

PROJECT 2011 SWIFTCOUNT



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Statement on the Presidential Elections Results Monday April 18, 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 presidential election as announced by INEC.

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.

Project 2011 Swift Count can confidently confirm that the official results 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 clearly demonstrates the results as announced by INEC reflect the votes cast by Nigerians at polling units.

Project 2011 Swift Count congratulates INEC, the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), political parties, security agencies, civic organizations and, most importantly, the people of Nigeria on the success of the Presidential elections. This is truly an historic event not only for Nigeria, but all of Africa.

Project 2011 Swift Count was undertaken by the partners in response to the brazen electoral fraud in the past. Rather than giving into this frustration, we have redoubled our efforts and have adopted a new and advanced approach to citizen observation in Nigeria, drawing upon the best practices from around the world, but also adapting them to Nigerian ways. This new approach is called Swift Count and is designed to help restore electoral accountability in Nigeria so that everyone's vote counts.

Swift Count is an advanced observer methodology. It 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 also permits verification of the official results as announced by INEC.

For the presidential election, Project 2011 Swift Count deployed observers to a representative random sample of 1,497 polling units located in every state and LGA of the country. To ensure the sample is representative, it was stratified by state and LGA. This means that the percentage of sampled polling units in any state or LGA closely matches the percentage of total polling units in that state or LGA.

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For example, according to INEC, Jigawa state has 3,527 of the 119,860 polling units or 2.9% of the total number of polling units in Nigeria. In the Swift Count presidential sample, Jigawa has 44 polling units representing 2.9% of the 1,497 polling units in the entire sample. The same logic is applied within states to allocate the sample to each LGA. Within each LGA, polling stations are selected entirely at random. The result is a national sample that is both representative and unbiased and that includes polling units in every state (and the FCT) and in all 774 LGAs. Attached to this press statement is the full distribution of the presidential sample by state.

As of 4:00 pm on Sunday 17 April, Project 2011 Swift Count had received reports from 1,441 of the 1,497 sampled polling units or 96%. Attached to this press statement is the detailed response rate information by state. A total of 471,876 Nigerians cast their ballots at these observed polling units. Observer reports have been received from all 36 states and the FCT as well as from 752 of the 774 LGAs. 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 stations.

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

Table 1: Swift Count Presidential Election Estimates				
Political Party	Swift Count Estimate	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
PDP	58.7%	+/- 1.2	57.5%	59.9%
CPC	30.8%	+/- 1.2	29.6%	32.0%
ACN	5.3%	+/- 0.3	5.0%	5.6%
ANPP	2.7%	+/- 0.3	2.4%	3.0%

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.

Table 2: Comparison of Swift Count Estimates with Official Results		
Political Party	Swift Count Range	Official INEC Result
PDP	57.5% to 59.9%	58.9%
CPC	29.6% to 32.0%	32.0%
ACN	5.0% to 5.6%	5.4%
ANPP	2.4% to 3.0%	2.4%

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

The order and magnitude of the official results for each presidential candidate is the same as the Swift Count estimate. Attached to this press release are Swift Count estimates for all parties.

Given the absence of widespread deficiencies in the process and the independent verification of the official results by non-partisan citizen observers, political contestants, their supporters as well as the general public should have confidence in the presidential results as declared by INEC as an accurate reflection of how Nigerians voted on April 16th.

INEC has conducted the collation of presidential results in a very open manner. Official results by state have immediately been posted on the internet for anyone to see. In order to ensure even greater transparency and accountability Project 2011 Swift Count calls upon INEC to also post polling unit level results on its website. To give INEC, political contestants and the public greater confidence in this new methodology Project 2011 Swift Count will also publish on our website the official results from the individual sampled polling units that were used to calculate the Swift Count estimates for anyone to see.

Project 2011 Swift Count now calls upon all political contestants and their supporters to respect the will of the Nigerian people and to accept the results in good faith. We encourage those candidates who 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. To the victorious candidate, we call upon him and his supporters to be magnanimous and remember that the President must represent all Nigerians –those who supported him as well as those who voted for other candidates. 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.

