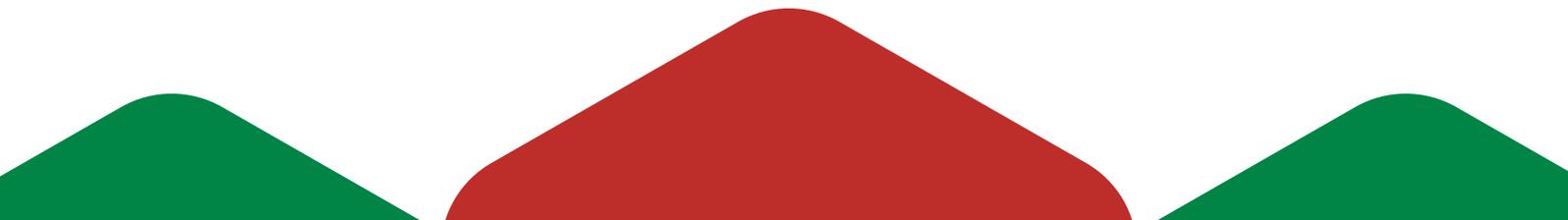




Conduct Of Political Rallies, Processions & Campaigns



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Political Rallies and Processions

1. Political rallies or processions are activities and/or events organised by a Political Party, aspirants as a means of awareness projecting to the people ideas, programme, policies or preferences as contained in its manifestoes, symbols and flags in accordance with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and the Electoral Act, 2022.
2. Rallies and Processions are:
 - i. Characterised by the inclusion of awareness activities to the people by aspirants as well as Political Parties.
 - ii. Permissible by law at any time for Constitutional purposes. There is no time limit.
 - iii. All public activities
3. Political campaigns are public activities and/or events organized by a Political Party as a means of canvassing for votes by publicly projecting to the electorates ideas, programme, policies, achievements as reasons for electorates preference to the policies and programmes of the party as contained in its manifesto.
4. Political campaigns commence only when:
 - i. Notice of election has been issued by the Commission,
 - ii. Party primaries are concluded
 - iii. Candidates (not aspirants) have emerged
 - iv. Campaigns are within 150 days from publication of Notice of Election and ends 24 hours before Election Day.



Objective of Political Rallies

The objective of political rallies is to project, offer, sensitize and create awareness about the party's symbol, flag, slogan, and manifesto.



Target Audience for Political Rallies

The target audience for a rally or procession shall be the general public or specific groups such as women, youth, persons with disability, etc.

Procedure for Conducting Political Rallies

1. A Political Party shall, for purpose of political rally or procession, issue in writing a notice to the Commissioner of Police of the State or the Federal Capital Territory indicating the exact venue and time of the rally or procession and pledging peaceful conduct and control against violence or public nuisance.
2. Political Parties shall transmit to the Commission, through the Electoral Officer at the Local Government Area and the Resident Electoral Commissioner at the State, via a designated portal and also in hard copy, details of the schedule of their political rallies and processions at least 10 days to the date of the political rally or procession. The notice shall be jointly signed by the National Chairman and National Secretary of the Political Party.

Clash of Date, Time or Venue of Political Rallies

1. Where there is conflict in the date, venue or time of the activities of different Political Parties, their representatives shall meet in the presence of the Commission and the Nigeria Police to resolve the issues amicably.
2. Where the Parties are unable to resolve the conflict amicably or between themselves, the Commission shall request the Political Party that submitted its notice later in time to reschedule its campaign, meeting, rally, procession, congress, convention or other activities for effective monitoring.

Conduct not Permissible During Political Rallies

1. No person attending a political rally or procession shall be in possession of any offensive weapon, except a police officer or a member of a security agency authorized to carry arms and is specifically posted to be present at that political rally or procession.
2. No political rally or procession shall hold in places designated as religious centres, police stations and public institutions.
3. Political rallies or processions shall not involve the use of abusive language or any form of hate speech.
4. Political rallies or processions shall not involve the use of physical force or coercion by organised groups or individuals.





Political Public Campaigns

Political campaign is canvassing for votes by Political Parties and Candidates by way of processions, rallies, electronic, social and traditional or print media advertisements, posters, hand bills and house to house contact with voters, print and electronic or social media. Political campaigns shall include, though not limited to, print and electronic media advertisement by public and private media organisations, internet advertising, house-to-house calls on voters, marches, gatherings, receptions, fund raising, courtesy calls, public displays of party flags, entertainment, posters, handbills or billboards in public places such as markets, schools, streets, highways, air-display, audio visuals, painted vehicles, use of public address system in vehicles, fences of aspirants, candidates, supporters, party officials, private houses, as well as internet and social media networks.



Procedure for Conducting Political Campaigns

1. Political Parties shall submit to the Commission, in soft copy through a designated portal and in hard copy, notification of the schedule of their campaigns, stating the date, time, venue, agenda and list of members of the Organising Committee and Police approval within the jurisdiction of the campaigns, within a minimum period not later than 10 days to the commencement of their campaigns.
2. Campaigns by Political Parties and their Candidates shall be based on their Constitution and Manifestoes, and shall comply with the provisions of:
 - (i) Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties 2022 issued by the Commission;
 - (ii) Political Parties Code of Conduct;
 - (iii) Regulations and Guidelines that may be issued by the National Broadcasting Commission; and
 - (iv) COVID-19 safety protocols and other public health regulations and measures.



Target Audience for Political Campaigns

The target audience of political campaign shall be registered voters. The programmes, policies and projects of political parties are offered to voters and achievements of programme where applicable as contained in the political party's Constitution and Manifesto.



Period of Political Campaigns

Political campaigns shall hold only at appointed times in accordance with the Electoral Act 2022 and other regulations and guidelines issued by the Commission. The period appointed for political campaigns could be any time within the 150 days before an election stipulated for commencement of political campaigns and 24 hours prior to the polling day provided for cessation of political campaigns in the Electoral Act, 2022.



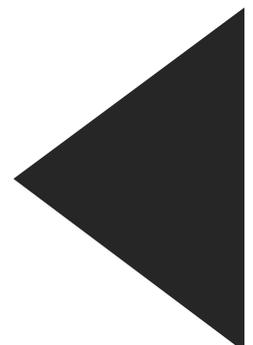
Clash of Date, Time or Venue of Political Campaigns

1. Where there is conflict in the date, venue or timing of the activities of different political parties, their representatives shall meet in the presence of the Commission and the Nigeria Police to resolve the issues amicably.
2. Where the parties are unable to resolve the conflict amicably between themselves, the Commission shall request the Political Party that submitted its notice and Police approval or where the presence of representative of Police is not feasible at the time, prove of written approval of the Commissioner of Police that is earliest in time shall be a guide to resolve the conflict and later in time to reschedule its campaign.



Conduct not Permissible During Political Campaigns

1. No person attending a political campaign shall be in possession of any offensive weapon, except a Police Officer or a member of a security agency authorised to carry arms and is specifically posted to be present at that political campaign.
2. No political campaign shall hold in places designated as religious centres, police stations and public offices.
3. Political campaign shall not involve the use of abusive languages or any form of hate speech.
4. State apparatus including the media shall not be employed to the advantage or disadvantage of any Political Party or candidate at any election.



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