



Transition Monitoring Group

**QUICK COUNT**

Let the Votes Count

# **Verification Statement**

**of the Official 2015 Presidential Results**

*Wednesday April 1, 2015 – Lagos Room, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja*

## **Introduction**

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), I welcome you to this press briefing on the verification of the official results for the presidential election as announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The TMG conducted a Quick Count as part of its overall observation of the 2015 presidential elections. The Quick Count is an advanced observation methodology that employs well-established statistical principles and sophisticated information technology. Quick Counts, also known as Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs), provide the most timely and accurate information on the conduct of voting and counting and is the only observation methodology that can independently verify the accuracy of official election results.

TMG undertook the Quick Count to provide voters, candidates, political parties, and INEC with independent information about whether the official results for the presidential election truly reflect the ballots cast at polling units. If INEC's official results fall within TMG's estimated range then the public, political parties and candidates should have confidence that the official results reflect the ballots cast at polling units. If the official results don't reflect the ballots cast, TMG will expose it.

## **About Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)**

Permit me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to say a few words about TMG and elections in Nigeria. TMG is Nigeria's premier citizen observer group. TMG observed the transition from military rule and all subsequent national elections. TMG is a coalition of over 400 civil society organizations based in all 36 states and the FCT. TMG is driven by data, for all Nigerians, but beholden to none. TMG reports are based on data from our carefully selected, trained and accredited citizen observers. TMG volunteers are drawn from its membership and every corner of the country and include: men and women, the young and the elderly, Christians and Muslims, and Northerners and Southerners. TMG is an independent and strictly non-partisan organization with no affiliation to any political party or candidate.

## **2015 Presidential Elections: The Quick Count Methodology**

The Quick Count for the 2015 Presidential Election involved deploying citizen observers to a representative random sample of 1,507 polling units at which there are 849,460 registered voters. There are sampled polling units in every geopolitical zone, every state and 774 local government area (LGA) of the country. The sample is carefully constructed by a trained statistician to ensure every geopolitical zone, state and LGA of the country is included proportionally in the sample. The number of sampled polling units for each geopolitical zone, state and LGA is therefore based on the percentage of polling units and registered voters in that geopolitical zone, state or LGA. For example, South West geopolitical zone has 20.6% of all polling units in the country (24,683 of 119,979) and 20.6% of polling units in the Quick

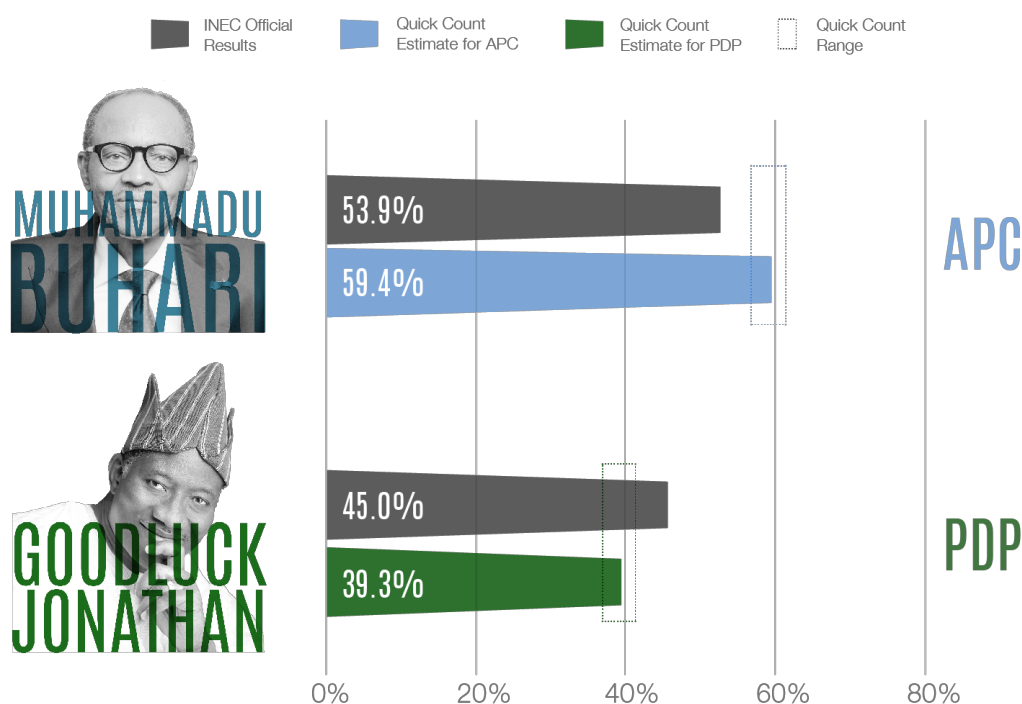
Count sample (310 of 1,507) are in South West. Similarly North West has 25.6% of all registered voters (17,620,728 of 68,845,062) and 25.5% of the registered voters in the Quick Count sample (217,011 of 849,460) are in North West (Appendix 1 shows the representativeness of the Quick Count sample).

