

VAN ZORGE REPORT ON INDONESIA

COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS ON INDONESIAN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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Foretelling the Future—Surveys Point the Way to 2004

A series of opinion polls conducted over the past few months indicate that discontent over socio-economic issues has created a significant bloc of undecided and confused voters, who could come to exercise a decisive swing vote against the incumbent. Nevertheless, the absence of a clear, viable alternative to Megawati Soekarnoputri still makes her the leading contender in next year's presidential election—but only just.

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“Respondents blame most of the mistakes on PDI-P”

A recent spate of opinion polls, conducted by both local and foreign organizations, suggests that Golkar is likely to overtake PDI-P (the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle) in the coming general election. The Van Zorge Report recently spoke to two senior researchers from the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI) to learn about these surveys, their level of accuracy, and the conclusions we can draw from them.

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The Next Indonesian Crisis?

HIV/AIDS remains a very sensitive subject, and a problem that is often neglected in the workplace. Unfortunately, unlike companies in many other developing countries, businesses here are often oblivious to the potential danger the disease poses to productivity and profitability. If companies here continue to treat the threat of the virus with indifference, HIV/AIDS could turn into an even bigger crisis than the 1997 financial meltdown.

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