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Statement on the Selected Gubernatorial Elections Results Saturday, April 30 2011

Delivered at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, on behalf of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of Project 2011 Swift Count, it is our pleasure to welcome you to this press conference to report on the official results of the state elections as announced by INEC.

Summary

As you know, Project 2011 Swift Count is jointly carried out by the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Justice Development and Peace/Caritas (JDPC), the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and Transition Monitoring Group (TMG). Thus reflecting the rich diversity of Nigeria, it brings together Christians and Muslims, as well as organizations with citizen election observation and legal expertise.

State elections were held on 26 April in all states except Kaduna and Bauchi. Project 2011 Swift Count deployed more than 7,000 stationary observers at polling units in every state and every LGA of the country and nearly 1,000 mobile observers. We also observed the elections in Kaduna and Bauchi held on 28 April. In addition, gubernatorial Swift Counts were conducted in six states: Plateau (NC), Borno (NE), Kano (NW), Oyo (SW), Imo (SE), and Delta (SS). One state was selected per geo-political zone based on a number of factors, including degree of contestation and concerns over possible post-election violence. This enables Project 2011 Swift Count to provide systematic information on the conduct of these elections and to comment on the official results as announced by INEC.

On Thursday 28 April, we issued a statement in which we shared our interim findings on the observation of the processes of accreditation, voting, and counting of the elections. The briefing today is to present to you our findings of the verifications of INEC's officially declared results in the six states where we conducted gubernatorial swift counts.

Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results for Plateau, Borno, Kano, and Oyo as announced by INEC are consistent with the Swift Count estimates, which are based on official results from a representative random sample of polling units. This demonstrates the results announced by INEC for these states truly reflect the votes cast by Nigerians at polling units.

However, Swift Count is unable to verify the results for Imo at this moment because INEC is yet to conclude elections in the Ngor Okpala LGA and in some wards in three other LGAs. Until INEC completes those elections, Swift Count cannot verify the accuracy of the results. With respect to Delta, you will

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recall that in our gubernatorial elections statement issued on Thursday 28 April, we reported that there was an increase in the harassment and intimidation of our observers. While the harassments and intimidations cut across all states in all the six geo-political zones, it was more pronounced in Delta state, where 178 incidents were recorded with intimidation and harassment being the topmost. As a result, Swift Count observers were unable to observe in 14% of the sampled polling units in the state, hindering our ability to verify the official results.

Methodology

Swift Count is an advanced observation methodology that employs information and communication technology (ICT) and statistical principles to enable observers to provide more representative and accurate information about the electoral process in real time to voters, political contestants and INEC. It can also permit verification of the official results as announced by the election officials.

For the gubernatorial swift counts conducted in the six states, Project 2011 Swift Count deployed observers to a representative random sample of approximately 400 polling units per state. Swift Count observers were deployed to a total of 2,392 sample polling units in the six states. To ensure the samples were representative, they were stratified by LGA. This means that the percentage of sampled polling units in any LGA closely matches the percentage of total polling units in that LGA. Within each LGA, polling stations were selected entirely at random. The result is a state sample that is both representative and unbiased and that includes polling units in every LGA of the state.

Deploying two observers in each sampled point, a total of 4,784 observers participated in the six states. As of 9:00 am Thursday 28 April, Project 2011 Swift Count had received reports from 2,224 of the 2,392 total sampled polling units or 93%. Attached to this press statement is the response rate for each of the six states.

All Swift Count data was checked for internal consistency and to confirm its accuracy. In addition, to ensure the highest level of data quality, two observers were assigned to each sampled polling unit and both were required to send in reports, including the official results, via coded text message. All Swift Count data is based on the official results as announced by polling officials at polling units.

Gubernatorial Election Projections:

Plateau

The findings of the Swift Count for the Gubernatorial election for candidates receiving more than 1% of the vote are:

Plateau: Swift Count Gubernatorial Election Estimates					
Political Party	Swift Estimate	Count	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
ACN	3.3%		0.3%	3.0%	3.6%
LP	34.8%		1.9%	32.9%	36.7%
PDP	58.4%		1.9%	56.5%	60.3%
ANPP	2.2%		0.6%	1.7%	2.8%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

Based on the official results collected by our observers from a representative random sample of polling units, Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results as announced by INEC are consistent with the Swift Count estimates.

Plateau: Comparison of Swift Count Estimates with Official Results			
Political Party	Swift Count Range		Official INEC Result
ACN	3.0%	3.6%	3.1%
LP	32.9%	36.7%	35.4%
PDP	56.5%	60.3%	58.8%
ANPP	1.7%	2.8%	2.1%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

The order and magnitude of the official results for each gubernatorial candidate is the same as the Swift Count estimate.

Borno

The findings of the Swift Count for the Gubernatorial election for candidates receiving more than 1% of the vote are:

Borno: Swift Count Gubernatorial Election Estimates					
Political Party	Swift Estimate	Count	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
ANPP	50.1%		1.06%	49.04%	51.2%
CPC	5.0%		0.29%	4.7%	5.3%
PDP	42.7%		0.96%	41.7%	43.7%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

Based on the official results collected by our observers from a representative random sample of polling units, Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results as announced by INEC are consistent with the Swift Count estimates.

Borno: Comparison of Swift Count Estimates with Official Results			
Political Party	Swift Count Range		Official INEC Result
ANPP	49.04%	51.2%	50.5%
CPC	4.7%	5.3%	4.9%
PDP	41.7%	43.7%	42.8%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

The order and magnitude of the official results for each gubernatorial candidate is the same as the Swift Count estimate.

