

Fact-Checkers vs. Hoax Peddlers: a Fake News Battle Ahead of Indonesia's Election | Reuters

By Fanny Potkin

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With two giant screens displaying television network feeds in front of them, the keyboard warriors split into six groups, each responsible for fact-checking a segment of the debate.

For nearly three hours, their eyes barely left their screens as they attempted to verify candidates' comments in real time: allegations about corruption, statistics on the country's Muslim population, boasts, and even personal anecdotes.

They and other fact-checkers are fighting a running battle against fake news and propaganda ahead of an April 17 election in the world's third-biggest democracy.

Election monitors are worried that the flow of misinformation stoking ethnic and religious divides could undermine electoral bodies and even raise social tensions.

The Cekfakta ("checkfacts" in Indonesian) initiative brings together the non-profit fact-checking organization Mafindo and 24 news organizations that normally compete fiercely with each other during election campaigns.

[...]

Source: [Fact-checkers vs. hoax peddlers: a fake news battle ahead of Indonesia's election - Reuters](#)