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PRESS RELEASE

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Prospective Gubernatorial Candidates for All States

Information collected as of February 18 from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) offices in all 31 states scheduled to hold governorship elections shows that there are currently 345 gubernatorial aspirants from 49 political parties. Reports from Project 2011 Swift Count observers show that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is fielding the highest number of gubernatorial candidates with 31, or one in every state, followed by Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) with candidates in 29 states; and All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) each with candidates in 25 states. On average there are 11 candidates per election with the most aspirants in Bayelsa (30) while four states have only four aspirants.

In the interest of greater transparency and accountability, Project 2011 Swift Count encourages INEC to make the list of candidates for all elections available at its head office in Abuja and on its website (www.inecnigeria.org). While INEC is not required to provide this information centrally, doing so would enhance the transparency and accountability of the process thereby boosting voters' as well as candidates' confidence in the process. It would also help those people who are not currently where they registered or who live far from an INEC office to know who is standing for office in the upcoming elections.

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 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.

The project partners fielded approximately 1,000 observers who were deployed in every one of Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) for both voter registration as well as display, claims and objections. For the April elections, Project 2011 Swift Count will deploy 8,000 observers to a representative random sample of polling stations and will verify official results as announced by INEC.

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