

Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties, 2022



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FOREWORD

This Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties 2022 is an update of separate previous guidelines and regulatory framework for the management and regulation of Political Parties.

The consolidation of these regulations and guidelines into a single one on Political Party operation and organisation is intended to ensure that all stakeholders have a single, complete knowledge of the processes in line with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and the Electoral Act, 2022.

This will serve as a concise guide on the duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Political Parties, aspirants, candidates, supporters, Party Agents, individuals and the electorate in electioneering processes.

The Commission as a regulatory body is empowered by law to monitor these duties, responsibilities and liabilities embedded in the functions of the Commission at Paragraph 15(E) Third Schedule Part I of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). These include:

- i. to organize, undertake and supervise all elections into elective National and State Executive offices and National, State and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Legislative offices;
- ii. to register Political Parties
- iii. to monitor the organisation and operation of Political Parties including their finances, conventions, congresses and Party Primaries;
- iv. to average for annual examination and auditing of the funds and accounts of Political Parties information;
- v. to monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations which shall govern the Political Parties (before during campaigns and after elections:)
- vi. to delegate some of these functions to the States and FCT through the Resident Electoral Commissioners; and
- vii. to carry out such after functions within the enabling laws to facilitate the mandate of the Commission.

It is the practice of the Commission to ensure that electioneering processes and procedures are made simple and clear to all stakeholders. This Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties, 2022 will ensure that the vision of the Commission to be one of the best election management bodies in the world is attained. It represents our continued commitment to a well-regulated and managed electoral process.

Finally, I thank the Election and Party Monitoring Committee and the Election and Party Monitoring Department of the Commission for producing this revised Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties, 2022. I also thank the European Union Support for Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN II) Project implemented by DAI Consortium for supporting the review process.

Professor Mahmood Yakubu
Chairman

Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties, 2022

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) herein referred to as “the Commission” issues the following Regulations and Guidelines for political parties. They consolidate, update and supersede all other regulations and/or guidelines pertaining to political parties issued by the Commission and shall remain in force until replaced by new Regulations and Guidelines or updated by way of revisions or supplementary regulations and guidelines.



PART I – REGISTRATION AND DE-REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Definition of an Association

1. An association, for the purpose of these Regulations and Guidelines, is defined as an organisation or group of persons seeking registration as a political party.

Procedure for Application for Registration

2. The procedure for application for registration as a political party shall be as follows:
 - i. An association intending to register as a political party shall submit its application to the Commission not later than 12 months before a general election.
 - ii. An association intending to be registered as a political party shall submit a letter of intent along with its proposed name, symbol and acronym to the Commission. The Commission shall within 90 days of receipt of the letter of intent, convey in writing provisional approval of the availability and suitability or otherwise of the proposed name, symbol and acronym to the association.
 - iii. The Commission shall reserve the proposed name, symbol and acronym for a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of conveying the provisional approval.
 - iv. The association shall within 30 days from the receipt of

provisional approval, make payment of an administrative fee as determined by the Commission and obtain a receipt from the Commission.

- v. If the association fails to comply with Clause 2(iv) above, the process shall be terminated and the name, acronym and logo shall no longer be available to the association.
- vi. Upon receipt of evidence of payment, the Chairman of the Commission shall issue an Access Code to the Chairman or Secretary of the association for download and submission of Form EC 15A (1). The Form EC 15A (1) shall be completed, uploaded and submitted to the Commission's dedicated portal within 30 days of issuance of the Access Code. The Form EC 15A(1) shall be submitted together with soft copies of the following documents:
 - a. Constitution of the proposed political party;
 - b. Proposed manifesto of the political party;
 - c. Title deed, tenancy agreement or other evidence of lawful occupation of its headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory;
 - d. Register of members of the

association which includes their names, addresses, phone numbers and email; and

- e. A sworn affidavit by the National Chairman or National Secretary of the association confirming the authenticity of the information and contents of the documents.
- vii. A hard copy of form EC 15A(1) and all the accompanying documents shall also be submitted to the Commission.
- viii. The Commission shall upon receipt of the online application form and other accompanying documents vet the application and within 60 days, communicate the outcome of this prima facie evaluation to the association. Where the application fails, the reasons for the failure shall be clearly stated and the application shall be terminated.
- ix. Where the prima facie evaluation is successful, the association's application shall be processed in line with these Regulations and Guidelines.
- x. The prima facie evaluation shall involve an evaluation and vetting of the Form EC 15A(1) and accompanying documents to ascertain that they are complete and meet all the legal and administrative requirements for further processing of the application.
- xi. Where at any stage of the registration process it is discovered that the same set of persons submitted more than one application, or that any aspect of the submission is false, such an application shall be invalidated.

