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Project Manager

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Logistical Challenges Reduce Effectiveness of Expanded Display Exercise

Logistical challenges continue to affect the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as Project 2011 Swift Count observers reported only 18% of centres were open for display of the preliminary register of voters on the first day of the exercise, Monday February 14. As with the voter registration exercise, INEC again took steps to improve the situation and by Thursday February 17 observers reported 63% of centres open for display. However, in the South East Geo Political Zone only 32% of observers reported centres were open even on Thursday February 17.

“Like voter registration, logistical problems initially plagued the display of the preliminary register of voters. INEC needs to address these issues before April 2 and should undertake additional confidence building measures to reassure voters and political contestants that polling units will open at 8:00 am as planned on Election Day” said Dafe Akpedeye 1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair.

One such step INEC could take to enhance confidence is to release clear guidelines about how voting and counting will be conducted at polling units where more than 500 people registered to vote.

Project 2011 Swift Count observers also reported on Thursday February 17:

- At 72% of centres there was only one registration official present;
- At 77% of centres registration officials provided instructions to voters on how to check the preliminary voters register;
- At 19% of centres political party polling agents were present
- At only 3% of centres was anyone prevented from checking preliminary register of voters;
- At only 3% of centres were there any attempts to disrupt the exercise; and
- On average 40 people came to centres to check their names in the preliminary register of voters.

The display exercise provided an opportunity for public to review the preliminary register of voters and bring to the attention of the election officials any problems so they can be corrected thereby enhancing the quality of the final register. By law INEC is only required to display the preliminary register of voters at the Local Government, Area Council or ward level. However, INEC went far beyond this and sought to display in all of the approximately 120,000 registration centres.

Mashood Erubami, 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chair, noted that “INEC should be commended for significantly expanding public access to the display process by posting the preliminary register of voters at registration centres rather than wards as had been done in 2007. Even with the logistical challenges voters had more access to the display exercise in 2011 than in 2007 and this should improve the ultimate quality of the register of voters.”

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.

The project partners fielded approximately 1,000 observers who were deployed in every one of Nigeria’s 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) for voter registration as well as display, claims and objections. For the April elections, Project 2011 Swift Count will deploy 8,000 observers to a representative random sample of polling stations and will verify official results as announced by INEC.



