Management of Electoral Results
Domenico Tuccinardi, International IDEA

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance
Brussels, 1-5 December 2008
It spans from the counting and announcement of results at the polling station level to the final allocation of the seats announced by the designated authority.

In the middle, a number of other delicate and often controversial steps that require transparency, expediency and effectiveness.

- Aggregation of the results at various intermediate levels
- National aggregation and the announcement of preliminary results by the EMB
- Final announcement of results by EMB or other delegated authority
Result Management Challenges

- The credibility of the entire electoral event might depend on how these activities are dealt with.

- Even without any political interference or bias, a poorly managed result verification exercise will create undue suspicions and can impact negatively the elections.

- In post-conflict cases, the managing of results represents often the most sensitive stage, especially if there is no time to ensure proper transparency of all the steps.

- The key challenge – balance accuracy with speed, and transparency.
Results Management Challenges

- Fraud and manipulation of result tabulation
- Poor technical management (e.g. technology failure; data capturing; admin errors)
- Lack of understanding of electoral system and results aggregation system
- Unrealistic expectations from all stakeholders (incl EMB) esp. with introduction of new technology PROOF of development
- Biased, unclear or inadequate complaints and appeals procedures
Mexico – A strong and highly reputable EMU, well budgeted and with highly trained staff.

- Proven experience in implementing quick count techniques to publish results projections and automated preliminary results.

- When the presidential race results got close to call, below the margin of errors of the quick count methods in use, the EMU stopped broadcasting information on the results.

- Huge media vacuum left by the EMU, filled by the parties and presidential candidates with mutual allegation of frauds and partisanship.

Results Management Crises - Mexico 2006
Kenya – A not so strong and functional EMB, with very limited control on local branches and on the hiring of polling staff

“Grossly defective data collation, transmission and tallying” and “....lack of adequate staff selection and training, public relations and dispute resolution” (IREC Final Report)

UNDP Project offered assistance for the results management centre, declined by the ECK
Areas of Assistance

- Legal, regulatory and procedural framework
- Procurement and security issues
- Software design and management
- Internal and external testing and verification
- Responsiveness to complaints and concerns
- Embedding transparency whilst maintaining confidentiality
Areas of Assistance - Media Centre

- Serves the purpose of highlighting the overall efforts made by the EMB to organize the elections
- It obliges the EMB to adopt adequate transparency measures to show the national aggregation
- Data-entry of polling station results at the district level and immediate transmission to a national processing centre
- National aggregation in full sight of observers, political parties and media
Media & Results Center Layout

Maluku

Diproses dari data 1,461 TPS

Update Terakhir: Sabtu, 25-Sep-2004 12:01:45 WIB

- H. Megawati Soekarnoputri
- H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
- Drs. H. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla
- H. A. Hasyim Muzadi

169,275 suara
148,136 suara
Areas of Assistance and Verification

- Education of all stakeholders to de-mystify the results compilation process
- Parallel Vote Tabulation
- Sample-Based Quick count
- Exit Polls