Processing of Application for Registration

- 3. Where an association seeking registration as a political party meets all the requirements for processing its application based on the prima facie evaluation, its application shall be processed by verifying the

claims of the association, including site visits to ensure compliance with the requirement for registration as a political party, as specified by law.

Verification of Claims by the Commission

- 4. The Commission, in verifying the claims of an association, shall, among other things, ascertain whether:
 - i. The National Executive Committee of the association reflects the Federal Character Principle which requires that members of the National Executive Committee must come from at least 24 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory
 - ii. The Constitution and Manifesto of the association comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022 and these Regulations and Guidelines.
 - iii. The name, acronym, motto, or symbol do not offend the provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022 and these Regulations and Guidelines.
 - iv. The Constitution and Manifesto of the association conform to the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as contained in Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).
 - v. The names and addresses of the national officers of the association shall be verified when supported with the following documents:
 - (a) Proof of identity of each member with either a valid Driver's License, International Passport, National Identity Card or Permanent Voter's Card;
 - (b) Indigene certificate confirming that members of the National Executive Committee are indigenes of the States indicated against their names in Form EC 15A(1);

(c) Physical attendance of members of the National Executive Committee during the verification in line with the COVID-19 safety protocol and other public health protocols; and

(d) Evidence of payment of the prescribed administrative fee as determined by the Commission.

Conditions for Registration as a Political Party

5. No association by whatever name called shall be registered as a political party unless the association submits to the Chairman of the Commission the following documents, which shall be administratively checked to ensure conformity with the checklist or verification criteria for registration:

- i. The names, residential addresses and states of origin of members of its National Executive Committee and the records of proceeding of meeting where these officers were elected.
- ii. The minutes of the meeting of members of its National Executive Committee indicating approval and adoption of the Name, Acronym, Constitution, Manifesto and Symbol and Flag of the proposed political party.
- iii. The membership register of the Association to be submitted in both hard and soft copies.
- iv. Evidence of payment of an administrative fee as prescribed by the Commission.
- v. The name and acronym of the Association, which shall:
 - (a) Not be the same as the name or acronym of an existing party or any known registered political party or too similar as to create confusion or doubt in the mind of an ordinary voter during an election;
 - (b) Not have any ethnic, religious, professional or other sectional connotation; and
 - (c) Not give the appearance that its activities are confined to only

a certain part of the country.

- vi. A provision in the Association's Constitution showing that membership is open to every citizen of Nigeria.
- vi. A copy each of the Association's Constitution and Manifesto which must contain among other things:
 - (a) The association's name, symbol and flag, motto, aims and objectives, the distinctive description and interpretation of the symbol and flag;
 - (b) Provisions for periodic elections, on democratic basis, of the principal officers and members of the National Executive Committee or other governing bodies;
 - (c) Provision of an administrative structure for the association;
 - (d) A provision that the membership of the National Executive Committee or other governing bodies of the association reflect the Federal Character Principle of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended);
 - (e) A provision showing that the Constitution and Manifesto of the Association conform to the provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022 and these Regulations and Guidelines. The manifesto shall spell out ideologies and programmes of the party in conformity with Chapter II of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended);
 - (f) A provision relating to disciplinary procedure of the association clearly stating the method of expelling, replacement, resignation and appointing an ordinary member, party official, political office holder, including persons elected to public office on the platform of the association or party;

- (g) A provision relating to the method of amendment or alteration of the Constitution of the Association; and
 - (h) A provision stating that the National Headquarters of the Association is situated in the Federal Capital Territory.
- viii. A register showing the names, contact addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of persons in at least 24 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory who are National Executive Committee (NEC) members of the association, as listed in Form EC 15A(1).
- ix. The address of its Headquarters office in Abuja, including:
- (a) Evidence of appointment of each administrative staff listed in Form EC 15A(1);
 - (b) Evidence of legal occupation of office accommodation in the Federal Capital Territory; and
 - (c) Evidence of bank accounts of the political party and signatories to the accounts.

