3ES data center has received observation reports from 1,887 polling stations. As a result, these results represent the national results with a margin of error of +/- 1 % with 95 % of confidence level. The total number of voters observed casting their vote was 424,233.

Nevertheless, there were problems which detracted from the election process. The largest problem was the lack of secrecy of the polling booth (20%). LP3ES reported 7% invalid ballots. Voter participation also seems to have decreased since the 1999 election to 87% of registered voters but remains high. LP3ES also recorded 332 people from the observed polling stations were unable to vote due to the lack of ballots. This rate is equivalent to 7 per 10,000 voters.

LP3ES observers recorded the DPR vote results as a part of a national quick count and directly observed the voting and counting process at the polling station level. Observation was only conducted on Election Day from the opening of the polling stations at 7 AM until the closing. As a result, the results of this quick count cannot be generalized to the entire electoral process but rather represents the voting and counting process at polling stations.

Detail of LP3ES observation results can be seen from the table below:

Questions	Yes	No
Does the voting booth guarantee that voters can secretly cast their ballots?	80 %	20 %
Was there any intimidation against voters?	7.6 %	92.4 %
Is the ballot counting process conducted transparently?	98.0 %	2.0 %
Were the ballot boxes and ballot papers inspected before the public?	96.8 %	3.2 %
Were there any invalid ballot papers counted?	7.0 %	93.0 %

Final Projection: Golkar Still ahead of PDIP

The figures produced by the vote tabulation at the KPU National Election Tabulation (TNP) have begun to converge on the figures announced by LP3ES on 6 April 2004. This is occurring perhaps due to a sufficient number of votes that have now been received by the TNP (more than 50% at 2 pm on 12 April 2004) and originates evenly from a distribution of areas around the country.

These LP3ES projection figures are obtained based on a quick count methodology as described above.

After the data from the sampled polling stations was received, the composition and numbers of votes obtained by each party have remained relatively stable. Golkar remains ahead of PDIP. Golkar is in first place with 22.9%, followed by PDIP with 18.4%, PKB in third place with 10.6% and PPP, Democrat Party, PKS and PAN following with 8.1%, 7%, 6.9% and 6.4% respectively.

It almost certain that the three top parties will remain in their current order of Golkar, PDIP and PKB. This is because the margin of error established in the LP3ES projection is +/- 1%. For the fourth to seventh placed parties, there is still a possibility of re-ordering of the current line up of PPP, Democrat Party, PKS, and PAN. Meanwhile, PBB is almost sure to remain in 8th place.

Jurdil Pemilu 2004 is a coalition of Indonesian Rector's Forum, a national network of university rectors; the Institute for Social and Economic Research, Education and Information (LP3ES), a Jakarta-based research institute; the Civil Society Alliance for Democracy (YAPPIKA), an NGO that monitored the elections in Aceh; and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), a Washington, DC-based international organization that supports democracy around the world.

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