election results in hours instead of weeks

✓ Immutable

based votes on chain

✓ Securing paper-

If we can use blockchain on a

large scale, we can make sure

that all votes are counted within

tamper-proof reporting system

✓ Fast and

6 to 12 hours after the polling stations are closed, and thus avoid both political tension and the possibility of votes being falsified. - Professor Gazali, University of Indonesia

Immutable election results in hours instead of weeks

As with most many democracies even today, Indonesia has a

paper-based voting system, with a great number of levels of aggregation. Indonesia's elections are probably the most complicated in the world with 193 million voters spread over

17,000 islands. Counting the votes from 813.350 polling stations takes weeks. Not surprisingly, tensions tend to rise in the weeks between the vote and the publication of the official results, with both sides accusing the other side of tampering. Several organizations in Indonesia sought a solution to ensure fair and transparent election results in the April 2019 elections. SettleMint, in collaboration with the University of Indonesia, set up an independent blockchain-based verification system to

secure the results of the paper-based elections on chain, and

report on the results almost instantaneously.

hours after the polling stations closed. By contrast, the official results only became public after weeks.

The application was able to report on 25 million votes within



the paper votes, they agree on the count and they record it on a

photographed and usually finds its way to WhatsApp and other

social media. The problem with these crowdsourced databases is that it

form (called a "C1" form in Indonesia). This form is signed,

cannot be proven that the photos of the forms were not tampered with. So, while these are worthwhile initiatives, they don't wield much authority in a debate over what the exact vote count was. Here is where blockchain technology comes in.



the blockchain. That's how we ended up with 100,000

"bulletproof" photographs, good for 25 million votes. We can

integrity", meaning we can irrefutably show that a certain

What's more, everyone can check this for themselves on a

publicly available website.

offer "proof of existence", the confirmation that the photograph

existed very soon after the vote. And we can also offer "proof of

picture has not changed since we added it to the blockchain.

significant logistical challenges in terms of counting and reporting. BY SECURING PAPER-BASED **VOTES ON CHAIN, INDONESIA WAS ABLE TO DELIVER A FAST** AND TAMPER-PROOF REPORTING

SYSTEM AND GET IMMUTABLE

ELECTION RESULTS IN HOURS

<u>increases</u>

<u>efficiency</u>

trading

INSTEAD OF WEEKS.

We were able to report on 25 million votes within hours, while the official results took weeks to be made publicly available. The shorter we can make the window between voting and reporting of results, the fewer opportunities there are for parties keen to subvert the electoral process. It makes perfectly sense to utilize blockchain technology in elections, especially in large democracies - like those in Asia and Africa - where there are

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