Symbol and Flag of an Association

6. The symbol or flag of the association must not portray any of the following:
- (i) Coat of Arms of the Federation.
 - (ii) Coat of Arms of any other country.
 - (iii) Any device or emblem which is normally associated with any of the following:
 - (a) The official acts of Government;
 - (b) Any of the Armed Forces of the Federation or Nigeria Police Force or other uniformed service;
 - (c) The regalia of a traditional ruler, title holder, chief, etc.;
 - (d) Any tribe or ethnic group;
 - (e) Any religion or cult; and
 - (f) Any portrait of a person living or dead;
- (iv) Any symbol or part of a symbol which continues to be registered by another political party, political association or any public organisation.
 - (v) Names, symbols, logo or acronym of deregistered political parties shall not be allotted to any association for a period of five years.

Registration by the Commission

7. (1) Where the Commission at the completion of verification and legal review of the association's application and submission is satisfied that the association has fulfilled all the conditions prescribed for registration as a political party in line with the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022, and these Regulations and Guidelines, the Commission shall register such political association as a political party.
- (2) The new political party shall be issued a signed and sealed Certificate of Registration through its National Chairman or National Secretary on a date set by the Commission.
- (3) Where the Commission is not satisfied that the political association has fulfilled all the conditions prescribed for registration, it shall not register such a political association as a political party, and shall notify the association within 90 days of the Commission's receipt of Form EC 15A(1) and other documents supporting the application.
- (4) In notifying the association of the failure of its application, the Commission shall state in writing the reasons for its refusal to register.
- (5) Any false declaration shall result in non-registration of an association as a political party or the withdrawal of its Certificate of Registration by the Commission.
- (6) An Association's National Executive Committee or any of its principal officer who gives false or misleading information commits an offence and shall be prosecuted by the Commission in line with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 2022.

Withdrawal of Application for Registration

8. (1) An association may withdraw its letter of intent or application for registration as political party in writing at any time before registration or refusal of registration by the Commission.
- (2) Where an association fails to submit Form EC15A(1) and other supporting documents within 30 days of the receipt of registration form, its letter of intent lapses, abates and shall be deemed withdrawn.

Register of Political Parties

9. (1) The Commission shall maintain and update a register of political parties at its headquarters. The register shall contain the names, symbols and acronyms of all registered political parties in Nigeria and their headquarters offices in the Federal Capital Territory in compliance with registration requirements in both the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022.
- (2) A political party, upon being registered, shall ensure at all times that no statutory registration requirements are breached by the party that shall warrant it being deregistered by the Commission.

Merger of Political Parties

10. (1) Merger of political parties for the purpose of these Regulations and Guidelines is the fusion of two or more political parties into one political party in accordance with the Electoral Act 2022 and these Regulations and Guidelines.
- (2) The procedure for merge shall be as follows:
 - (i) The political parties intending to merge shall, respectively, submit in hard and soft copies, a 21 days' notice of conduct of National Convention wherein the proposed name, acronym, symbol, constitution and manifesto of the party to be formed as a result of the merger is approved.
 - (ii) Following the approval of their respective National Conventions, the political parties shall, not later than 90 days to a general election,

each submit to the Chairman of the Commission a letter notifying the Commission of its intention to be part of the merger. The letter shall be submitted in soft copy, through a designated portal of the Commission, and hard copy.

- (iii) The letter of intent shall be signed by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the party and accompanied by:
 - a) The resolution of the National Convention of the party approving the merger;
 - b) Proposed name, acronym, symbol, constitution, manifesto and the address of the proposed national headquarters of the party that will emerge from the merger;
 - c) Documents confirming legal occupancy of the proposed headquarters of the political party in the Federal Capital Territory;
 - d) Evidence of payment of the administrative fee specified by the Commission; and
 - e) Sworn Affidavit in respect of the documents forwarded in support of the application for merger.
- (iv) The Commission shall within 14 days of receipt of the letters of intent to merge from all the political parties intending to merge, convey a provisional approval of the availability and suitability of the proposed name, symbol and acronym to each of them.
- (v) The Commission shall reserve the proposed name, symbol and acronym for a further period not exceeding 14 days from the date of conveying their availability and suitability to the political parties.
- (vi) If after 30 days of conveying the availability and suitability of the name, symbol and acronym of the proposed merged party to each of the parties intending to merge, they fail to submit through the designated portal, the Form EC15A for the new party, as outlined in these Regulations and Guidelines,

the process shall be terminated and the name, symbol and acronym shall no longer be available.

