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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Swift Count Supports Difficult Decision to Postpone National Assembly Elections

Project 2011 Swift Count (comprising FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA and TMG) are peeved that today's election could not be completed as planned. But we support INEC Chairman Prof. Attahiru Jega's difficult and courageous decision to postpone the election until Monday. We believe the decision is in the best interest of the people of Nigeria.

Dafe Akpedeye (SAN), Project 2011 Swift Count 1st Co-Chair state "This had to be a very difficult decision and it should have been made earlier, but it is the right decision for Nigeria in the circumstances."

However, we are concerned about the timing of the announcement of the postponement—it would have been better had the decision been announced last evening or this morning. We are also concerned about the security of all sensitive voting material. We urge INEC to take all steps necessary to safeguard the ballot papers and other sensitive materials.

Project Swift Count's observers were on site as planned this morning in 766 local government areas and based on their reports only 13% of the polling units were operating as of 8:30 this morning. This is unacceptable. Project 2011 Swift Count has raised the issue of poor logistics with INEC during the voter registration exercise. INEC must improve its performance for the subsequent elections to be credible. Project 2011 Swift Count is committed to observing the National Assembly elections and will deploy its observers again on Monday.

Mashood Erubami 2nd Co-Chair said "Project 2011 Swift Count calls on all Nigerians and political contestants to accept this difficult decision in the interest of the nation. We urge all Nigerians to again go out to vote on Monday".

PROJECT 2011 SWIFTCOUNT

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.



Dafe Akpedeye (SAN)
1st Co-Chair



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