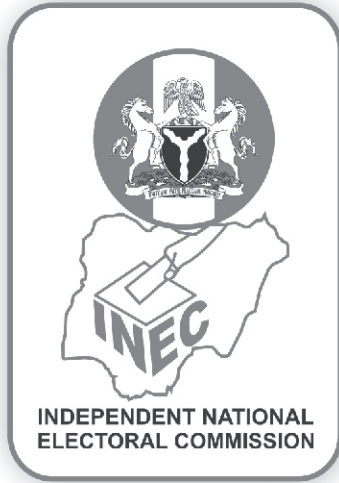




# **REGULATION FOR THE CONDUCT OF POLITICAL PARTY PRIMARIES**



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## FORWARD

The Regulations for the conduct of Political Party primaries is aimed at highlighting the salient principles and documentation for the successful conduct of political party primaries.

It is based not only on the legal requirements for the conduct of party primaries but outlines the democratic principles that should govern the process of nomination of candidates by political parties.

I am convinced that when all political parties adopt and endeavor to fully implement the Regulations for the Conduct of Political Party Primaries, our democratic environment will be greatly enhanced and a more transparent electoral system will be established.

I therefore commend this Regulations issued by the Commission not only to Political Party Executives but to all Stakeholders with the desire to promote institutionalization of our political parties and growth of our democracy.



Professor Attahiru M. Jega, OFR  
Chairman, INEC

Pursuant to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) particularly Paragraph 15, Part 1 of the Third Schedule and the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) the Independent National Electoral Commission (the Commission) hereby issues the following regulations on the holding and conduct of political party primaries for the nomination of candidates for various positions:

1. A political party seeking to participate in any election organized by the Commission must conduct primaries, wherein all eligible members of the party must be given equal opportunity to participate in the primaries of the party for the purpose of selecting candidates for elective positions.
2. Political parties must not create rules or impose conditions or set high expression of interest or nomination fees that could exclude aspirants on the basis of sex, religion, ethnicity, circumstance of birth or wealth. Party rules and conditions for nomination
3. The Commission may of its own motion or based on a complaint made by any member of a political party, determine that any of the rules, conditions or fees aforesaid is excessive, unreasonable or in violation of these regulations and may require that such rules, conditions or fees be changed as the Commission may determine.
4. A political party conducting primaries must ensure that aspirants for elective office who are approved to participate in its primaries are eligible to contest in elections as stipulated under the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

5. 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 1999 Constitution, the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), the Constitution of the party, as approved by the Commission, as well as the regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission.
6. The Commission may of its own motion or based on a complaint made by any member of a political party determine that any of the conditions or criteria imposed by a political party to pre-qualify an aspirant to contest its primaries is in violation of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) or the constitution of the party as approved, or the regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission, and require that the party sets aside the said condition or criteria to comply with the law.
7. All political parties must comply with the provisions of the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) that requires that primaries be held by direct or indirect primaries, in addition to complying with all regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission.
8. A political party must submit by written communication to the Headquarters of the Commission and no later than 21 days to the date of its primaries, which of the two methods – direct or indirect primaries, it intends to use in conducting its primaries. **Notification on type of primaries**

9. All political parties must notify the Commission in writing no later than 21 days to the date of the primaries, the specific location and venue, date and time for the conduct of its nomination of candidates into various elective positions. All such notices shall be submitted to the Headquarters of the Commission and signed by the National Chairman and the National Secretary of the political party.

**Notice  
of Primaries**

10. Notices of party primaries shall be accompanied by the following documents:
- a) List of aspirants seeking nomination to contest the relevant elective positions;
  - b) List of members of the election committee of the party conducting the primaries;
  - c) List of delegates for the primaries;
  - d) Fifty copies of the guidelines or rules issued by the party for the conduct of the primaries, congresses or conventions; and
  - e) Ten (10) copies of the Constitution of the party certified by the Commission
  - f) Any other document that the Commission may from time to time determine.
  - g) List of Elected Candidates and their scores (Result Sheets)

**Required  
documentation**

11. A political party that intends to organize its primaries by direct method must ensure that it maintains a proper and duly certified membership register, which must be available for inspection by the Commission, the aspirants and any party member that requests same.

**Party register for  
direct primaries**

12.
  - a) A political party that intends to organize its primaries by indirect method must provide to the Commission no later than seven days to the date of the primaries, the list of electors that will form the delegates for every elective position.
  - b) The list of delegates must include the names, addresses and contact details of the said delegates.
13. All delegates must be of voting age as prescribed by the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) and the 1999 Constitution (as amended)
14. The procedure for the selection of delegates to participate in the nomination of candidates for elective positions must be clearly stipulated in the regulation and governing rules of the party.
15. All political parties must comply with its Rules and Procedure for the selection of delegates who would participate in the primaries.
16. The primaries of the political parties must be held in the presence of officials of the Commission who will make a determination that the primaries have been conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution, the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) and this regulation.
17.
  - a) All political party primaries shall be conducted strictly in compliance with



the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Party and party guidelines for conduct of primaries, congresses and conventions, as well as the regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission.

- b) Conduct of primaries shall commence at the time and venue provided in the relevant notice communicated to the Commission by a political party.
  - c) Rescheduling of any scheduled primary shall be by a written communication to the Commission not later than seven (7) days to the new date, clearly stating the reasons for rescheduling, the new date and the venue.
  - d) The Chairman and/or Secretary of the relevant party Electoral Committee conducting a primary shall provide a signed copy of the result sheet for the primary immediately after a result is declared. The result sheet shall be handed over to the Commission's Monitoring Team at the venue of the primary.
18. Political party primaries must be conducted in easily accessible public venues without restriction against any aspirant or delegate.

19. A political party must only submit to the Commission as candidates, aspirants that have emerged in compliance with these regulations, its rules and regulations and the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended).
20. The Commission shall be empowered to verify the claims made by a political party on its compliance with the provisions of this regulation.
21. The Commission may in verifying the claims of any political party, require the political party to provide it with any specific or other additional information that will enable it carry out its functions.
22. Where the Commission is not satisfied that a political party has carried out its primaries in accordance with the 1999 Constitution (as amended), Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) or its own rules and regulations or in accordance with the regulations, guidelines and directives of the Commission, the Commission shall notify the said political party of its observation within seven (7) days of the conduct of the primaries.
23. In notifying the political party, the Commission shall state the grounds for its determination of non-compliance.
24. A political party so notified shall take steps to comply with all requirements for proper primaries.

25. This regulation is made further to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) in order to ensure to ensure compliance with the legal process of selection of candidates and the conduct of free, fair and transparent primaries by all political parties.

26. This regulation may be reviewed from time to time to conform with amendments to the Constitution and the Electoral Act.

ISSUED IN ABUJA, THIS 27 DAY OF October, 2014

  
**Professor Attahiru M. Jega, OFR**  
**Chairman**