TMG's citizen observers deployed to sampled polling units at 7:00 am. They observed setup of polling units, accreditation of voters, voting, counting, announcement and posting of results. Throughout the day TMG's citizen observers sent in seven text messages providing structured data on the quality of the process of the election as well as the official results for their polling unit as announced by the poll official.

The Quick Count is not an exit poll. No voter is asked for whom he/she voted. The Quick Count uses the official results as announced and posted at polling units. INEC poll officials at polling units are the ones who count the ballot papers. TMG citizen observers do not count the ballot papers themselves. Rather they observe the counting process and report on the conduct of that process and the official result for polling units as announced by the poll officials.

Since the official results collected by TMG's observers come from a representative random sample of polling units, by adding those results together TMG is able to estimate the national results for the presidential election. The estimate is produced within a range, known as the margin of error, based on well-established statistical principles. If INEC's official results are consistent with TMG's Quick Count estimate, then the official results reflect the ballots cast at polling units.

## TMG's Quick Count Results Estimate



## Summary of Findings

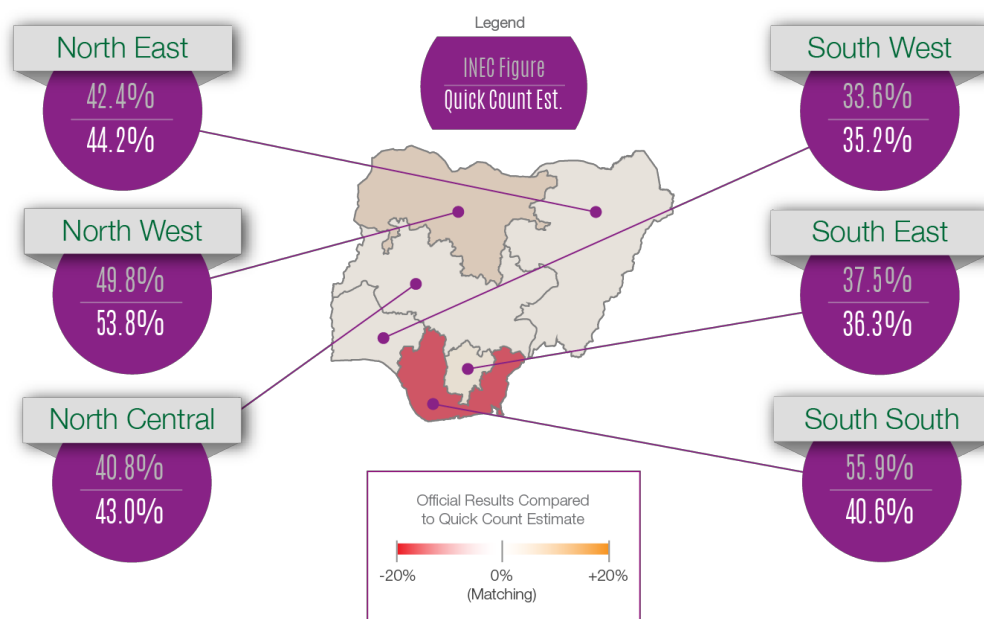
Ladies and Gentlemen, TMG's Quick Count estimates and INEC's official results clearly show that Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC) received the most votes and Goodluck Jonathan of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) received the second most votes and that all other candidates only received a very small number of votes. TMG's Quick Count also confirms that the APC and PDP presidential candidates attained "not less than one-quarter of the votes cast ... in each of at least two-thirds of all the States in the federation and the Federal Capital Territory" as required by the Nigerian Constitution.

