PRESS STATEMENT ON ELECTION OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE FCT AREA COUNCILS

Date: 24th February 2026
Location: Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
Report: PGI Team

Introduction

Under the volunteering for Democracy project, **Proactive Gender Initiative,** in partnership with the **Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room,** conducted a citizen election observer training as aligned with the commitment to strengthening civic participation and inclusion as part of the year-long activities in the commencement of the 2026 International Year of Volunteer for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026). The training and deployment of citizen observers is aimed at empowering young citizens to be volunteer-driven and embed volunteering as a civic culture. This preparatory engagement ensured that all volunteer observers were adequately equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to observe the election effectively.

On Saturday, 21 February 2026, PGI utilized a mixed method by deploying both accredited observers and volunteer citizen observers across the six area councils of the Federal Capital Territory for the 2026 Area Council Elections. Our observers were stationed at their polling units to observe the following aspects of the electoral process;

1. Arrival of materials.
2. Security presence and conduct.
3. Opening, voter accreditation.
4. Voting and counting processes.
5. Uploading of results to the IReV.

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CITIZEN REPORT/ASSESSMENT

Based on the real-time reports received from the field, PGI observed and noted the following:

1. late arrival and setup of election materials.
2. Relocation of polling units without adequate information to registered voters. This situation left registered voters stranded with difficulty locating their polling unit on time, and some people went back home without voting.
3. Low voter turnout, especially in AMAC, was observed and reported, including voters being unable to find their names on the register.
4. The BVAS functioned efficiently in the majority of the polling units reported.
5. The election was largely peaceful across the areas observed, with few reports of disruptions.

Our citizen observers maintained close observation and reporting throughout the process to ensure transparency, credibility, and accurate data.

Conclusion

PGI commends the efforts of all its citizen observers who volunteered to participate in the democratic process and diligently exercised their civic responsibilities.

PGI further calls on young Nigerians to harness the transformative power of volunteerism as a catalyst for sustainable development, active civic engagement, and sustained accountability, particularly in addressing the challenges identified in this election. Such commitment will significantly strengthen our electoral integrity and enhance public trust ahead of the 2027 general elections

Signed,
Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI)

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