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## Disabled voters see slight improvement in runoff

The Jakarta Post, Jakarta | Jakarta | Thu, September 20 2012, 4:05 PM

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Although various parties criticized the Jakarta poll body for being unprofessional in assuring the constitutional rights of disabled voters in the first round of the gubernatorial election, voters said Thursday's runoff was slightly better.

Roziin Fakhri, 44, said that voting on Thursday was faster and easier than the first round in July.

"I could read the Braille template faster simply because there were only two candidates. In the first round, there were six candidates, so I had to read them carefully," said Roziin, a visually impaired person voting in Cawang, East Jakarta.

But members of the Regional Election Organizing Committee (KPPS) still failed to fulfill his rights at the polling station, as they did in the first round, he said.

"The officers still did not tell me my rights when I arrived at the polling station," he said.

Law No. 8/2012 on elections and the General Elections Commission regulation No. 3/2009 stipulates that polling stations must ease access for the disabled

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when they vote. Officers at the regional committee are also supposed to tell the disabled that they can choose to be accompanied by a companion of their choice or by a member from the committee.

"An officer at my polling station immediately accompanied me without asking if I had brought someone that I had trusted to accompany me," Roziin said.

Another visually impaired man, Samsudin, 40, said he found out that he was not registered at the polling station where he was directed to go to in West Cempaka Putih in Central Jakarta.

"I brought a letter from my neighborhood unit chief saying I was allowed to vote. But, I was still not allowed to vote because my name was not included on the voter list," said Samsudin.

Samsudin said that he never received information about the Jakarta poll body requiring unregistered voters to register for the runoff between July 25 and Aug. 4.

On Aug. 8, the poll body announced that there were 34,603 additional voters to the 6,962,348 original number of voters registered in the July 11 election. However, many voters still claimed that they were unregistered in the runoff.

Despite missing both rounds of the gubernatorial elections, Samsudin said that he still expects the future governor to manage the city better.

"But I do hope that my name will be listed to vote in the 2014 presidential elections," he said. (riz/swd)



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