

Electoral Commission- Fiji Prime Minister Share Election and Democracy

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Jakarta, kpu.go.id- Prime Minister of Republic of the Fiji Islands, H.E Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama met the Electoral Commission on Thursday, 7 April 2011 in Jakarta to discuss about the election and democracy in Indonesia. "In this opportunity we are going to learn about the election and democracy. Our President wants to learn about democracy in Indonesia." Earlier, Bainimarama was welcomed by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the State Palace after inaugurating the building of Fiji Embassy in Jakarta.

In 2014 Fiji will hold its General Election for the first time and the preparation including the regulation package and the logistics will commence in 2012. Republic of Fiji Island is an archipelagic state that is located in South Pacific Ocean. The capital of this country is Suva with the number of population reached 827,900 (July 2007). It has a multi-party system and the country is led by a President, Queen Epeli Nailatikau. The head of government is Prime Minister Voreqe Josaia Bainimarama.

The members of Electoral Committee that attended in the occasion were Prof. Syamsulbahri, Endang Sulastrri, and Abdul Azis. They were accompanied by the Secretary General of Electoral Committee Suropto Bambang Setyadi and the head of Bureau of Planning and Data, Moyong Haryanto.

Abdul Azis explained about the governmental system in Indonesia, the process of democracy, and the history of the election in Indonesia that was held in 1955 until the last election in 2009. "There were so many ideas and concepts of the system and process of the mechanism of democracy and election in Indonesia, includes the House of Regional Representatives and the participation of political party. "All of them are so difficult, but it's okay, we can do it." said Azis.

Azis explained in detail about the Parliamentary Threshold, the eligibility of a President and vice president, the seat calculation, the member of House of Representatives and People's Consultative Assembly and the organization of Electoral Committee which are hierarchy, national, fixed and independent. "The Electoral Commission is located in every level with different composition between regional and central electoral commission supported by secretariat. Besides the legislative election and presidential election, there are also regional elections to elect governors, regents and mayors financed by the State Budget (APBD)," said Azis, a member of Electoral Commission who speaks English fluently.

Meanwhile, Endang Sulastrri explained about the preparation of election, the solution of problems in election, education in election, the establishment of the Electoral Commission, the election system in Indonesia, the establishment of a cabinet and political party and requirement to establish a political party. "Nowadays there is a discourse about independent President and the supporting requirement. In regional election, the independent candidate has been accommodated as long as there are supports from the percentage of the number of population," she said.

Bainimarama expressed his gratitude to the Electoral Commission for sharing knowledge about election and democracy. "Thank you for the commitment to help the election in Fiji."