



## National Steering Committee Members

Dafe Akpedeye (SAN)  
1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair

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

Dr. Aisha Akanbi

Rev. Fr. Zacharia Samjumi

Priscilla Achakpa

Rev. Fr. Bernard Asogo

Reuben James

Farida Sada Yusuf

### Honourary Members

Olisa Agbakoba (SAN)

Prof. Bolanle Awe

Hajia Bilkisu (mni)

### Ex Officio

Victor Agbogun  
Project Manager

## Interim Statement on the Bauchi and Kaduna State Elections

Saturday, 30 April 2011

### Summary

Project 2011 Swift Count deployed 283 accredited observers -- 232 stationary observers at polling units and 51 mobile observers -- to observe the conduct of accreditation of voters, voting and counting at polling units in Bauchi and Kaduna. In Bauchi, stationary observers were deployed to a representative random sample of 51 polling units in 20 LGAs and, in Kaduna, 65 polling units in 23 LGAs. Based on observer reports, Project 2011 Swift Count finds that the processes of accreditation, voting, and counting of ballots in Bauchi and Kaduna were generally consistent with findings observed from the state elections held on 26 April 2011.

Observers recorded more than two dozen critical incidents in Bauchi and Kaduna. Despite an increased presence of security officials in both states from previous rounds of elections, as well as the national average for 26 April State elections, observers reported several incidents of violence, multiple incidents of threats and harassment of observers by party agents, local political thugs, and/or members of the community, as well as one incident of ballot box snatching in Kaduna. Moreover, in several polling units, observers reported that accreditation and voting was conducted simultaneously contrary to INEC guidelines.

### Methodology

The primary objective of Project 2011 Swift Count is to help promote free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate elections in Nigeria that are conducted in accordance with international and regional standards as well as the laws and the constitution of our country and the "*Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organisations*".

The Swift Count methodology provides voters, political contestants and electoral authorities with an accurate, real-time picture of the conduct of the accreditation of voters, the voting and counting process, serving as a deterrent to anyone attempting to manipulate the process. Project 2011 Swift Count will also be able to provide voters and political contestants greater confidence that the official results accurately reflect the ballots cast.

Swift Count uses samples of polling units for each election that have been carefully selected by trained Nigerian statisticians, based on time-tested statistical principles to ensure that they are both representative and unbiased. This methodology, combined with the latest technology—text messages transmitted by cell phones to a central data base, enables Project 2011 Swift

12 A.E. Ekuinam Street, Utako District, Abuja

[www.pscnigeria.org](http://www.pscnigeria.org), [info@pscnigeria.org](mailto:info@pscnigeria.org), 09 - 8700764, 07098120144

Count to present an objective, nonpartisan, real-time picture of the conduct of the election and to verify the accuracy of the official INEC results.

## Findings

### Observers Access to Polling Units

Similar to our findings from the presidential and state elections, Project 2011 Swift Count accredited observers faced challenges in observing the state elections in Bauchi and Kaduna. A few observers reported harassment and intimidation by political party agents, local political thugs, and/or members of the community. In one incident, accredited observers were threatened by community members and forced to leave the polling unit.

### Election Officials Preparedness and Opening of Polling Units

As of 7:30 am, our observers at 48% of polling units in Bauchi and 30% in Kaduna reported that officials were present and ready for the state elections, as compared to the national average of 38% for the 26 April elections.

### Accreditation of Voters

In general, accreditation of voters went well but in several polling units, contrary to INEC procedures, voters were accredited and voted at the same time serving to undermine the safeguards put in place by INEC to prevent multiple voting.

- Project 2011 Swift Count observers reported that at 76% of polling units in Bauchi, accreditation of voters started by 9:00 am; the remaining 24% opened after 9:00 am, but before noon. In Kaduna, in 54% of polling units accreditation of voters started by 9:00 am; the remaining 46% opened after 9:00 am, but before noon.
- In Bauchi, 20% of our observers reported that more than half of the accredited voters left the polling unit after being accredited. In Kaduna, 30% of our observers reported more than half of accredited voters left the polling unit.
- On average, our observers reported the presence of 3 polling officials and 5 political party agents at polling units in both Bauchi and Kaduna.
- In Bauchi, 68% of our observers reported that there were security personnel at polling units. In Kaduna, 92% of observers reported the presence of security personnel. 94% observers reported the presence of security personnel in polling unit for the 26 April State elections.
- 16% of our observers in Bauchi and 24% in Kaduna reported that few voters were accredited to vote who did not have a voter's card, as compared to 7% reported nationally on the 26 April State elections.
- Only 38% of our observers in Bauchi and 68% in Kaduna reported that everyone who arrived before accreditation of voters finished was allowed to be accredited, as compared to 74% for the national level for 26 April elections.
- 90% of our observers in Bauchi and 98% in Kaduna reported that voters' names were ticked in the register of voters when being accredited, and the national level falls between this range.