- (vii) The political parties shall within 14 days of receipt of the interim approval of the availability and suitability of the proposed name, symbol and acronym of the new party, convey to the Chairman of the Commission the details of the members of the National Executive Committee of the new party for the time being, which must comply with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022 and these Regulations and Guidelines. This letter shall be jointly signed by the interim Chairman and Secretary of the proposed merged party.
- (viii) Upon receipt of this letter from the proposed merged party, the Chairman of the Commission shall issue an Access Code to the interim chairman of the party for download and submission of form EC 15A(1).
- (ix) All documents submitted online may also be submitted in hard copy to the Commission headquarters.
- (x) On receipt of the completed Form EC 15A(1), the Commission shall within 30 days consider the application received, verify the claims of the political parties intending to merge and communicate its decision to the interim National Executive Committee of the proposed political party.
- (xi) Where the merger is declined, the Commission shall write the respective political parties giving reasons for its decision.
- (xii) Where a merger request is approved, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Registration in the name of the new political party, and withdraw and cancel the certificates of registration of the respective merged political parties.
- (xiii) Within 30 days of receiving Certificate of Registration, the new political party shall provide the Commission 21 days' notice of a National Convention at which

a substantive National Executive Committee of the political party will be elected.

De-registration of Political Parties

- 11. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) empowers the Commission to deregister any political party that violates any or all of the provisions of Section 225(A) of the Constitution.

(1) Conditions for De-registration of Political Parties

A Political Party shall be de-registered by the Commission where:

- (a) it is found to be in breach of any of the registration conditions listed at any time in the operation and administration of the Party including non-submission of financial and election expenses reports as prescribed in the 1999 Constitution FRN and the Electoral Law 2022.
- (b) inability to win any of the prescribed number of seats for elective offices or percentage of votes in a General Election as prescribed at Section 225A of the Constitution of FRN 1999.

(2) The Procedure for De-registration of Political Parties shall be as follows:

- (i) The Commission shall give 21 days' notice to political parties of a verification visit to check compliance status of the political party with the registration requirements provided in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022.
- (ii) The notice shall be delivered at the party's headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory.
- (iii) Where the headquarters of the party is found vacated, the notice shall be published in at least two national newspapers or pasted at the last known address of the political party within two weeks of the visit by the Commission.
- (iv) The Commission will constitute a team to carry out the verification exercise to assigned political party. The team will ascertain the

following:

- (c) Existence of headquarters office of the political party in Federal Capital Territory;
 - (d) Changes to party constitution that may not have been registered as required by law;
 - (e) Existence of party National Executive Committee that did not meet the requirement of the Federal Character Principle as provided in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended);
 - (f) The percentage of votes won by the party at preceding elections;
 - (g) The number of legislative seats or other elective offices held by the party
 - (h) Maintenance of financial books and records; and
 - (i) Maintenance of a membership register.
- (v) Where it is established that a political party is in default of compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Commission shall deregister the political party and a notice to that effect shall be issued to the political party stating the reason(s) for the deregistration.
 - (vi) The notice of deregistration shall be published in at least two national newspapers and the website of the Commission.
 - (vii) The Commission shall also at the end of general elections and the petitions arising therefrom, deregister political parties that fail to satisfy the provisions of Section 225A(b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).
 - (viii) The name, symbol, logo or acronym of a deregistered Political Party shall not be available for registration as Political Party within five years



PART 2: POLITICAL PARTY OPERATIONS

Statutory Notices of Meetings, Congresses and Conventions by Political Parties

12. (1) Every political party shall give the Commission at least 21 days' notice, through a dedicated portal created for that purpose by the Commission, of any convention, congress, conference or meeting convened for the purpose of merger and electing members of its national executive committees, other governing bodies or nominating candidates for any of the elective offices specified in the Electoral Act 2022. A hard copy of the notice may be submitted to the Commission through a registered mail.
- (2) The notice shall indicate the purpose, venue, date, time, and mode (whether virtual or in-person) of the convention, congress, conference or meeting.
- (3) The National Chairman and National Secretary of the political party shall jointly sign the notice of convention, congress, conference or meeting and submit same to the Commission.
- (4) The following documents shall be submitted to the Commission's headquarters and relevant state offices at least 7 days before the convention, congress, conference or meeting:
 - (i) List of planning committee members.
 - (ii) List of delegates.
 - (iii) List of candidates contesting for any position.
 - (iv) Agenda of the meeting.
 - (v) Guidelines for the meeting, congress, primaries or convention.
 - (vi) Ten copies of the Constitution of the party as in the record of the Commission.

Rescheduling of Meetings, Congresses or Conventions

13. (1) A political party intending to change the date, venue and time for its meeting, congress or convention which it had

validly notified the Commission shall give at least 7 days' notice of the new date through the designated portal or in person.