According to INEC, APC received 53.9% of the vote while TMG's Quick Count estimates that APC received 59.4% (+/-2.3%) of the presidential vote. Similarly, INEC's figures show PDP received 45.0% of the vote while TMG's Count estimates that PDP received 39.2% (+/-2.2%) of the presidential vote. Therefore TMG confidently verifies the accuracy of the official results for the presidential election based on the independent collection of official results from sampled polling units.

INEC's official results for APC and PDP do not fall within the margin of error of the TMG's Quick Count estimates (see Table 1: Comparison of Presidential Results). This does not invalidate the official results as announced by INEC as both INEC and TMG's Quick Count show the same national voting pattern and both clearly show APC receiving the largest number of votes. In addition, for 31 of the 36 states and the FCT INEC's official results are consistent with TMG's Quick Count estimates.

## TMG's Quick Count Zonal Turnout Estimate

Shown by discrepancy between Quick Count Estimate and official figures

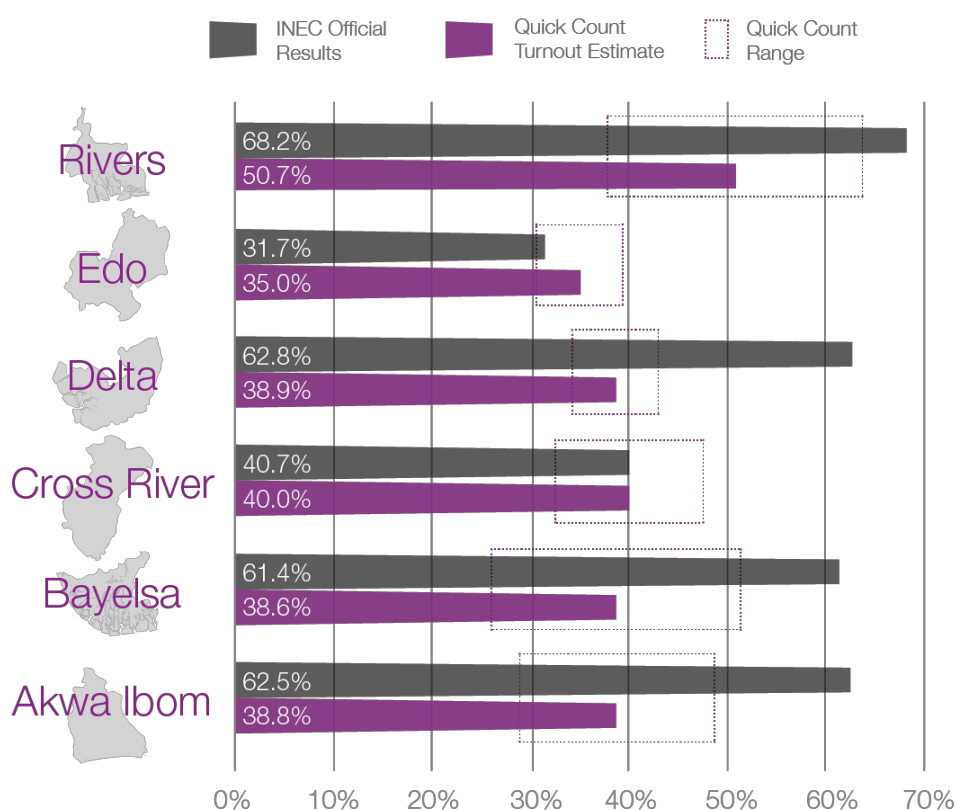


However, TMG's Quick Count estimates strongly suggest that turnout was inflated during the collation process in the South South. The official turnout figures for five geopolitical zones are consistent with TMG's Quick Count estimates, but the official turnout figure for South South is 55.9% while TMG's estimated turnout for South South is 40.6% (+/-4.5)%. Thus official turnout in South South was likely inflated during the collation process by at least 10.8%.

TMG's Quick Count shows that in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers states the official turnout figures were inflated. For Cross River and Edo the INEC official turnout figures are consistent with TMG's Quick Count estimates.

## TMG's Quick Count Turnout Estimates

### In South South



Ladies and Gentlemen, TMG reported in its preliminary statement that despite delays and challenges the Election Day accreditation, voting and counting process were credible and peaceful. Voters, candidates and parties should trust the official results as posted at polling units. Again, it is these polling unit results that TMG's Quick Count collects and uses as the basis of its estimates.

