

# APRIL 10-14, 2018

## KEY FINDINGS

IRI's long-term observers (LTOs) reported an orderly, complacent and competitive campaign environment. The country's election management bodies (CNE and STAE) appeared to be vigilant and benefited from experience gained by their staff during the 2017 elections. The National Police (PNTL) were confident that the peaceful, secure campaign environment would continue.

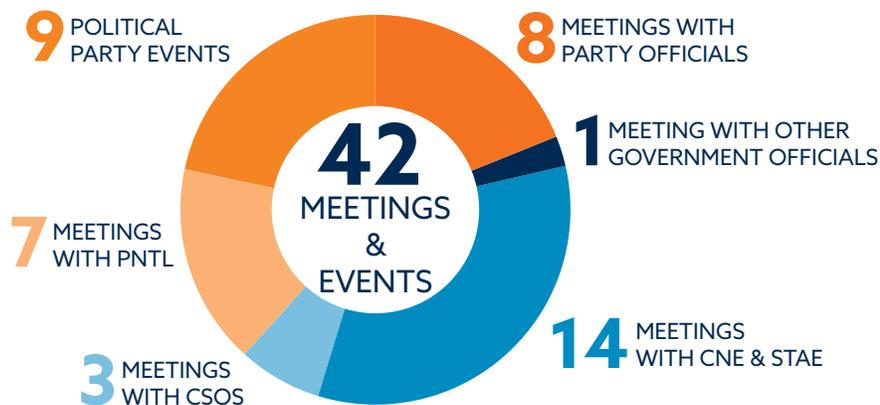
Rallies were the primary method of campaigning used by political parties. IRI's LTOs also observed a number of grassroots activities (mainly small village gatherings and door-to-door campaigning). While the parties' messages emphasized their revolutionary credentials from the occupation period, but the parties were more focused on public policy and their respective policy platforms than in previous elections.



A traditional Timorese clothing maker attends a FRETILIN dialogue in Dili on April 11, 2018.



Voters attend a Front for Democratic Development (FDD) rally in Baucau on April 11, 2018.



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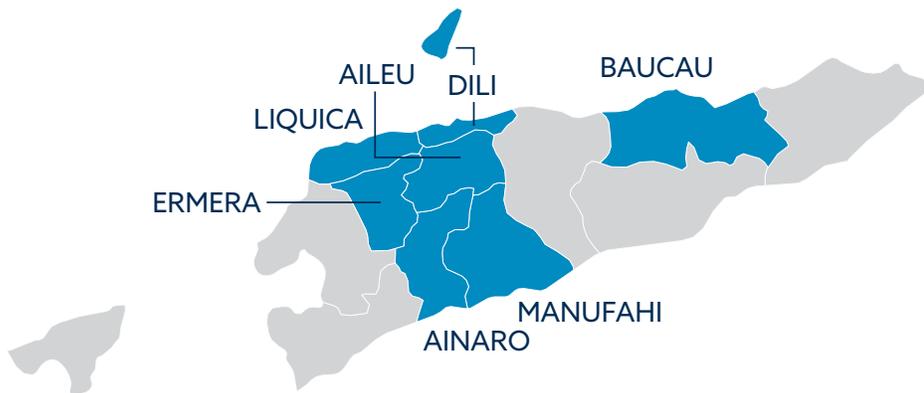
What I want from the election is to **improve the quality of education**. We don't have computers at school. We have to pay for school and there are very few books at school.”

-First-time Timorese voter, age 17

## KEY FINDINGS

IRI's long-term observers (LTOs) reported that the second week of the campaign period was peaceful. Neither of the election management bodies (CNE and STAE) nor the National Police (PNTL) reported any serious problems. The electoral process generally proceeded in accordance with the electoral calendar and relevant laws.