- (2) The notice must be signed by the National Chairman and National Secretary of the political party.
- (3) Any change of date, venue, and time for its convention, congress, conference or meeting shall be communicated to all relevant members of the political party.
- (4) Where there are clashes in the schedules of meeting by political parties, the Commission may request any of the parties to reschedule its meeting for effective monitoring or in public interest.

Compliance with Relevant Laws during Meetings, Congresses or Conventions

14. With regards to the conduct of conventions, congresses, conferences and meetings, the Commission shall deploy monitors that will ensure that political parties are in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022, and these Regulations and Guidelines as well as the Constitution and Guidelines of the various political parties.

Record of National, State, Local Government Area/Area Council, and Ward Executive Committee Members

15. All political parties shall transmit to the Commission, in soft and hard copies, the names, positions, addresses, LGA and State of origin of members of their respective National, State, LGA and Ward Executive Committees, indicating the date and venue of the congress or convention at which they were elected.

Monitoring of Political Party Activities

16. To ensure that the activities of political parties are in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022, and these Regulations and Guidelines as well as

the Constitution and Guidelines of the political parties, the Commission shall deploy monitors who shall:

- (i) Obtain the list of the Convention Planning Committee and crosscheck with the one earlier forwarded to the Commission.
- (ii) Obtain agenda of the meeting, list of delegates, list of aspirants contesting for any position and guidelines for the convention, congress, conference, primaries or meetings and crosscheck with the one earlier forwarded to the Commission.
- (iii) Verify the accreditation process of the persons or delegates expected to vote at the convention, congress, conference or meeting and the mode of voting, as well as confirm whether the mode of voting is in conformity with the Electoral Act 2022 and the Constitution and Guidelines of the political party.
- (iv) Check whether the political party made adequate arrangements for the security of the venue and the delegates.

Procedure for Monitoring the Activities of Political Parties

17. (1) The Monitor should arrive a day before the convention, congress, conference or meeting to locate the venue of the event and how long it will take the Monitor to get there from his or her own location.
- (2) The Monitor should try as much as possible to identify on time and secure accommodation away from the main facility being used by the party for their business and should also try to make use of neutral facilities without obvious party affiliation. This will ensure the neutrality of the monitor and avoid the perception of bias and compromise.
- (3) The Monitor should set out early to get to the venue on time and make allowance for any unexpected change of venue by the political party. If the venue has been changed, the Monitor should crosscheck and be sure that the change was communicated to the Commission within 7 days of the change.
- (4) The Monitor should observe the

convention, congress, conference or meeting even if the venue has been changed and communicated to the Commission. By section 82(2) of the Electoral Act 2022, the Commission may, with or without prior notice to a political party, attend and observe any convention, congress, or meeting convened by the political party.

- (5) The Monitor shall ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and other public health measures throughout the event.

Compliance with Political Party Monitoring

18. (1) Validity of National Executive Committee (NEC)
 - (i) Political parties shall statutorily maintain National Executive Committees that reflect the Federal Character Principle with representation from at least 24 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory.
 - (ii) All executive committees and other governing bodies of a political party shall statutorily be elected at regular intervals not exceeding 4 years.
- (2) Office in Federal Capital Territory
 - (i) Political parties shall statutorily maintain National Headquarters Offices in the Federal Capital Territory, supported with evidence of legal occupation by the party.
 - (ii) Political parties shall statutorily notify the Commission within 30 days of any change in the address of their National Headquarters with evidence of legal occupation.
 - (iii) The Commission shall carry out verification of the National Headquarters and Executive Committees of registered political parties at least once a year.
 - (iv) The Commission shall give the political parties at least 21 days' notice before the verification exercise.

Provision of Information or Clarification on Political Party Activities

19. The Commission, through its monitors, may seek information or clarification from any political party in connection

with any activities of the political party.