Dafe Akpedeye  
1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair



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

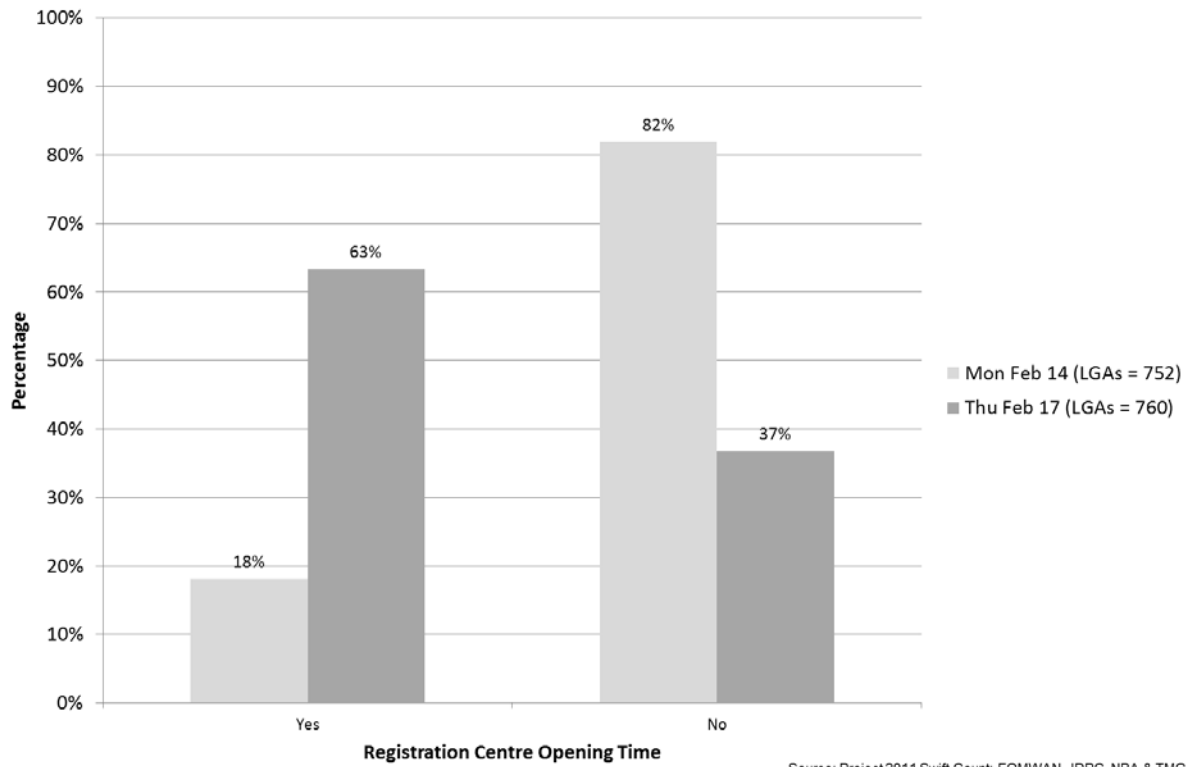
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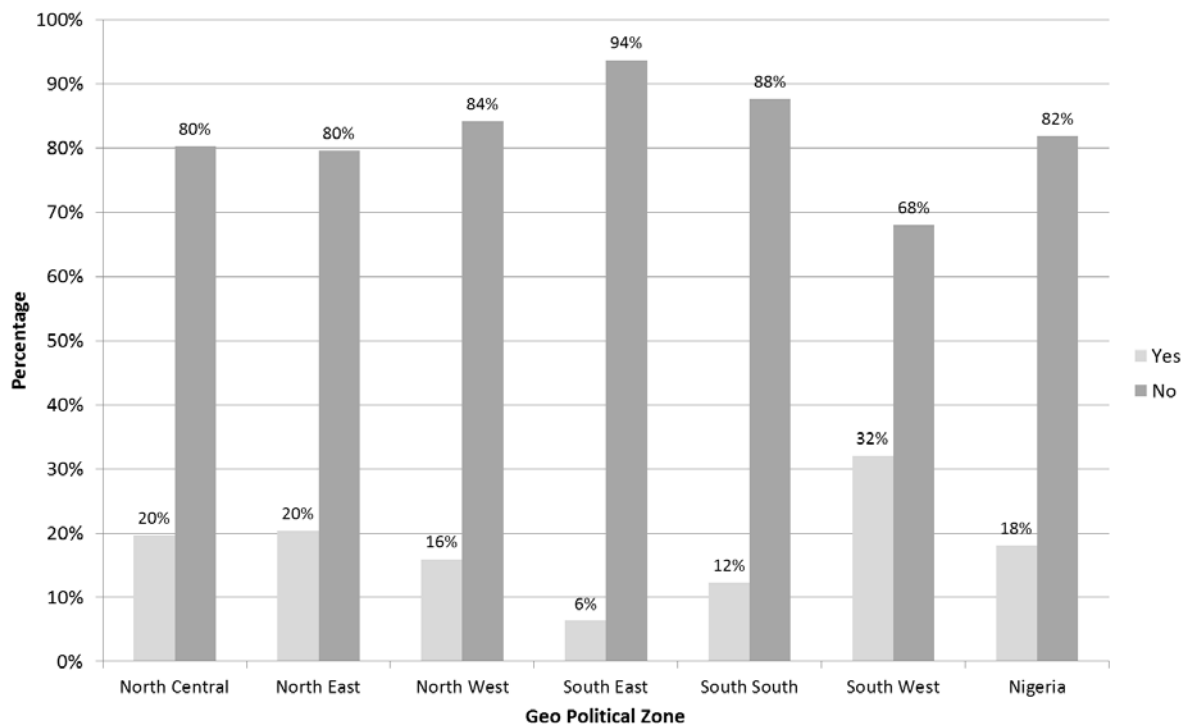
Learn more about Project 2011 Swift Count at [www.pscnigeria.org](http://www.pscnigeria.org)