Of note, accreditation, voting, and counting were all conducted in the presence of party agents and party agents agreed with the official results as announced at the polling units.

- On average there were four party agents present at polling units during courting.
- At 95% of polling units an APC party agent signed the results form (INEC form EC.8A) while at 91% of polling units a PDP party agents signed the results form.
- At 93% of polling units all party agents present were given their own copy of the results form.
- At 91% of polling units the official results were posted for the public to see.

At over 95% of polling units voters were able to cast their ballots. However, TMG citizen observers also reported a limited number of places, predominantly in the South South, where the elections started, but were never completed due to problems such as card reader malfunction and violence. While it is regrettable that some Nigerians were unable to vote, the votes from these polling units would not have affected the outcome of the presidential election given the margin of victory. As a result, all candidates and parties should accept the presidential results.

## **Conclusion**

TMG calls on the winning candidate and party as well as their supporters to be magnanimous in victory. For those candidates who did not win, we urge them to accept the results because they reflect the votes cast. TMG calls upon all candidates, all parties and all Nigerians to show political maturity and to maintain the peace during this political transition as committed to by both leading presidential candidates in the two recently signed Abuja Peace Accords. Accordingly TMG commends President Goodluck Jonathan for taking the bold initiative of congratulating Muhammadu Buhari on his victory.

Steps should be taken to ensure a smooth and peaceful transition of power. This will be Nigeria's first democratic transition from an incumbent president to an opposition political party candidate. This is an important milestone in the democratization of our country. All Nigerians, regardless of the party they support, should be proud of this accomplishment. In the absence of any legal transitional provisions of this nature, TMG recommends that Nigeria draws from best practices from around the world to initiate a smooth and peaceful transition and ensure the handover of power on May 29, 2015.

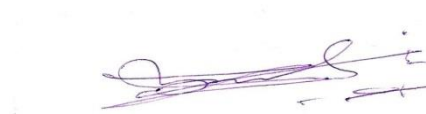
At the same time, the election cycle is not yet over. TMG calls on INEC to immediately investigate the inflation of turnout figures during the collation process from Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers. If this was a deliberate attempt to subvert the vote of the Nigerian people, then those responsible must be held accountable.

TMG urges INEC to take all necessary steps to address the logistical challenges that once again plagued the delivery of materials and deployment of staff to polling units as well as to resolve the issues with the ability of the card readers to reliably verify voter fingerprints in a reasonable amount of time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we cannot forget the voters and INEC ad hoc staff who lost their lives during the elections; our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of these Nigerians. TMG would like to thank the thousands of Nigerians across the country who volunteered to be citizen observers. TMG also appreciates the collaboration of our development partners and the supportive role the international community has played in promoting credible and peaceful elections. TMG once again commends the professionalism of the vast majority of

security agents, the commitment and ingenuity of the National Youth Service Corp (NYCS) members who served as poll officials. TMG also commends Prof. Attahiru Jega for his resilience throughout the conduct of the Presidential Election. Finally, and most importantly, TMG lauds the patience of the voters who went out and endured long delays in order to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Thank you and God Bless Nigeria. Let the Votes Count!