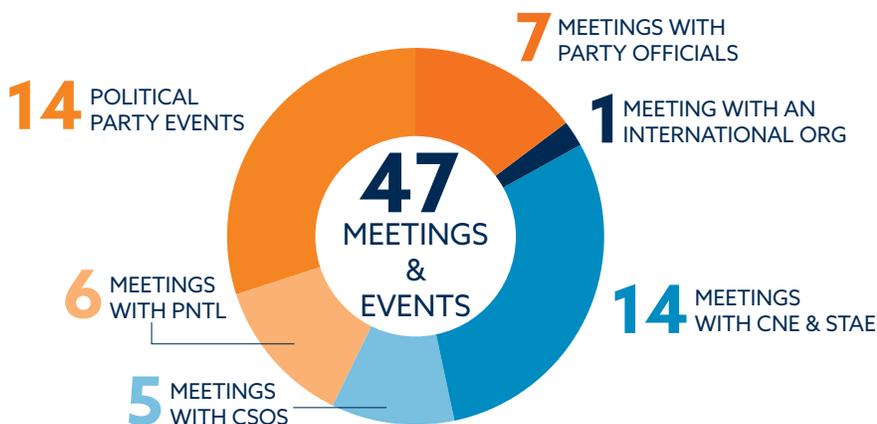
Rallies organized by the main political parties and coalitions drew large crowds of boisterous supporters. Speeches by party leaders partially focused on responding to what they deemed to be false claims made by other parties. Messaging emphasized revolutionary credentials, education, infrastructure, unemployment and the resolution of the maritime boundary dispute with Australia.



A FRETILIN supporter dances at a campaign rally in Baucau on April 19, 2018.



AMP supporters attend a campaign rally in Gleno, Ermera on April 16, 2017.



“ All of those elected should help widows, orphans and the disabled. In the long term, I want to see **more development** so our country is like others, in particular better roads to the villages.”

-Timorese voter, age 20

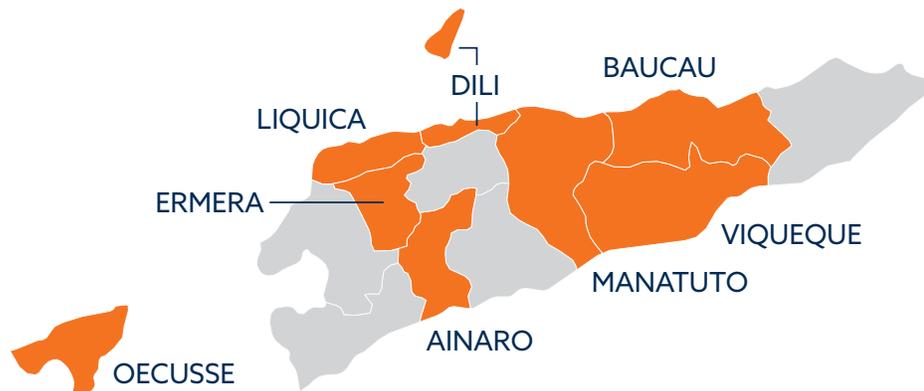
## KEY FINDINGS

The campaign environment remained peaceful, with only a handful of incidents taking place. The main political parties continued to hold boisterous events focused on smaller sub district levels, as opposed to the large rallies seen earlier in the campaign period. Party leaders became more pointed in their criticism of other parties, with some challenging the credibility of the country's election management bodies (CNE and STAE). However, IRI's observers reported a high level of dedication and professionalism from CNE and STAE staff as they conducted voter education activities, observed political party events and trained polling station staff in advance of Election Day.

Observer interviews with voters indicated that the most important issues were education, employment and infrastructure (e.g. electricity, roads and water).



PD representatives speak at a mini-campaign event in Bazartete, Liquica on April 25, 2018.



Timorese women dance at an AMP Event in Uatucarbau, Viqueque on April 26, 2018.



“

Many people have not finished their education, so the government should encourage them to go back to school. In addition, the government must defend the **constitution**, accelerate **development** and boost **youth work**.”