Polling Agents

20. (1) Each political party, in consultation with its candidate(s), may appoint a polling agent for each polling unit and collation centre in the Constituency for which it has candidate to represent it during distribution of election materials, accreditation and voting, collation of results or any other electoral activity that may require the attention of the political party.
- (2) All political parties intending to appoint polling agents may upload, through the polling agent's portal, the particulars of its agents including:
 - (i) Passport photograph.
 - (ii) Means of identification (photocopy of National Identity Card, Permanent Voters Card, International Passport, or Drivers' License).
 - (iii) Sample signature of each Agent.
- (3) The list of polling agents shall be submitted on the Political Party Polling Agent Portal within the period stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for election in accordance with the provision of Section 43 of the Electoral Act, 2022.
- (4) Persons holding political office shall not be nominated as polling agents unless they are candidates in the election.
- (5) The Commission shall accredit and issue identity cards to all polling agents.
- (6) The identity cards of accredited polling agents shall be collected at the Commission's offices.
- (7) Only accredited polling agents shall be granted access during registration of voters, distribution of election materials, accreditation and voting, collation of results, or any electoral activity requiring the attention of political parties.
- (8) All polling agents shall wear their identification tag issued by the Commission showing their photograph, name, political party, and designation.
- (9) Polling agents shall conduct themselves in an orderly manner in accordance with the rules, code of ethics, laws governing the electoral process and shall engage in dialogue and other peaceful means to resolve any issue they may have during electoral activities.
- (10) All polling agents shall cooperate fully and abide by the instructions of the registration or election officials.
- (11) No polling agent shall directly or indirectly influence any voter at the polling unit.



PART 3: CONDUCT OF POLITICAL PARTY PRIMARIES

Monitoring of Political Party Primaries

21. The Commission shall monitor all political party primaries conducted for the purpose of electing flag bearers of the party in an election.

Guidelines for the Conduct of Political Party Primaries

22. (1) A political party seeking to nominate candidates for any election organised by the Commission shall provide appropriate guidelines for the conduct of its primaries, wherein eligible members of the party must be given equal opportunity to participate.
- (2) The guidelines shall be transmitted to the Commission through the designated portal not later than 10 days to the date of the primaries.
- (3) Political parties must not make rules or impose conditions that could exclude aspirants on the basis of sex, religion, ethnicity, wealth, physical disabilities, or circumstances of birth.
- (3) No political party shall set criteria or conditions to pre-qualify an aspirant to contest in its primaries as candidate, except such conditions are in line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act 2022, the Constitution of the party (as registered with the Commission), as well as other regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission.

Timeline for Conduct of Political Party Primaries

23. The dates for the conduct of political party primaries should be in line with the timetable and schedule of activities for election issued by the Commission.

Notification for Political Party Primaries

24. (1) A political party shall submit notice of primaries jointly signed by its National Chairman and National Secretary through the designated portal and a hard copy of same addressed to the Chairman of the Commission indicating

the type, date, venue and time, not later than 21 days to the date of its primaries.

- (2) Any political party intending to change the date, venue and time for its primaries shall submit a notice of change to the Commission in soft and hard copies, not later than 7 days to the date of its primaries clearly stating the reason(s) for rescheduling.
- (3) Every political party shall publish the venues, dates, times, guidelines, procedures and other relevant information of its primaries for the purpose of nominating candidates of the party in at least two national newspapers not later than 10 days before the date of the primaries.

Types of Political Party Primaries

25. (1) In line with Section 84(2) of the Electoral Act 2022, three types of party primaries are allowed, namely direct, indirect or consensus primaries.
- (2) A party must clearly state the type of primaries it intends to adopt in its guidelines.
- (3) A Political Party that intends to change the type of Party Primaries already forwarded to the Commission in its guidelines shall notify the Commission three (3) days before the date of primaries and state reasons for the change in the notice

Direct Primaries

26. A political party that intends to organize its primaries by direct method shall submit to the Commission a soft copy of its membership register pertaining to the constituency for which nomination is being organized, not later than 30 days before the date of the primaries. The Commission may publish the register on its website and make it available to aspirants or any verified member of Political Party on the payment of the requisite fee for a Certified True Copy (CTC) of the membership register.

Indirect Primaries

27. (1) A political party that intends to organize its primaries by indirect or consensus method shall transmit to the Commission, through a designated portal, at least, not later than 10 days to the date of the primaries, the certified list of delegates expected to vote at the primary.
- (2) The list of delegates shall indicate the names, addresses, contact phone numbers and party membership number of the said Delegates.
- (3) The delegates lists shall be a true and certified list that emerged from the congress elections of the Political Party and monitored by the Commission.
- (4) The political party shall also transmit through a designated portal to the Commission its membership register to be used in the conduct of congress election for delegates for the indirect primaries.

Consensus Primaries

28. Where a political party adopts consensus primaries, the written consent of all cleared aspirants for the position shall be submitted to officials deployed by the Commission to monitor the primaries at the venue of the primaries. The written consent shall form part of annexure of report by the monitors.