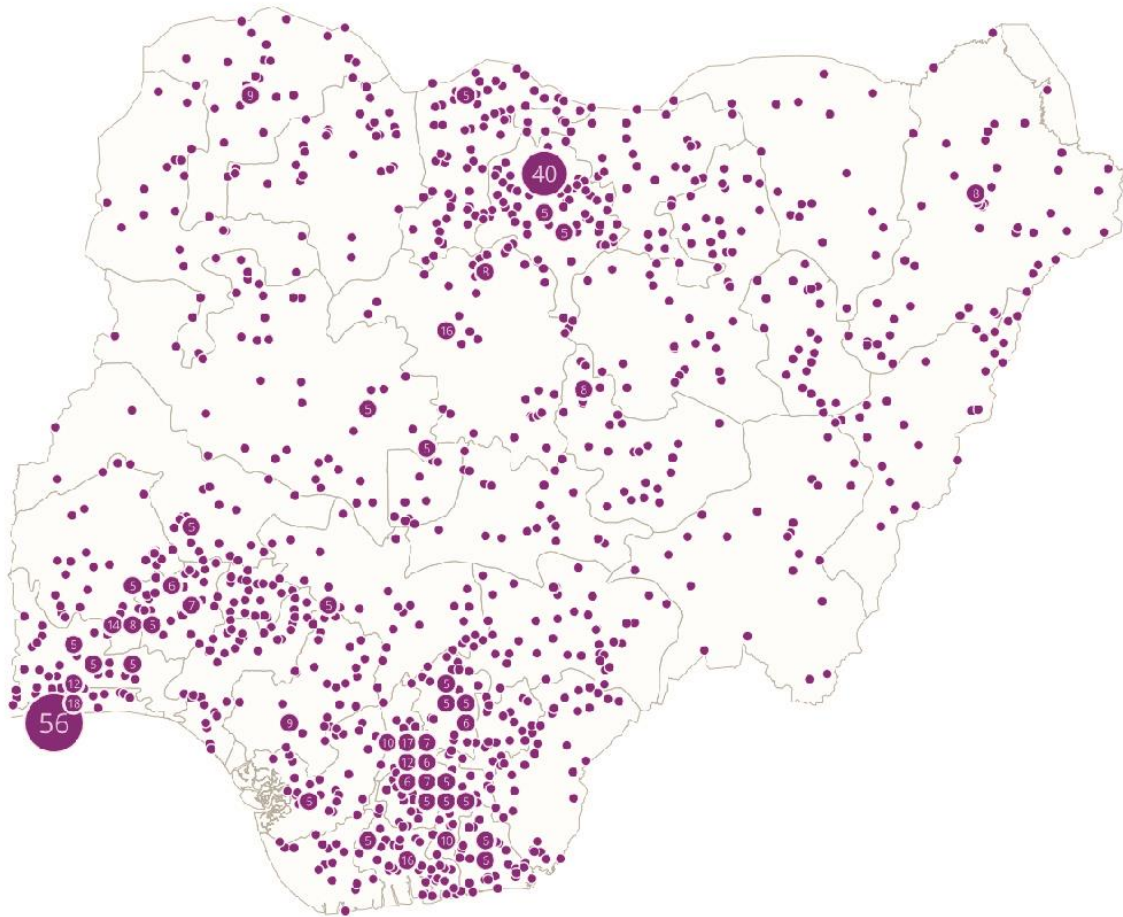
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# Deployment of TMG Quick Count Observers



TMG Quick Count observers were deployed to every zone, state and LGA in the country for the 2015 presidential election at a representative random sample in line with the distribution of polling units. Their geographic distribution is shown below.



**Table 1: Comparison of Presidential Results**

<b>Party</b>	<b>INEC Official Results</b>	<b>Quick Count Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Range</b>
AA	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
ACPN	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
AD	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
ADC	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
APA	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3% – 0.1%
APC	53.9%	59.4%	2.3%	57.1% - 61.7%
CPP	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
HOPE	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0% – 0.0%
KOWA	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
NCP	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
PDP	45.0%	39.3%	2.2%	37.1%- 41.5%
PPN	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
UDP	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%
UPP	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1% – 0.1%



**Appendix 1 : Comparison of Distribution of All Polling Units with TMG Quick Count Sampled Polling Units  
(by Polling Units, Voting Points, and Registered Voters)**

