



Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL Foundation)

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ANFREL's Pre-Election Observations and Appeal to Voters to Exercise their Right to Vote in the 2024 Indonesia General Elections

Press Release

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The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) enjoins the people of Indonesia to exercise their right to vote and remain vigilant amid concerns over the threats to democracy stemming from issues and challenges in the 2024 Indonesian General Election.

On 14 February 2024, 204.807.222 registered voters will be heading to 823.220 polling stations across the country to elect a president, vice president, members of the House of Representatives (DPR), members of the Regional Representative Council (DPD), and members of the local legislative bodies (province and city/regency or DPRD).

ANFREL also urges the relevant election authorities to ensure the integrity of the elections is intact, and safeguard the electoral process against irregularities and other attempts to undermine the voice of the people as they express their commitment and love for the country.

Duly accredited by Bawaslu, ANFREL deployed on 1 February 2024 three electoral analysts, eight short-term observers and three Election Day observers in 11 provinces and 15 cities to observe the campaign activities and election preparations as well as to engage with various electoral stakeholders including KPU and BAWASLU's local Officials, voters, civil society organisations, political parties and candidates.

ANFREL identifies political and legal concerns in the current situation. Of particular significance is the ruling by the Constitutional Court, which establishes an exception to the legal minimum age for presidential and vice-presidential candidates, permitting younger officials with prior experience in lower levels of government to run. Other issues include the distribution of direct cash assistance (BLT) and social assistance (bansos) through diverse programs, raising speculation about potential strategic support for the candidacy of Gibran Rakabuming Raka, as well as the safeguarding of overseas workers and the rights of vulnerable groups.

Navigating various tiers such as the President, Vice-President, the House of Representatives (DPR), the Regional Representative Council (DPD), and the members of the local legislative bodies (province and city/regency or DPRD) presents a challenge for the Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU). Therefore, there is a need for comprehensive and targeted voter education programs for diverse voter groups, and fostering inclusivity in the entire electoral process.

Afghanistan – FEFA, TEFA; Bangladesh – Odhikar; Cambodia – COMFREL; Indonesia – KIPP, JPPR, PERLUDEM; India – Lokniti; Maldives – Transparency Maldives; Malaysia – BERSIH; Mongolia – WSP; Myanmar – NMF, PACE; Nepal – NEOC, GEOC; Pakistan – FAFEN; Philippines – IPER, LENTE, NAMFREL, PPCRV; Singapore – Maruah; South Korea – PSPD; Sri Lanka – CMEV, PAFFREL; Taiwan – CCW; Thailand – P-NET; Timor-Leste – WCP



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The challenges seem multifold, as the attention of Indonesian voters, political parties, and the media is predominantly directed towards the presidential and vice-presidential candidates throughout the campaign period. In addition to various creative and vibrant campaigns employed by political parties and candidates to engage voters, the influence of money in politics further intensifies the competitiveness of the elections. Significantly, ensuring transparency in campaign funds is a crucial aspect of the election process which must be monitored dedicatedly.

As the mission moves to Election Day and Post-Election Observations, ANFREL looks forward to continuing fruitful engagement with the General Election Commission of Indonesia, local civil society organisations, various electoral stakeholders, and most especially, the citizens of Indonesia.

ANFREL will release and present its interim report in a press conference in Jakarta on 18 February 2024. The comprehensive final report will be published by the end of March.

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