**Chart 1: Registration Centres Open for Display of Register of Voters by Date**



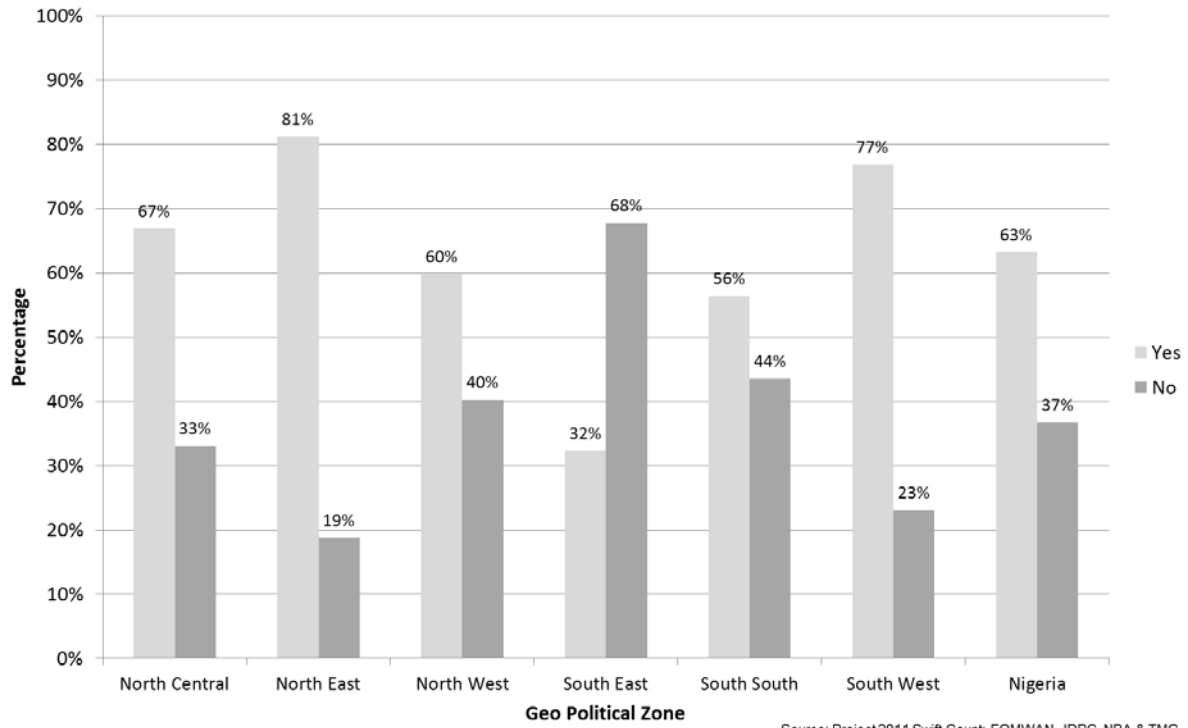
Source: Project2011 Swift Count: FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA & TMG

**Chart 2: Registration Centres Open for Display of Register of Voters by Geo Political Zone for Monday February 14, 2011 (LGAs = 752)**



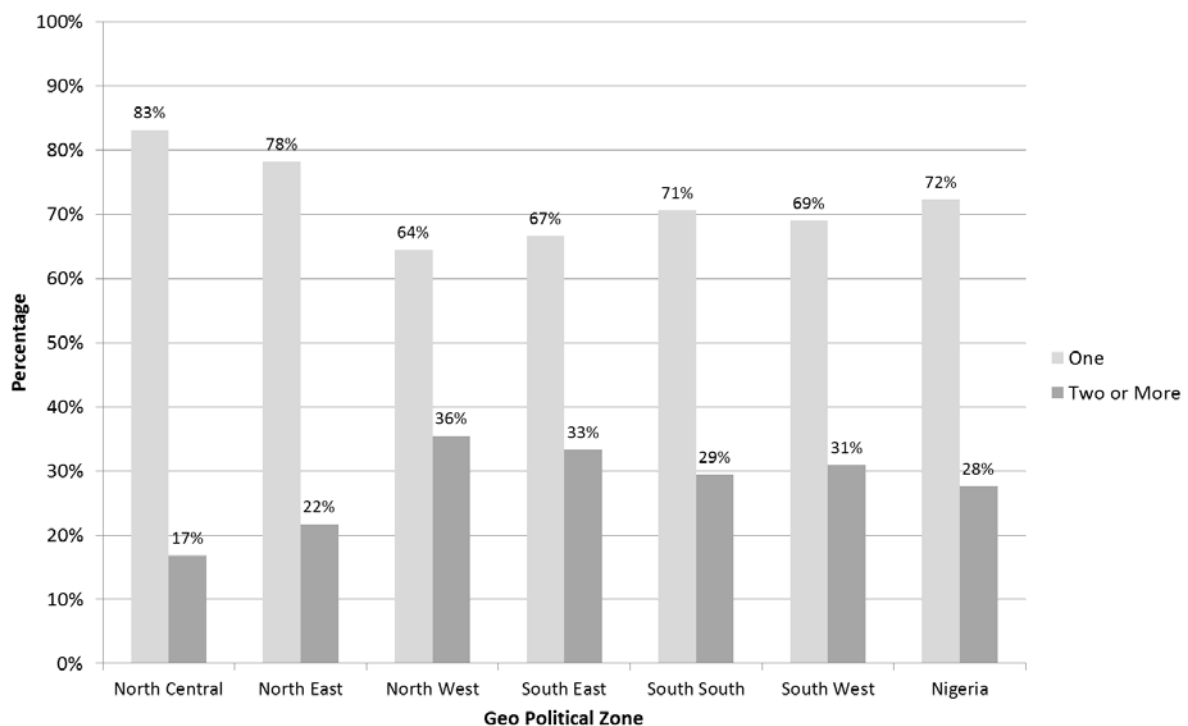
Source: Project2011 Swift Count: FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA & TMG