Zone	State	All Polling Units						TMG Quick Count Sampled Polling Units					
		PUs	VPs	RVs	% PUs	% VPs	% RVs	PUs	VPs	RVs	% PUs	% VPs	% PUs
NC	Benue	3,688	4,350	2,019,851	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	46	51	23,578	3.1%	2.7%	2.8%
NC	FCT	562	1,797	881,663	0.5%	1.2%	1.3%	7	19	9,415	0.5%	1.0%	1.1%
NC	Kogi	2,548	3,069	1,350,883	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%	32	38	15,235	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%
NC	Kwara	1,872	2,512	1,179,658	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	24	34	14,708	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%
NC	Nasarawa	1,495	2,553	1,242,667	1.2%	1.7%	1.8%	19	36	17,776	1.3%	1.9%	2.1%
NC	Niger	3,180	4,292	2,013,669	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	40	52	25,177	2.7%	2.8%	3.0%
NC	Plateau	2,631	4,041	2,003,046	2.2%	2.7%	2.9%	34	49	24,198	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%
NC Total		15,976	22,614	10,691,437	13.3%	14.9%	15.5%	202	279	130,087	13.4%	14.9%	15.3%
NE	Adamawa	2,609	3,364	1,559,012	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%	33	46	20,152	2.2%	2.5%	2.4%
NE	Bauchi	4,073	4,749	2,057,211	3.4%	3.1%	3.0%	51	59	26,390	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%
NE	Borno	3,933	4,358	1,838,514	3.3%	2.9%	2.7%	50	52	22,769	3.3%	2.8%	2.7%
NE	Gombe	2,218	2,571	1,147,181	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	28	34	15,283	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%
NE	Taraba	1,913	2,762	1,340,652	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	24	35	15,855	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%
NE	Yobe	1,714	2,323	1,101,966	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	22	30	14,315	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%
NE Total		16,460	20,127	9,044,536	13.7%	13.3%	13.1%	208	256	114,764	13.8%	13.7%	13.5%
NW	Jigawa	3,527	4,085	1,831,316	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	44	48	22,256	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%
NW	Kaduna	5,101	7,039	3,407,222	4.3%	4.6%	4.9%	64	86	39,597	4.2%	4.6%	4.7%
NW	Kano	8,074	10,386	4,975,701	6.7%	6.8%	7.2%	101	126	62,987	6.7%	6.7%	7.4%
NW	Katsina	4,901	5,950	2,828,195	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%	61	67	32,354	4.0%	3.6%	3.8%
NW	Kebbi	2,398	3,180	1,470,648	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	30	39	19,369	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%
NW	Sokoto	3,035	3,516	1,611,929	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	38	45	20,954	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%
NW	Zamfara	2,516	3,130	1,495,717	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	32	43	19,494	2.1%	2.3%	2.3%
NW Total		29,552	37,286	17,620,728	24.6%	24.5%	25.6%	370	454	217,011	24.6%	24.3%	25.5%

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Zone	State	All Polling Units						TMG Quick Count Sampled Polling Units					
		PUs	VPs	RVs	% PUs	% VPs	% RVs	PUs	VPs	RVs	% PUs	% VPs	% PUs
SE	Abia	2,675	3,187	1,396,162	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	33	36	15,824	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
SE	Anambra	4,608	5,133	1,963,427	3.8%	3.4%	2.9%	58	62	24,238	3.8%	3.3%	2.9%
SE	Ebonyi	1,785	2,293	1,074,273	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	23	28	13,535	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%
SE	Enugu	2,958	3,361	1,429,221	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	37	40	16,431	2.5%	2.1%	1.9%
SE	Imo	3,523	4,100	1,855,172	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	44	53	22,689	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%
<b>SE Total</b>		<b>15,549</b>	<b>18,074</b>	<b>7,718,255</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>92,717</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
SS	Akwa Ibom	2,979	3,650	1,680,794	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%	37	48	21,225	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%
SS	Bayelsa	1,804	1,920	610,373	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	22	23	7,899	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%
SS	Cross River	2,283	2,721	1,175,840	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	29	32	14,158	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
SS	Delta	3,624	4,878	2,275,264	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%	45	58	27,523	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%
SS	Edo	2,627	3,779	1,791,165	2.2%	2.5%	2.6%	33	45	21,198	2.2%	2.4%	2.5%
SS	Rivers	4,442	5,838	2,537,590	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	56	70	30,318	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%
<b>SS Total</b>		<b>17,759</b>	<b>22,786</b>	<b>10,071,026</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>122,321</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
SW	Ekiti	2,195	2,311	732,021	1.8%	1.5%	1.1%	27	28	8,913	1.8%	1.5%	1.0%
SW	Lagos	8,472	12,124	5,822,276	7.1%	8.0%	8.5%	106	151	73,722	7.0%	8.1%	8.7%
SW	Ogun	3,213	4,010	1,795,794	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%	40	50	21,853	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%
SW	Ondo	3,010	3,553	1,526,316	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%	39	45	19,950	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%
SW	Osun	3,010	3,379	1,407,107	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	38	43	17,159	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%
SW	Oyo	4,783	5,618	2,415,566	4.0%	3.7%	3.5%	60	71	30,963	4.0%	3.8%	3.6%
<b>SW Total</b>		<b>24,683</b>	<b>30,995</b>	<b>13,699,080</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>172,560</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>119,979</b>	<b>151,882</b>	<b>68,845,062</b>				<b>1,507</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>849,460</b>			

Notes: PU – Polling Units, VP – Voting Points, RV – Registered Voters