Kano

The findings of the Swift Count for the Gubernatorial election for candidates receiving more than 1% of the vote are:

Kano: Swift Count Gubernatorial Election Estimates					
Political Party	Swift Estimate	Count	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
ACN	2.2%		0.23%	2.0%	2.4%
ANPP	42.8%		0.79%	42%	43.6%
CPC	7.5%		0.42%	7.1%	7.9%
PDP	46%		0.72%	45.3%	46.7%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

Based on the official results collected by our observers from a representative random sample of polling units, Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results as announced by INEC are consistent with the Swift Count estimates.

Kano: Comparison of Swift Count Estimates with Official Results			
Political Party	Swift Count Range		Official INEC Result
ACN	2.0%	2.4%	2.2%
ANPP	42%	43.6%	43.5%
CPC	7.1%	7.9%	7.3%
PDP	45.3%	46.7%	46.0%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

The order and magnitude of the official results for each gubernatorial candidate is the same as the Swift Count estimate.

Oyo

The findings of the Swift Count for the Gubernatorial election for candidates receiving more than 1% of the vote are:

Oyo: Swift Count Gubernatorial Election Estimates					
Political Party	Swift Estimate	Count	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
A	24.2%		0.73%	23.5%	24.9%
ACN	37.8%		0.83%	37.0%	38.6%

CPC	1.4%	0.08%	1.3%	1.5%
PDP	33.9%	1.06%	32.8%	35.0%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

Based on the official results collected by our observers from a representative random sample of polling units, Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results as announced by INEC are consistent with the Swift Count estimates.

Oyo: Comparison of Swift Count Estimates with Official Results			
Political Party	Swift Count Range		Official Result INEC
A	23.5%	24.9%	24.5%
ACN	37.0%	38.6%	37.4%
CPC	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%
PDP	32.8%	35.0%	34.4%

Note: Swift Count variance based on a 95% confidence level

The order and magnitude of the official results for each gubernatorial candidate is the same as the Swift Count estimate.

Imo

Late Wednesday, 27 April, INEC announced that in the Imo State gubernatorial election, the margin between contestants was too close and a clear winner could not be declared. This is consistent with the initial findings of Swift Count. In addition, the elections in Ngor Okpala LGA were cancelled twice. It is gratifying that INEC has decided to conduct supplementary elections in the affected LGAs. Swift Count is of the view that holding elections in the affected areas will conclude the electoral process in the state. Project 2011 Swift Count will observe the supplementary elections and verify the accuracy of the results. Project 2011 Swift Count calls for everyone to be calm and patient as INEC concludes the elections and the results of this close election are counted and tabulated.

Delta

Project 2011 Swift Count is unable to verify the accuracy of the Delta State gubernatorial results for the following reasons:

1. The high levels of harassment and intimidations meted out to our observers made it impossible for them to fully observe in polling units in 3 LGAs--Warri North, Warri South West, Warri South. Out of the total 114 observers in the 57 sample points deployed in these 3 LGAs, we were only able to receive data from 26 polling units. In Warri North only 1 out of 13 polling units reported.
2. Further the specific polling units that we were unable to observe are concentrated in these 3 LGAs and are not random across all the LGAs in the state. Thus, since we are missing a large portion of the data from these LGAs, we are concerned that this deficit could bias our projection.

3. In addition, our inability to fully observe in the 3 LGAs resulted in 86% response rate from Delta compared to the other five priority states which recorded an average of 94% response rate.
4. Since our observers were forcefully prevented from being at their assigned sampled polling units to record the INEC declared results, we are not in a position to confidently verify the credibility of the total results for Delta state.

Recommendations and Conclusion:

1. Project 2011 Swift Count encourages those candidates who legitimately lost to concede defeat gracefully and to be mindful that one of the strengths of any democratic system is that there will always be another election.
2. The partners again call upon all Nigerians to remain calm and refrain from any acts of violence. All political leaders should immediately and clearly make statements denouncing all acts of post-election violence regardless of perpetrators.
3. It is critically important to understand that these projections are based on capturing the results as announced at the polling unit level, prior to collation. Therefore, Nigerians can rest assured that their votes were counted and that no accidental or intentional manipulation through collation has changed the impact of their vote.
4. Project 2011 Swift Count condemns, once again, the levels of harassments and intimidations perpetrated against its observers as well as polling officials in Delta and call upon security agencies to investigate these reports and hold those responsible accountable.
5. We also call upon INEC to conduct thorough investigations around result collation in the affected LGAs and ensure that the results reflect the will of the people. If INEC finds any malpractices, it should take appropriate steps to rectify any irregularities.

Project 2011 Swift Count would like to take this opportunity to congratulate INEC, the National Youth Service Corp, political parties, security agencies, civic organizations domestic and international observers and, most importantly, the people of Nigeria.

God Bless Nigeria



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Learn more about Project 2011 Swift Count at www.pscnigeria.org

Appendix I: Swift Count Gubernatorial Election Response Rates by State				
Zone	State	Sampled PUs	Reporting PUs	Response Rate
NC	Plateau	399	387	97.0%
NE	Borno	398	377	94.7%
NW	Kano	398	373	93.7%
SE	Imo	398	354	90.7%
SS	Delta	401	345	86.0%
SW	Oyo	398	388	97.5%
Total		2392	2224	93.0%