

Timor-Leste Presidential Elections 2007
Suggested Areas of Focus for the May 9 Runoff

Recommendations for the Ministry of State Administration and Technical Secretariat for Election Administration (STAE)

1. **Counting and review process.** Additional training of STAE staff would reduce inconsistencies in counting, reporting, tabulation, and processing of votes. Recommendation: prepare training materials, voter education guides, and guidance for agents of candidates, with Tetum and Bahasa Indonesia translations, for use in training before the second round of presidential elections.
2. **Ballot papers.** Additional security measures for ballot papers would increase confidence and reduce the climate of suspicion leading unsuccessful candidates to claim fraud. Recommendations: incorporate security measures such as serial numbers on ballot papers, special paper, or other precautions when handling ballots; and ensure that each polling station has sufficient ballot papers on election day by printing extra ballots for stations to have on hand.
3. **Conduct of Government officials and use of state resources.** Enforcement of rules prohibiting Government officials from participating in or using state resources during elections would bolster the credibility of the electoral process. During the first round there were allegations of conflict of interest, voter intimidation, and use of Government resources such as mobile phones the ferry on behalf of candidates. Recommendations: take appropriate action against individuals found to have engaged in such activity and prohibit such conduct in the second round; and, longer-term, establish and enforce legal penalties for engaging in such activities.

Recommendations for the National Electoral Commission (CNE)

1. **Counting and review process.** CNE (National Electoral Commission) staff need additional training to reduce inconsistencies in the counting, reporting, tabulation and processing of votes. Training materials should be produced as soon as possible in accessible languages, including Tetum and Bahasa, so they can be used in training for the second round to maximize effectiveness.

2. **Conduct of CNE members.** The spokesperson of CNE inappropriately endorsed a candidate. The CNE should develop guidelines and a code of conduct for the Commissioners and staff.
3. **Campaign Coordination.** Careful coordination of scheduled campaign events would reduce the likelihood of street violence and insecurity. Recommendation: avoid scheduling simultaneous events in close proximity such as campaign rallies.

Recommendations for UNMIT

1. **Support for additional CNE and STAE training.** As the majority of tabulation problems appear to stem from insufficient training of CNE and STAE staff, UNMIT support for additional CNE and STAE training to reduce inconsistencies in the counting, reporting, tabulation, and processing of votes is essential, including production of training materials, voter education guides, and materials for candidate agents in accessible languages.
2. **Respect for polling center authorities.** Some UN Police either were unaware of the regulations to stay a certain distance from polling centers or did not respect this rule. The regulations should be reviewed with UNPOL members and it made clear that the Presiding Officers of the polling stations are in charge.
3. **Capacity building.** As UNMIT continues to provide assistance and support to the GOET for the second round, it should work with the Government to seek systems and methods easy to reproduce in the future without outside assistance.