

Is “Sirekap” ready for the 2024 regional elections?

The Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU) will once again employ the Electronic Recapitulation Information System (*Sirekap*) for the 2024 regional elections, as confirmed by KPU Commissioner Idham Holik, who stated that *Sirekap* will still play a role. Despite facing issues during the 2024 Presidential and Legislative elections, Holik and KPU Chairperson Mochammad Afifuddin clarified that *Sirekap* will act as a supporting tool for the vote recapitulation.

KPU Member Betty Epsilon Idroos outlined the system’s three main functions for the regional elections: *Sirekap* Mobile (sending count results photos), *Sirekap* Web (online recapitulation), and *Sirekap Info Publik* (publishing results). *Sirekap* Mobile will enable polling station officers (KPPS) to send vote tally photos, even offline. *Sirekap* Web will facilitate online recapitulation at district and city levels using downloadable PDF formats. Meanwhile, *Sirekap Info Publik* will let the public monitor election results. All operators involved must undergo training to ensure smooth

implementation. Then, how about *Sirekap Info Publik*?

During a meeting on September 25 with the House of Representatives’ Commission II, the KPU revealed that the public would be able to view vote recapitulation documents via the *Sirekap Info Publik* portal. This *Sirekap* feature will complement the previous two functions, *Sirekap* Mobile and *Sirekap* Web. Anyone can access a system displaying both C and D results.

However, unlike previous elections, the new system will no longer display interim vote tabulations, a change that has drawn criticism from election observers.

Yassar Aulia from Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) voiced concerns that the absence of detailed vote tabulations might hinder public oversight and potentially open the door to fraudulent practices, such as vote manipulation or inflation.

Former KPU Commissioner Hadar Nafis Gumay reaffirmed these concerns, emphasizing that transparency in tabulation data is critical for accountability and public trust.

He questioned how KPU guarantees result accuracy when data is left unannounced.

The loss of tabulation data in *Sirekap* hinders public oversight of election results, requiring individuals to verify independently with adequate technology. Hadar criticized the KPU policy, stating that data transparency could reduce speculation and mistrust. This issue reinforces claims that the 2024 election is among Indonesia’s poorest-organized ones.

The issues with *Sirekap* during the 2024 elections should serve as a valuable lesson for KPU to ensure a transparent and more accountable experience in the upcoming regional polls. The system’s core purpose, which includes enhancing transparency, accountability, and electoral integrity, should be upheld.

Moreover, aligning *Sirekap* with international standards for open election data, as outlined by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA, 2017) is crucial for fostering public trust through “Nine Principles

of Open Elections”, including timeliness (useful data availability), granularity (accessible finest data from primary sources), free access to data, completeness (comprehensive data without missing other data), open access to data analysis (machine-readable and easily-analyzed), non-proprietary (data availability without any parties exerting control), non-discriminatory (accessible data for all elements, without restrictions on usage, including application or registration requirements, license-free (no barriers in redistributing data), and permanent availability (permanent access to data). Specifically, short-time data is not considered “open data” (International IDEA, 2017).

As the 2024 elections are drawing closer, KPU must address these concerns, especially by reinstating the meaning of substantive democracy, good governance and inclusion principles, including implementing them in employing *Sirekap*. Such a move would not only provide transparency on vote tabulation data but also help dismiss skepticism and rebuild public confidence in the electoral process.



Arfianto Purbolaksono

Manager of Research and Programs at The Indonesian Institute