**Chart 3: Registration Centres Open for Display of Register of Voters by Geo Political Zone for Thursday February 17, 2011 (LGAs = 760)**



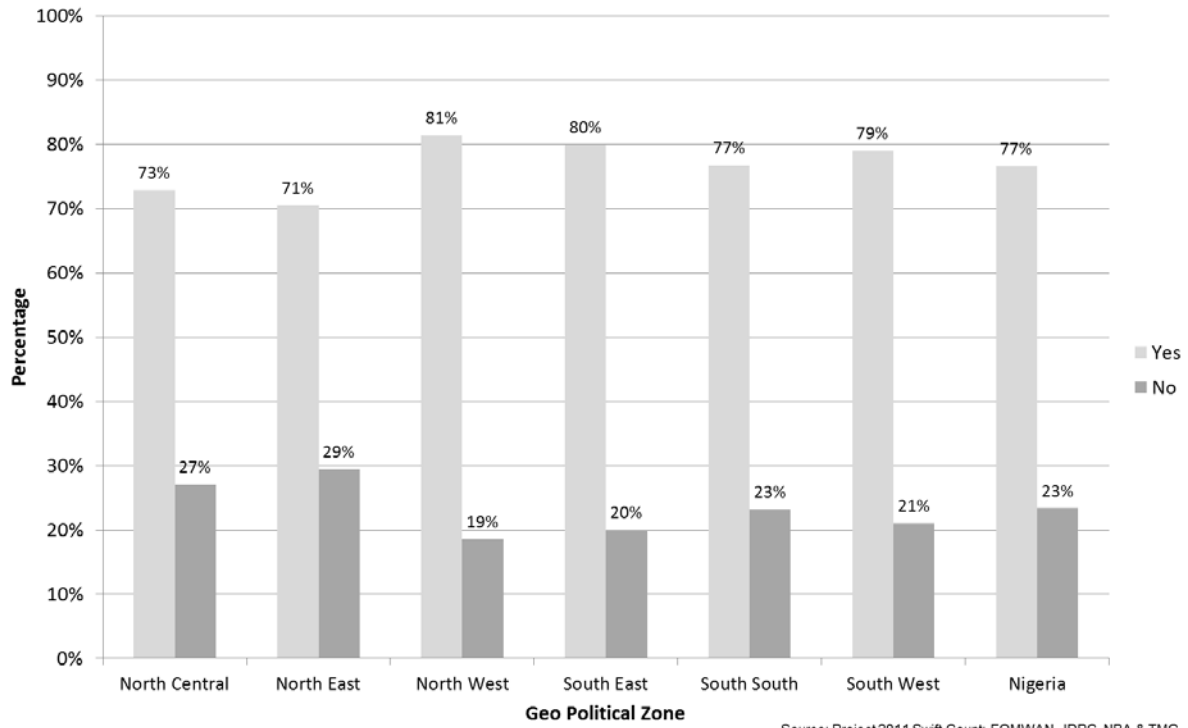
Source: Project2011 Swift Count: FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA & TMG

**Chart 4: Number of Registration Officials Present at Centres for Display of Register of Voters for Thursday February 17, 2011 (LGAs = 462)**



Source: Project2011 Swift Count: FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA & TMG

**Chart 5: Registration Centres where Officials Provided Instructions on Display of Register of Voters for Thursday February 17, 2011 (LGAs = 480)**



**Chart 6: Registration Centres with Political Party Agents Present for Display of the Register of Voters for Thursday February 17, 2011 (LGAs = 484)**

