



Transition Monitoring Group

QUICK COUNT

Let the Votes Count

## Press Release

# Despite delays and challenges, voting and counting credible and peaceful

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Transcorp Hilton, Abuja  
March 30, 2015

Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) released its preliminary statement on the conduct of accreditation, voting and counting for the 2015 Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Based on reports from a representative random sample of 1,507 polling units located in every geopolitical zone, every state and all 774 local government areas (LGAs) TMG finds that across the country, the polling process, despite delays and challenges, afforded Nigerians a credible opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

Speaking at TMG's press conference at the Transcorp Hilton in Abuja, TMG Chairman Ibrahim M. Zikirullahi said "late delivery of materials in some parts of the country, a slow accreditation process, and the inability of card readers to consistently validate voters' fingerprints posed some challenges, but these issues did not systematically disadvantage any candidate or party."

The challenges with the card readers also did not undermine other safeguards in the voting process, such as the manual register, facial identification and indelible ink, designed to ensure that only eligible voters were able to cast their vote. INEC ad hoc staff toiled late into the night to complete the accreditation, voting and counting process. Further, voters generally waited patiently to cast their votes despite the delays. Election Day was generally peaceful with the process proceeding slowly after delays.

"Logistical issues have once again delayed the opening of polling units making the process of accreditation, voting and more challenging for polling officials and voters. Voters deserve polling units that open on time." said Zikirullahi.

There were areas in the South South, in particular in Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta and Rivers, where elections started but were never completed due to problems such as card reader malfunction and violence. The majority of voters in these states were able to vote and thus the presidential election is likely to not have been affected, but the smaller constituency elections for the House and Senate may have been.

The Presidential and National Assembly elections are not over yet. INEC is yet to announce the official results for the Presidential Election. Collation of results is ongoing and TMG observers are continuing to observe the processes and will update citizens and ensure that the votes of the people count. As soon as INEC announces the official results for the presidential election TMG will issue its Verification Statement. Verification based on official results from a representative random sample of polling units observed. 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.

### END ###

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