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**STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI) AND THE
CARTER CENTER INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION**

INDONESIA'S JUNE 7, 1999, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

COUNTING AND TABULATION OF VOTES

Jakarta, June 20, 1999

In a preliminary post-election statement on June 9, 1999, the international observation delegation of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and The Carter Center stated that a judgment about the entire election process must await the completion of all its steps and committed that NDI and The Carter Center would continue to monitor the process and issue subsequent reports. In his comments on behalf of the delegation, President Carter repeated and reinforced that commitment. This report covers progress so far on the counting and tabulation of election results. It does not seek to analyze the political consequences of these results.

The findings of this report are based on meetings in Jakarta with political party leaders, members of the national electoral bodies including the KPU and PPI, representatives of the Indonesian media, and Indonesian domestic monitoring organizations. In addition, seven teams of observers were deployed across Indonesia from June 13 to 15, 1999. These teams met with local election monitors; members of the election administration including PPD I, PPD II, PPK and PPS; members of the election oversight committees (Panwas); and representatives of political parties. The findings appear generally consistent with those published by domestic election monitors.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

The commitment to democracy, openness and transparency demonstrated with such enthusiasm by the Indonesian people on June 7 has continued to be reflected in the painstaking work undertaken by members of the election administration and watched by party agents and domestic observers in the days since. The dedication to the task shown by such a large number of Indonesians is truly impressive.

The existence of three official counting systems - the official manual tabulation of results, the KPU "Bank" quick results system, and the Joint Operations Media Center (JOMC) system - has given rise to much confusion. This has been exacerbated by shortages of materials for the two fast counting systems and lack of explanations of their use and importance. In addition, the Rectors' Forum has conducted a Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT), in which results from valid samples of polling stations

in each of Indonesia's provinces were communicated directly to a central point and statistically significant projections made. The mission notes that the results being published by the JOMC have largely converged with those from the PVT and also with the sum of unofficial provincial tallies assembled by the Antara news agency. The results from the KPU "Bank" system have been and remain substantially different, almost certainly because the huge preponderance of figures from Java and Bali in its returns inevitably make its national totals unrepresentative of Indonesia as a whole. NDI and The Carter Center will continue to monitor tabulation until the KPU signs off on the full manual count.

The very complex process of counting and tabulation has inevitably taken considerable time. It has been further delayed as a result of the very limited training received by election officials in advance; the need to correct mistakes made earlier in the process, for example errors in handling the voter register or late distribution of election materials; the careful checking of results forms at successive levels to identify and correct large numbers of arithmetic errors; the adherence in some cases to published KPU deadlines even when tabulation had been completed earlier; and the perception by officials in some areas that the funding provided is insufficient for such a substantial task. Overall, this has given rise to confusion and some suspicion.

NDI and The Carter Center have been shown examples of apparent localized electoral malfeasance already detected by the election administration, party agents and election monitors, and has also heard of other examples. However, the mission has up to now received no hard evidence pointing to any major irregularities in the counting and tabulation.

The mission has also encountered a number of instances where communication and cooperation between electoral bodies is limited or lacking. In some cases, this appears to result only from lack of time or of recognition of the value of sharing information. However, there are examples where members of the secretariats appear to have excluded the members of the election administration bodies, leading to a loss of transparency. Demands for repolling have been made in a number of areas, including in particular the entire province of North Sulawesi. While retabulation and if necessary recounting are often proving to be desirable to provide full confidence in the integrity and accuracy of the results, general repolling will reduce such confidence. The mission believes that repolling is appropriate only in response to specific and credible evidence of substantial fraud or manipulation.

All complaints and demands for repolling should be investigated thoroughly by the election administration and Panwas as laid down in the election law. Judgment on all specific cases should be reached and made public as soon as possible following such full investigation and proper consideration. This includes the substantial number of allegations that relate to "money politics," especially throughout Sulawesi. The mission urges all parties to accept properly considered judgments and not to seek to block the process.

The mission concurs with the expressed view of several domestic monitoring organizations that it will not be possible to hold acceptable elections in three districts of Aceh (Pidie, North Aceh

and East Aceh) within 30 days, as provided in the law. It reiterates its call in the June 9 preliminary statement for the new government to act as soon as possible to rebuild trust and confidence in these districts.

The relationship between the election administration and Panwas is not proving easy in a number of places. Many election administrators are keen to solve all problems themselves without involving Panwas, which they perceive to lack powers and effectiveness. The level of activity and engagement of Panwas is also very variable across the country. The mission intends to undertake a more detailed study of the work and possible development of the Panwas system.

NDI and The Carter Center will continue to monitor developments of all aspects of the election process and will issue subsequent reports.