

LP3ES

Lembaga Penelitian, Pendidikan dan Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial

VOTING IN SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCEEDS SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN FIRST ROUND

Jakarta, 22 September 2004

Voting in the second round of Indonesia direct presidential election on Monday proceeded slightly better than in the first round. This assessment was drawn from an overall evaluation made by 3,818 LP3ES election observers and concludes that the balloting and counting process proceeded properly and smoothly at 99% of monitored polling stations.

This figure is derived from 70% of monitors who stated that they **strongly agreed** that there were no observed or proven irregularities in the balloting and counting process at the observed polling station. An additional 29% of monitors stated that they **agreed** that the electoral process at their polling station proceeded freely and fairly, because despite several irregularities it was not possible to say the election was not free and fair.

Voter turnout was also slightly increased (80.6%) compared to the first presidential election (78%). The level of intimidation towards voters and towards polling station officials was also low at 1.7% and 1.9% respectively. In only a few polling stations were polling station officials observed damaging ballots (1.3%).

According to these monitors, almost all polling stations officials (97.4%) checked and showed ballots and ballot boxes openly to the voting public. There were almost no cases of voters who had already voted elsewhere (i.e., had ink on their fingers) found to be voting again. Only 42 cases (0.01%) were observed in 2.2% of polling stations observed.

Regarding the vote counting process, LP3ES observers reported that at most polling stations (97.4%) the count proceeded transparently – i.e., it could be observed clearly by candidates' agents, monitors and the public.

The complete results of LP3ES monitoring from both election rounds by can be seen in the following table.

Results of Monitoring Balloting and Counting at Polling Stations from First and Second Presidential Election Rounds

No.	Question	First Round 5 July 2004		Second Round 20 Sept 2004	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Did the voting booth ensure the secrecy of the vote?	94.8	5.2	96.6	3.4
2.	Was there intimidation toward voters?	2.9	97.1	1.7	98.2
3.	Was there intimidation toward polling station officials?	1.6	98.4	1.9	98.1
4.	Was the counting process conducted openly?	98.0	2.0	98.6	1.4

LP3ES

Lembaga Penelitian, Pendidikan dan Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial

5.	Were ballots and the ballot box shown to the public?	87.1	2.9	97.4	2.6
6.	Did any voters with inked fingers vote again?	1.5	98.5	2.2	97.8
7.	Did any officials spoil any ballots?	1.6	98.4	1.3	98.7
8.	Did polling station officials fill out count protocols?	98.5	1.5	99.2	0.8
9.	Did candidates' agents sign the count protocols?	97.0	3.0	98.3	1.7
10.	Were there invalid ballots which were counted as valid?	NA	NA	2.2	97.8
		n=1,887		n=1,909	

These reports are the result of monitoring by LP3ES volunteers in 1,909 villages and urban neighborhoods chosen randomly from all provinces. The margin of error is plus or minus one percentage point at a 95% confidence level. The number of voters at the monitored polling stations was 398,953.

This monitoring effort was made possible by support from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), Tifa Foundation and Metro TV.

For further information, please contact:

Tatak Prapti Ujijati

Researcher, LP3ES

Jl. S. Parman No. 81, Jakarta

Tel: 62-21-567-4211, Mobile: 62-812-924-9394

penelitian2@lp3es.or.id