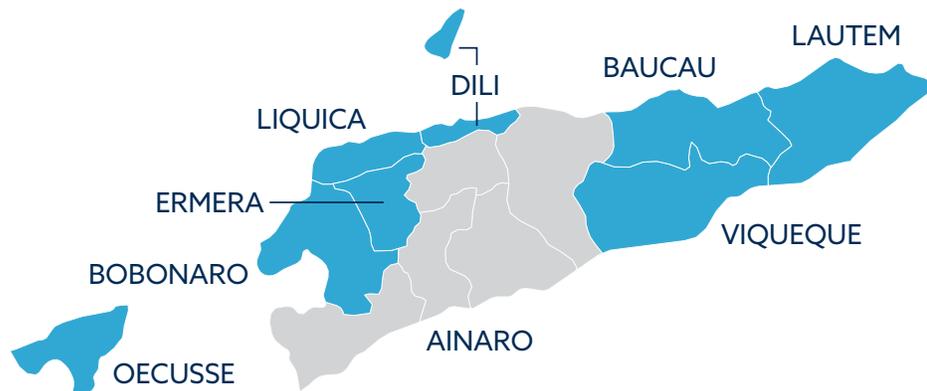
-Young Timorese voter from Manatuto

# APRIL 29-MAY 5, 2018

## KEY FINDINGS

The electoral environment continued to be peaceful during the final full week of the campaign period. Political parties drew sizable crowds to their events and—despite heated rhetoric directed at their opponents—demonstrated commitment to a peaceful and orderly campaign.

Parties continued to emphasize their revolutionary credentials and focused on policies around education, energy exploration, the economy and infrastructure. The country's election management bodies (CNE and STAE) remained vigilant, dedicated and impartial while observing party activities and finalizing their preparations for Election Day. No serious complaints were lodged with either body.



Voters attend an AMP Rally in Luro, Lautem on May 4, 2018.



Voters attend a FRETILIN rally on Atáuro Island on May 1, 2018.

**18** POLITICAL PARTY EVENTS

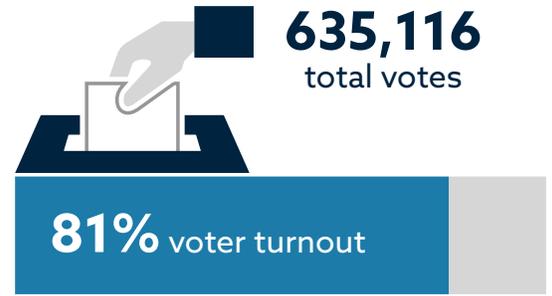


“**Timorese education is not good at the moment.** I have six children, aged between seven and university age. I support my son who is studying tourism at UNTL. I hope that he can get a job afterwards.”

-Female voter from Viqueque

# ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS

**128** of **1,160** polling stations observed in **13** municipalities



**53%** of leadership positions at polling stations were filled by **women**

**83%** of electoral officers checked voters' fingers for signs of **indelible ink**

An increase of **48%** since 2017



**84%** of polling stations were not easily accessible to **persons with disabilities**

**100%** of polling stations adhered to the **spirit of the law**



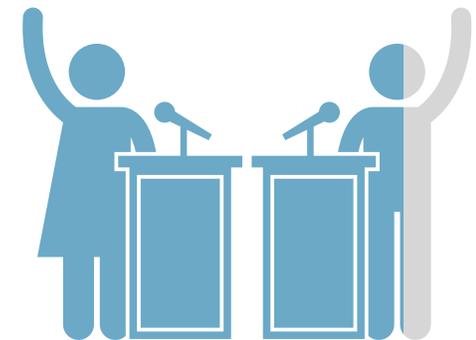
## PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

**158** meetings and events attended



**8** political party trainings

- Women's roles in political parties
- Grassroots campaigning
- Communication and leadership



**200** of the **238** individuals trained were **women**

## HISTORY OF IRI INVOLVEMENT IN TIMOR-LESTE

**2002**

Technical & Party Support  
First presidential election

**2001**

Technical & Party Support  
Constituent assembly elections

**2007**

Technical & Party Support  
Presidential and parliamentary elections

**2012**

Parliamentary Election  
Observation Mission (EOM)

**2018**

Snap Parliamentary EOM

**2017**

Technical & Party Support  
Presidential elections  
Parliamentary EOM