

Bulletin No. 4 / Honduras Elections 2009

Friday, December 4, 2009

The Making Democracy (*Hagamos Democracia*, HD) consortium is an independent organization composed of the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Development of Honduras (*Federación de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras*, FOPRIDEH); Caritas (*Cáritas - Pastoral Social de la Iglesia Católica*), the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (*Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras*) and the Metropolitan University of Honduras (*Universidad Metropolitana de Honduras*), created for the purpose of supporting the 2009 electoral process through a participatory citizen observation. HD forms part of a broader group of civic organizations that have conducted election observations in more than 30 Latin American elections and 80 worldwide.

HD's network of citizen observers was present in the country's 18 departments and in 283 of the 298 municipalities, covering a total of 1,173 polling stations selected in a random sample drawn from the list of polling stations released by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. This network conducted a quick count of the presidential election results and delivered the results to the TSE on election night; the results were presented to the public by the magistrates of the TSE.

The results of the quick count coincided with the TSE's preliminary results regarding the number of votes for each candidate; however, there was a discrepancy in the rates of participation and abstention presented by the TSE and based on the Transmission of Preliminary Election Results (*Transmisión de Resultados Electorales Preliminares*, TREP). This has stimulated a growing debate in Honduran society. The projections offered by HD's data, as received by 8:30 p.m. on election night, indicate that the level of participation was 47.6 percent; the data received at the final cutoff of 11:39 p.m. showed a participation rate of 48.7

Making Democracy is a network of Honduran civil society organizations, consisting of the Social Ministry of the Catholic Church of Honduras (Caritas), the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras, CEH), the Federation of Non Governmental Organizations of Honduras (Federación de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras, FOPRIDEH) and the Metropolitan University of Honduras (Universidad Metropolitana de Honduras, UMH).



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percent. These percentages were calculated based on the total number of votes cast at the polling stations observed divided by the total number of registered voters, according to the electoral registry.

HD is in the process of drafting a final technical report on the quick count. This report will be presented to the TSE and to the public so that any citizen may review the data and the technical design used by HD for data collection.

Making Democracy would like to clarify that it worked with a sample drawn from the final list of polling stations and with a highly reliable methodology with an estimated margin of error for this quick count of +/- 1.16%. Notwithstanding this fact, the TSE's data is based on the complete set of reports from each polling station, which will permit official results to be known once the tabulation process is finalized. HD invites interested parties to await those official results and then begin the process of analyzing the statistics on electoral participation and abstention.

Making Democracy believes that it is important to evaluate these elections based on all of the variables involved. The domestic observation permitted the identification of other key information that merit equal attention to the participation rate. HD believes that the election, as seen during election day, was conducted within the framework of normality and regularity from the perspective of the organization of the process, the competition of political parties and citizen participation.

Making Democracy invites the electoral authorities, political organizations and organized civil society to commit to an exhaustive evaluation of the elections of November 29 to serve as a basis to establish which topics should be the subject of legal, institutional, organizational, technical and procedural reform and modernization.



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