- Consistent with the national level, 92% of our observers in Bauchi and 91% in Kaduna reported that voters' cuticles were marked when being accredited.
- While 38% of our observers in Bauchi reported incidents of harassment or intimidation at polling units during accreditation, In Kaduna, consistent with national level, 10% reported incidents of harassment or intimidation.

## Voting

Generally, voting was conducted without serious problems. However, as noted above, voting at some polling units occurred simultaneous with accreditation of voters, rather than after. In addition, a number of observers witnessed people being accredited to vote after accreditation had concluded.

- In Bauchi, our observers reported that voting began by 1:00 pm at 61% of the polling units in which elections took place. In Kaduna, observers reported that voting began by 1:00 pm at 77% of polling units.
- Similar to the national level, in Bauchi, 14% of our observers reported that people were accredited to vote after conclusion of accreditation. In Kaduna, 27% of observers reported this to be the case.
- In Bauchi, at 82% of polling units our observers reported that no one was permitted to vote without a voter's card. In Kaduna, this was reported to be the case at 73% of polling units.
- In Bauchi, 98% of our observers reported that every ballot paper was stamped and signed before being given to voters. In Kaduna, 95% of our observers reported that this was done.
- In Bauchi, 16% of our observers reported incidents of harassment or intimidation during the voting process. In Kaduna, 9% reported incidents of harassment or intimidation. On 26 April, 12% of our observers reported such incidents.

## Counting

Generally, the counting process proceeded without significant challenges.

- In Bauchi, 92% of observers reported that the ballot papers were properly sorted and counted. In Kaduna, 100% of observers reported this to be the case. At the national level, 99% of our observers reported the proper sorting and counting of ballot papers.
- Consistent with the national level, 92% of our observers in Bauchi and 94% in Kaduna reported that all political party agents present agreed with the results as announced by the polling officials.
- In Bauchi, 4% of our observers reported that polling officials did not post the official results at the polling unit as required by INEC. In Kaduna, 11% of observers reported this to be the case, as compared to 9% at the national level.
- In Bauchi, 14% of our observers reported incidents of harassment or intimidation during the counting process. In Kaduna, 9% of observers reported incidents of harassment or intimidation, as compared to 6% at the national level.

## Critical Incidents

A total of 29 critical incident reports were received from the 51 mobile observers deployed by Project 2011 Swift Count in Bauchi and Kaduna.

- The most frequently reported incidents were: violence; simultaneous accreditation of voters and voting; accreditation of voters after voting had commenced; and intimidation or harassment of observers.
- There was one incident of ballot box snatching reported at a polling unit in Kaduna.
- There were few incidents of shortage of election materials and campaigning or campaign materials in or around polling units.

## Conclusions and Recommendations:

Project 2011 Swift Count calls upon all Nigerians, especially residents in Bauchi and Kaduna, to remain calm in the post-election period following the announcement of official results. We will continue to observe the process and issue additional statements if appropriate prior to releasing a final report on the electoral process.

Project 2011 Swift Count commends members of the National Youth Service Corp for performing their civic duties as polling officials despite challenges of intimidations and harassments. We also commend the security agencies for ensuring a safe environment for citizens to cast their vote.

To the Nigerian people we commend Nigerians on your determination to exercise your right to vote.

Finally, we commend the thousands of our observers in Bauchi and Kaduna, and indeed across the country, for their determination to contribute to credible and legitimate elections in Nigeria.

God Bless Nigeria



Dafe Akpedeye (SAN)  
1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair



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

--- End ---

## For media inquiries please contact:

Muritala Abdul-Rasheed: Tel. +234 8033231849 Email [media@pscnigeria.org](mailto:media@pscnigeria.org)  
Chibuike Mgbeahuruike: Tel. +234 7036024736

## **Project 2011 Swift Count**

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.

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