



## National Steering Committee Members

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1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair

Mashood Erubami  
2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chair

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## Honourary Members

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## Ex Officio

Victor Agbogun  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### National Assembly Elections a Success, but Problems Remain and Must be Addressed

Project 2011 Swift Count, a nonpartisan effort by four groups representing the rich diversity of Nigerian society, reported today that, despite incidents of violence and continuing logistical challenges, Saturday's National Assembly elections were a success.

"Project 2011 Swift Count finds that while the election was not perfect, it provided a meaningful opportunity for Nigerians to exercise their right to vote," stated Dafe Akpedeye (SAN), Project 2011 Swift Count 1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair.

In an Interim Statement, Project Swift Count's National Steering Committee (NSC) condemned the violent attacks that marred the voting in a few instances and pointed out other problems that were documented in reports from Swift Count's observers. The NSC called on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to address the problems before next Saturday's Presidential voting.

PSC's Interim Statement is based on reports from 762 observers, who reported from 741 local government areas by text messages. The polling units were chosen as representative of Nigeria, using established statistical principles.

Mashood Erubami 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chair, commended the people of Nigeria on their determination to exercise the right to vote. "We urge Nigerians to go out and vote on April 16 for the Presidential election and on April 26 for the State elections," he said.

Highlights of the PSC findings include the following:

- INEC continues to suffer logistical challenges. 72% of observers still reported that polling officials and election materials had not arrived as of 7:30 am.
- 8% of our observers reported incidents of harassment or intimidation during the voting process.
- At 20% of polling units our observers reported that the official results were not posted for the public to see.
- The most frequently reported critical incidents related to the late arrival of materials, though there were reports of ballot box stealing, underage voting

Among its recommendations, the Steering Committee said:

- INEC should continue to address the logistical problems that consistently undermined the electoral process – in particular the delivery of election materials.
- Political parties should take all steps to ensure that their members and supporters adhere to the Political Party Code of Conduct signed by all political parties.
- The security forces should ensure that there is sufficient security presence at all urban as well as rural polling units and that all security personnel carry out their duties in a non-partisan manner.

Project 2011 Swift Count is a joint initiative of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN); Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas Nigeria (JDPC), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), and Transition Monitoring Group (TMG). Reflecting the rich diversity of Nigeria, the project brings together civic organizations and religious groups (Christian and Muslim) to promote free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate elections through non-partisan, independent citizen observation.



Dafe Akpedeye  
1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair



Mashood Erubami  
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Learn more about Project 2011 Swift Count at [www.pscnigeria.org](http://www.pscnigeria.org)