State elections will be held on April 26th. Project 2011 Swift Count will again deploy 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 again call upon INEC to ensure that all accredited observers are able to move freely and to access polling units and collation centres across the country. We will conduct pilot gubernatorial Swift Counts in six states: Plateau (NC), Borno (NE), Kano (NW), Imo (SE), Delta (SS) and Oyo (SW). 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 will enable Project 2011 Swift Count to provide real-time, systematic information on the conduct of these elections and to verify the accuracy of official result for select gubernatorial elections as announced by INEC. Nigeria needs to move beyond the politics of winner takes all.

God Bless Nigeria



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

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Appendix I: Distribution of National Sample and Response Rates								
Zone	State	PUs	Sampled PUs	Reporting PUs	% PUs	% Sampled PUs	% Reporting PUs	Response Rate
NC	Benue	3,688	46	46	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	100.0%
NC	FCT	562	8	8	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	100.0%
NC	Kogi	2,548	32	32	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	100.0%
NC	Kwara	1,872	24	24	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	100.0%
NC	Nasarawa	1,495	21	21	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	100.0%
NC	Niger	3,185	39	38	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%	97.4%
NC	Plateau	2,631	35	35	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	100.0%
NE	Adamawa	2,608	31	30	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	96.8%
NE	Bauchi	4,074	51	51	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	100.0%
NE	Borno	3,933	47	46	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%	97.9%
NE	Gombe	2,218	27	26	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	96.3%
NE	Taraba	1,912	23	20	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	87.0%
NE	Yobe	1,714	20	20	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	100.0%
NW	Jigawa	3,527	44	44	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%	100.0%
NW	Kaduna	5,101	65	62	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	95.4%
NW	Kano	8,074	101	90	6.7%	6.7%	6.2%	89.1%
NW	Katsina	4,892	61	60	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	98.4%
NW	Kebbi	2,398	30	30	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	100.0%
NW	Sokoto	3,035	36	36	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	100.0%
NW	Zamfara	2,436	29	29	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	100.0%
SE	Abia	2,675	34	33	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	97.1%
SE	Anambra	4,608	60	60	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	100.0%
SE	Ebonyi	1,785	22	20	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	90.9%
SE	Enugu	2,958	38	38	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%	100.0%
SE	Imo	3,523	43	39	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	90.7%
SS	Akwa Ibom	2,980	39	37	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	94.9%
SS	Bayelsa	1,803	22	19	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	86.4%
SS	Cross River	2,283	29	24	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%	82.8%
SS	Delta	3,624	46	41	3.0%	3.1%	2.8%	89.1%
SS	Edo	2,627	32	31	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	96.9%
SS	Rivers	4,434	56	56	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%	100.0%
SW	Ekiti	2,195	25	22	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	88.0%
SW	Lagos	8,458	105	104	7.1%	7.0%	7.2%	99.0%
SW	Ogun	3,213	38	37	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	97.4%
SW	Ondo	2,998	39	36	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	92.3%
SW	Osun	3,010	39	39	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	100.0%
SW	Oyo	4,783	60	57	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	95.0%
Nigeria		119,860	1,497	1,441				96.3%

Appendix II: Swift Count Presidential Election Estimates for all Political Parties					
Political Party	Swift Count Estimate	Margin of Error	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Official INEC Results
ACN	5.3%	0.3%	5.0%	5.6%	5.4%
ADC	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
ANPP	2.7%	0.3%	2.4%	3.0%	2.4%
APS	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
ARP	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
BNPP	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
CPC	30.8%	1.2%	29.6%	32.0%	32.0%
FRESH	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%
HDP	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
MPPP	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
NCP	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
NMDP	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
NTP	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
PDC	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%
PDP	58.7%	1.2%	57.5%	59.9%	58.9%
PMP	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
PPP	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
SDMP	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UNPD	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%