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**ACEHNESE SATISFIED WITH ELECTION PROCESS,
URGE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS ECONOMY**

Washington, DC – FEBRUARY 23, 2007 – A new survey from IFES indicates that a vast majority of Aceh residents are satisfied with the election process that put the government of Governor Irwandi Yusuf in power. This is the most recent survey out of a series of three that IFES and Lembaga Survei Indonesia conducted in connection to the December 11 local elections, Aceh's first direct polls for governor.

Yusuf, former spokesman for the separatist Free Aceh Movement, was inaugurated earlier this month, with 38 percent of the votes. Surveys conducted less than a month prior to Election Day showed a close race between the leading gubernatorial candidates, but the latest survey indicates that last minute voter decisions may have tipped the vote decisively in his favor.

Aceh residents also developed a greater understanding of their electoral institutions between IFES' first survey (conducted from late September through mid-October) and the final survey (conducted from January 26-February 4). According to the new survey, the number of voters who know that KIP is responsible for organizing elections has increased dramatically since September, with almost half of voters in the latest survey identifying KIP correctly.

Findings from the new survey include:

- **Satisfaction with Election Process:** 22 percent of Aceh residents surveyed said the elections were completely fair and 70 percent said they were mostly fair. Only 3 percent believe that the elections were not fair. 15 percent also strongly agree and 74 percent somewhat agree that the December 11 elections were more fair than previous elections in Aceh.
- **Results Accurate:** 20 percent strongly agree and 76 percent agree somewhat that the results of the election accurately reflect the vote.
- **Voters Wait to Choose:** 20 percent of respondents said they made their decision on Election Day, 24 percent made their decisions a few days before the election and 19 percent chose one or two weeks before the election.
- **Economy First:** 74 percent said the government should focus on economic recovery in its first 100 days. Twelve percent said tsunami reconstruction and 12 percent said security and peace.
- **Candidate Representation Concerns:** 38 percent said they saw candidate representatives directly outside the polling site urging people to vote for their candidates, a violation of election protocol.

IFES and Lembaga Survei Indonesia conducted 1,203 interviews with people throughout Aceh for the latest survey. The survey aims to support and inform the efforts of governmental institutions and private organizations working to reform the electoral process in Aceh. The survey, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

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IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies.