

INDONESIA

Date of Elections: 23 April 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Indonesia, the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*), has 500 members*. Of these, 400 are popularly-elected and 100 are members of the armed forces appointed by the President of the Republic. All Representatives have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All Indonesian citizens who at the time of registration of electors are at least 17 years old or married are qualified to vote. Disqualified are the insane, ex-members of the prohibited Indonesian Communist Party or affiliated mass organizations, persons directly or indirectly involved in the attempted Communist coup of 1965, and persons serving a sentence of imprisonment or confinement of at least five years' duration. Members of the armed forces cannot exercise their right to vote as long as they remain in service.

Electoral registers are revised at least 105 days prior to election day. Voting is not compulsory.

A candidate for the House of Representatives must be a qualified voter of at least 21 years of age who speaks the Indonesian language and is able to read and write Latin characters, who has graduated from a secondary high school or has equivalent knowledge and experience in social and governmental activities, and who is loyal to *Pancasila* as the basic ideology of the State.

Nomination is made by political parties or functional organizations, the nomination form to be signed by at least two members of the leadership of the organization concerned.

Voting in the country's 27 electoral constituencies (corresponding to provinces) is based on the party-list system with proportional distribution of seats, each organization obtaining as many seats as its total number of votes contains the local "electoral quotient"; voters indicate their selections by piercing party symbols on a ballot paper identical throughout Indonesia. Thereafter, the party winning the seats itself selects the Representatives to fill them.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 13.

A successor is chosen by the former Representative's party to fill a seat which becomes vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1987 parliamentary elections were held simultaneously with those for the country's provincial and local assemblies.

In contention for the enlarged House of Representatives' 400 elective seats were 2,065 candidates and three groups - the ruling *Golkar*, the Islamic-based United Development Party (PPP) and the Christian-nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). All three organizations supported the policies of President of the Republic Suharto who, among other things, had introduced an austerity programme earlier in the year to confront the country's economic problems. During the three-week campaign, the small PDI drew impressive crowds at its rallies.

On a generally peaceful polling day, the *Golkar* or "Functional Groups" (an alliance of many groups representing farmers, fishermen and the professions) once again scored a landslide victory, capturing 73% of the popular vote and 299 of the elective seats. On the basis of these results, President Suharto, in power since 1967, was expected to be re-elected to another five-year term of office starting in 1988.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered electors.	94,000,000	(approx.)
Voters.	91.3%	(approx.)
Political or Functional Group	obtained	% r e . of Seats
<i>Golkar</i>	62,783,680	73.10 299
United Development Party (PPP).	13,701,425	15.95 61
Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI).	9,400,000	10.94 <u>40</u> 400*

* The other 100 members are appointed by the President of the Republic.

2. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men	443
Women	57
	500

3. *Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

21-30 years.	5
31-40 »	38
41-50 »	173
51-60 »	213
61-70 »	70
71-80 »	1
	500