Criteria for Nomination of Candidates

29. (1) A political party shall not impose nomination qualification or disqualification criteria, measures or conditions on any aspirant or candidate for any election in its constitution, guidelines or rules for nomination of candidates for elections, except as provided for in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).
- (2) The total fees, charges, dues and any payment imposed by the political party on an aspirant shall not exceed the limit set by the Electoral Act, 2022 and the Regulations and Guidelines issued by the Commission where applicable.
- (3) The National Chairmen and National Secretaries of political parties as

contained in the Commission's records shall be issued Access Codes for the electronic submission, withdrawal and substitution of names and particulars of their candidates as elected at the political party primaries and monitored by the Commission.

- (4) Where there are conflicting requests from the National Chairman and National Secretary of a political party, the Access Code shall be issued to the National Chairman of the party.

Procedure for Conduct of Political Party Primaries

30. (1) The conduct of political party primaries shall commence at the time and venue contained in the relevant notice communicated to the Commission by a political party.
- (2) Monitors deployed by the Commission may intervene during the conduct of primaries and advise political parties on areas of non-compliance to relevant laws.

Outcome and Result of Political Party Primaries

31. (1) The result of every primary to elect candidates of political parties for an election to be conducted by the Commission shall be recorded in the Outcome of Political Party Elections Form (Form EC 16B) issued by the Commission.
- (2) Disputes arising from the conduct of party primaries may be resolved by internal party mechanisms and/or the use of the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) platform.

Required Documents for the Conduct of Political Party Primaries

32. The following documents shall be required for the conduct of primaries:
 - (i) Notice of the primaries.
 - (ii) Register of members.
 - (iii) List of aspirants seeking nomination to contest for the relevant elective offices.
 - (iv) List of members of the election committee of the party conducting the primaries.

- (v) List of delegates for the primaries who were elected at Party congresses and monitored by the Commission. If indirect or consensus method is adopted.
- (vi) The constitution of the party as registered with the Commission.
- (vii) Any other document that may be determined by the Commission from-time to- time.

Submission of List of Candidates and Nomination Form

- 33.(1) Political parties shall use the Access Codes provided by the Commission to upload the names and particulars of their candidates using the prescribed Forms EC 09 (formerly CF 001) and EC 09A (formerly CF 002) as provided on the website of the Commission.
- (2) The completed Forms EC 09 and EC 09A signed by the National Chairman and National Secretary of the political party shall be uploaded to the portal

prescribed by the Commission along with relevant covering letter addressed to the Chairman of the Commission (hard copies of the documents should be submitted at the headquarters of the Commission)

- (3) Submission of list of candidates shall close by 6pm on the last day of submission as provided in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for Election issued by the Commission.
- (4) Political parties shall submit the nomination forms of their candidates to the Commission as provided in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for Election.
- (5) Where a candidate emerges by consensus, the written consent of all cleared aspirants for the position shall be uploaded to the Commission's portal together with the particulars of the consensus candidate as indicated at (10, (2) and (40 of this paragraph



PART 4: CONDUCT OF POLITICAL RALLIES, PROCESSIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

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, programs, policies or preferences as contained in its manifestoes, symbols and flags in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022.
- (2) (a) Rallies and Processions are characterized by the inclusion of awareness activities to the people by aspirants as well as Political Parties
(b) Rallies and Processions are permissible by law at any time for Constitutional purposes. There is no time limit.
(c) Rallies, Processions and Campaigns are 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, programs, 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:
 - a. Notice of election has been issued by the Commission,
 - b. Party primaries are concluded
 - c. Candidates have emerged (Note not aspirants)
 - d. Campaigns are within 150 days from publication of Notice of Election and ends 24 hours before poll day.

Objective of Political Rallies

34. 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

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

Procedure for Conducting Political Rallies

36. (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

37. (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

38. (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

39. 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

40. (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 organizing 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

41. 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

42. 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

45. (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 later in time to reschedule its campaign.

Conduct not Permissible during Political Campaigns

44. (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.



PART 5: FINANCES AND ELECTION EXPENSES OF PARTIES, CANDIDATES AND ASPIRANTS

Individual Contribution to a Political Party or Aspirant

45. (1) The maximum amount of money or other assets that an individual, a group of individuals or an entity can donate to a political party or aspirant for an election shall be N50,000,000.
- (2) A political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution which is more than N50,000,000 except it identifies and discloses the source of the contribution to the Commission.
- (3) Contribution to Political Party by individuals or entity may be made at anytime within the electoral cycle and include contribution for election expenses within 360 days to election.
- (4) Contribution to candidates by an individual or entity shall be from 150 days allowed for campaigns to Election Day.
- (5) Contribution to aspirants by an individual or entity shall be from the date notice of election is published to the conclusion of Party Primaries.

