

INDONESIA

Date of Elections: May 2, 1977

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the popularly elected members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Indonesia, the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*), has 460 members. Of these, 360 are popularly elected and 100 — members of the armed forces and non-military functional groups — are 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 26 electoral constituencies 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.

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

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1977 general elections were the third since Indonesia became independent in 1945.

Contesting the parliamentary seats were some 1,630 candidates of the governmental movement *Sekber Golkar*, or "Joint Secretariat of Functional Groups"; the *Partai Persatuan Pembangunan* (PPP), or United Development Party, formed in 1973 by the merger of four Islamic parties; and the *Partai Demokrasi Indonesia* (PDI), or Indonesian Democratic Party, established in the same year through the merger of five nationalist and Christian parties. All three political groupings supported the policies of President of the Republic Suharto (Head of State since 1965), especially the *Golkar* Government's five-year national development plan.

The *Sekber Golkar* is not officially regarded as a political party; it is rather a "functional group", or alliance of more than 200 trade, professional and regional organizations, ranging from civil servants, teachers, journalists and students to village chiefs, farmers and fishermen.

All of the candidates to the House of Representatives had been approved beforehand by the Government. On polling day, the voting turnout was heavy. Although *Sekber Golkar's* overall share of elective seats and votes obtained declined slightly as compared to the previous (1971) general elections, it retained a large majority position in Parliament.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters.	70,662,155
Voters.	63,998,344 (90.56%)

Political or Functional Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	o/ %	Number of Seats
<i>Sekber Oolkar</i>	580	39,750,096	62.11	232
United Development Party	588	18,743,491	29.29	99
Indonesian Democratic Party . . .	460	5,504,757	8.60	29
				360*

* The other 100 seats (members) are appointed by the President of the Republic, with the composition as follows:

Armed Forces	75 seats
Professional Group	25 seats

The 25 members of the Professional Group joined the *Sekber Oolkar* so that the distribution of seats in the forthcoming House of Representatives became:

<i>Sekber Oolkar</i>	257 seats
United Development Party.	99 seats
Indonesian Democratic Party.	29 seats
Armed Forces.	75 seats

2. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men.	426
Women.	34
	160