

Parkindo¹
Partai Kristen Indonesia
Indonesian Christian Party

This party was formed in the wake of the fledgling Indonesian Government's decision to reject a One Party Policy in November 1945. The Party's key mission was to ensure that Indonesia would remain an open non-Islamic polity in order to ensure that the non-Muslim majority regions of the country could remain comfortably part of the Republic. The Party was specifically focused on catering to the Protestant communities of Indonesia – given the existence of a separate Catholic based party. Attempts at producing an “ecumenical” Christian party in Indonesia have never been successful – rather akin to the failure of the Modernist and Traditionalist Muslim communities to be happy participants in a single party.

Not surprisingly given the religious demographics of Indonesia, Parkindo produced significant electoral results in those areas of the country with a large concentration of Protestants, that is areas of the Island of Java. Overall the party secured on average 20 times more votes per region off-Java than on Java. Off Java the party actually comfortably outpolled the PKI and was with 1 percentage point of the NU. In particular the party won the areas of North Tapanuli (56%), Nias (47%) and Central Tapanuli (29%) in North Sumatra, secured over 60% in Sumba, over 50% in Kupang, Alor and Roti in East Nusa Tenggara Barat, a surprising 52% in the wider Luwu region of South Sulawesi (caused largely because of low voter turnout in some of the Muslim areas of Luwu). The party gained half the vote in Ambon and over 25% of the vote in Manado and Minahasa in North Sulawesi and in Poso, Central Sulawesi as well as Central and Southeast Maluku.

The party was able to travel through the stormy waters of the late 1950s and mid 1960s actually producing one of three Deputy Prime Ministers that existed in the early to mid-1960s. This leader was Dr Johannes Leimena. In 1971 the party was able to participate in the first New Order elections. It secured about half the vote it gained in the previous parliamentary elections of 1955. Its vote in North Sumatra collapsed although some residual double digit vote results were secured in parts of the old region of North Tapanuli and the City of Pematang Siantar. Better results were gained in the Protestant area of East Nusa Tenggara notably in the Island of Sumba where the party gained well over 40% of the vote and comfortably defeating Golkar. It won an absolute majority (56%) in Alor and with 40% a very close second to Golkar in Kupang. The party also defeated Golkar in the City of Ambon (35%) and secured about 20% of the vote in Central and Southeast Maluku. The party merged into PDI when it was formed in 1973.

¹ Some interesting info found in http://www.pdi-perjuangan-sumsel.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=54

The Reformasi era has seen the emergence of a several parties claiming to be the spirit of Parkindo including Krisna and to an extent PDKB in 1999, and through its active seeking of Protestant support the PDS in 2004.