

# IPKI<sup>1</sup>

## **Ikatan Pendukung Kemerdekaan Indonesia**

### **Indonesian Independence Support League**

This was a party established with close linkages to leading Armed Forces personnel of the day including Field Marshal A. H. Nasution. The party was formally established on the historically auspicious date of 20 May (National Awakening Day) in the year of 1954 a year before the national elections. The party was established with a strong vision to support the Pancasila as the basis of the nation as well as being supportive of the original 1945 Constitution. The party remained active in the Pancasila faction of the Constituent Assembly during the late 1950s

In the Parliamentary Elections of 1955 IPKI gained 1.5% of the vote. Its strongest base of support was in West Java where it gained 7% of the vote. This included 36% in Kabupaten Sumedang where the party was the leading party and 24% in the region of Bekasi and over 10% in the kabupaten of Bogor and Purwakarta. Overall some 86% of the party's vote was secured in West Java, indicating that it was a local party but with national ambitions. Outside West Java the party's best results were in Pontianak City (7%) and in the kabupaten of Kulon Progo (Yogyakarta) with 5% .

In the regional elections of 1957 and 1958 the party again secured its best results in West Java, but secured only 4% of the popular vote at the provincial level. Elsewhere the party gained about 1% of the vote. It lost its old base in Sumedang gaining only 9%. Its vote in Bekasi held up well at 23% and improved slightly in Kabupaten Bogor to 13%.

The party was able to make the transition from the democratic era of the 1950s through the period of Guided Democracy and the start of the New Order. In the 1971 elections party was a participant. Overall it gained 0.6% of the vote nationally. It lost its vote in West Java. Its best results were in West Kalimantan where it captured over 4% of the vote mostly in the kabupaten of Kapuas Hulu (7%) and Pontianak (6%). Elsewhere it gained a surprising 8% in the Sabang City, Aceh.

In the process of party "simplification" IPKI had initially sought to join with Golkar, but this was not successful. It did eventually join the new PDI in 1973, where it remained until Reformasi, when its people left the crumbling PDI to contest as Partai IPKI. The party was successful in gaining 1 seat in South Sulawesi. In the elections of 2004 and 2009 there has been IPKI party.

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<sup>1</sup> Some interesting info found in [http://www.pdi-perjuangan-sumsel.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=54](http://www.pdi-perjuangan-sumsel.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=54)