Election Expenses

46. (1) Election expenses of Political Party mean all expenses in cash or otherwise incurred by a political party or candidates as well as party primary expenses of aspirants from the date notice of election is published to the of election only. They exclude expenses

incurred before the publication of Notice of Election.

- (2) Election expenses of off season or other elections shall relate to period between publication of notice for particular election by the Commission and date of election.
- (3) The election expenses of a candidate shall not exceed the limits prescribed in the Electoral Act, 2022.
- (4) The election expenses of a political party shall be in three parts:
- i. For the management of aspirants and party primaries.
 - ii. For management of candidates and conduct of elections
 - iii. For miscellaneous election expenses
- (5) The election expenses of a Political Party for management of party primaries shall not exceed two-third (2/3) of the limits prescribed for candidates' expenses in the Electoral Act 2022 for respective elective positions.
- (6) The election expenses of a Political Party for conduct of elections shall not exceed two-third the limit of election expenses of each candidate multiplied by the number of candidates the Political Party shall sponsor in a particular election for elective positions.
- (7) The miscellaneous election expenses of a Political Party shall include but not

limited to:

- i. Pre-election cases against the party
- ii. Post-election or election petitions
- iii. Re-mobilization of Party members after elections

Submission of Annual Statement of Assets and Liabilities of Political Parties

47. Every political party shall submit to the Commission, detailed annual statement of its assets and liabilities and analysis of its sources of funds and other assets, together with statement of its expenditure between 1st January and 30th March of the succeeding year in hard and soft copy.

Disclosure and Forfeiture of Funds received from outside Nigeria

48. Every political party shall notify the Commission of and transfer to the Commission any funds or other assets remitted or sent to it from outside Nigeria within 21 days of receipt. Where needed, the political party shall provide such information as may be required by the Commission.

Submission of Party Election Expenses Report

49. (1) Every political party that participated in an election shall submit to the portal designated by the Commission an audited report of its election expenses within 6 months after an election.
- (2) The reporting period shall commence 360 days to, and including, the polling day.
- (3) The report shall be signed by the auditors of the political party and counter signed by the National Chairman of the political party supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of the content of the report.
- (4) The report shall show the amount of money expended by or on behalf of the political party on election expenses, the items of the expenditure and commercial value of goods and services received for the purposes of election.

- (5) Every political party shall publish the election expenses report it submitted to the Commission in at least two national newspapers and on its website.

Submission of Election Contribution Report

50. (1) Every political party sponsoring the election of a candidate shall submit to the portal designated by the Commission a report of the contributions made to it by individuals and entities within 3 months after the announcement of the results of an election.
- (2) The report shall indicate the names, addresses, occupation of donor(s) and the amount of money donated.

Submission of Election Contributions and Election Expenses Report of Candidates

51. Every political party shall ensure that its candidates:
 - (1) Maintain a detailed record of all contributions as well as any other source(s) of funds, and the record shall include names, addresses, and occupation of the donor(s) and amount donated.
 - (2) Maintain proper books of account and records of all expenses incurred during a political campaign.
 - (3) Do not accept or keep in his or her possession any money anonymously donated or other contributions, gifts or property from any source whatsoever.
 - (4) Disclose to the Commission, records of all contributions and other sources of funds for their campaign, as well as records of expenditure in a prescribed format as may be issued by the Commission.
 - (5) Submit detailed audited returns of their campaign expenses to the Commission within 6 months after an election.
 - (6) The audited returns of campaign expenses submitted by a political party shall:
 - (i) Indicate details of donations, other sources of funding, expenditure on goods, services and sundry expenses incurred for

- the purpose of an election;
- (ii) Be submitted to the Commission in a separate audited return within 6 months after an election;
 - (iii) Be signed by auditors of the political party and counter signed by the Chairman of the political party; and
 - (iv) Be supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of its contents.
- (7) The Commission may remind political parties of their obligation to submit required reports to the Commission in accordance with the provision of Section 90(4) of the Electoral Act, 2022; and applicable sanction(s) for failure

to comply as provided in Section 89(4) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

Amendments, Supplements and Schedules

54. These Regulations and Guidelines are made pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022. The Commission may from time to time make additional regulations and guidelines for purposes of regulating political parties in the form of amendments to these Regulations and Guidelines, supplements to it or as Schedules all of which shall form part and parcel of these Regulations and Guidelines.

Dated at Abuja this 18th day of October 2022


Professor Mahmood Yakubu
Chairman

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