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INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)

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GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION INTO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

and the

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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<u>GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION INTO THE OFFICE OF</u> <u>PRESIDENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY</u>

For the purposes of electing the President and Members of the National Assembly of the Federation, the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") in exercise of the Powers vested in it by Section 4 of Decree No. 17 of 1998 as amended hereby makes the following Guidelines.

1. There shall be Presidential and National Assembly Elections^{*} Presidential at which: and Nationa

- (a) a President shall be elected for the Federat Republic of Nigeria;
- (b) one Senator shall be elected from each of the three Senatorial Districts alloted to each of the 36 States of the Federation and from the one Senatorial District alloted to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and
- (c) one Member of the House of Representatives shall be elected from each of the 360 Federal Constituencies in the Federation.

2. A person shall be qualified for election to the Office of Qua President or the National Assembly if:-

(a) he is a citizen of Nigeria:

- (b) in the case of President, he has attained the age of 40 years;
- (c) in the case of Senator, he has attained the age of 35 years;
- (d) in the case of Member of House of Representatives, he has attained the age of 30 years;
- (e) he has been educated up to at least the School-Certificate level or its equivalent; and
- (f) he is a Member of a Political Party and is being sponsored by that Party.

and National Assembly Elections.

Qualification for election.

3. A person shall not be qualified to contest the Presidential Qualification' and National Assembly elections if:

- (a) under any Law in force in any part of Nigeria, he is adjudged to be a lunatic or is otherwise declared to be of unsound mind;
- (b) he is under a sentence of death imposed upon him by any court or tribunal in Nigeria, or a sentence of imprisonment or fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud (by whatever name called) or for any other offence (other than misdemeanour or simple offence), imposed on him by a court or tribunal;
- (c) he has been found guilty of contravention of the Code of Conduct under the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Decree, 1989;
- (d' he is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in any part of Nigeria or any other country;
- (e) being a person employed in the Public or Civil Service of the Federal or of a State or of a Local Government or Area Council, he has not resigned, withdrawn or retired from such employment thirty days before the date of the election;

(f) he is a member of a secret society;

- (g) he has been indicted for embezzlement of public funds or for bribery or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or an Administrative Panel of Inquiry or a Tribunal under the Tribunals of Inquiry Act or any other law set up by the Federal, State or Local Government which indictment has been accepted by Federal, State or Local Government respectively;
 - (h) he has presented forged Certificate to the Commission:
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(i)	te has been dismissed from the Public or Civil Service of the Federation or of a State or of a Local Government or Area Council;	
(j)	he has been found guilty of an offence involving narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substance by any court or tribunal in Nigeria or in any other country; or	
(k)	he has been adjudged guilty of treason or treason- able felony by any court or tribunal in Nigeria.	
	on shall be qualified to contest the Presidential or ably elections if:-	Additional
(a)	he is ordinarily resident in the Constituency in which he intends to contest the election or is an indigene of that Constituency;	Qualifications for contesting election.
(b)	he is registered as a voter in the Constituency in which he intends to contest the election or is an indigene registered anywhere in the country;	
(c)	he produces evidence of tax payment as and when due for a period of three consecutive years imme- diately preceding the year of the election or is exempted therefrom;	
(d)	in the case of House of Representatives election, he has been nominated in writing by twenty persons from at least two -thirds of the Wards in the Local Government or Area Council making up the Constituency and whose names appear on the register of voters for the Federal Constituency in respect of which the election is to be held;	
• (e) •	in the case of Senatorial election, he is nominated in writing by 30 persons coming from all the Local Government Areas making up the Senatorial District where he intends to contest the election, whose names appear in the register of voters for their respective wards.	
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- (f) in the case of Presidential election, he is nominated in writing by 60 persons spread in at least two-thirds of all the States of the Federation whose names appear in the register of voters for their respective wards;
- (g) in the case of House of Representatives election, he makes to the Commission a non-refundable deposit of N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira);
- (h) in the case of Senatorial election, he makes to the Commission a non-refundable deposit of N20,000.00 (twenty thousand Naira);
- (i) in the case of Presidential election, he makes to the Commission a non-refundable deposit of N100,000.00 (one hundred thousand naira);
- (j) in the case of a Presidential candidate, he has nominated a running mate for the Office of Vice-President

5. Subject to the provisions of any enactment or law, candidates shall campaign for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in the following manner;-

- (a) campaigns shall be within the Constituency in which a candidate intends to contest the election;
- (b) campaigns shall not be allowed within 12 hours preceding the date of the election;
- (c) campaigns or addresses shall be devoted to outlining what the candidate intends to do for the people of his Constituency;
- (d) campaigns or addresses shall not be carried out in Schools, Churches, Mosques or other religious places, Military or Police barracks or stations, public offices and any other place the Commission may forbid from time to time;
- (e) campaigns or addresses shall not be based on sectional, ethnic or religious sentiments or prejudices;

	(f)	either o	or other forms of inducement to voters, directly or indirectly, shall be avoided by ates and their agents; and	
	(g)		e or vile or derogatory language shall not d during campaigns or addresses.	
6. Nation:	-		be eligible to vote at the Presidential and tions if:-	Qualifications of voters.
	(a)	he is a	citizen of Nigeria;	
}	(b)	he has	attained the age of eighteen years;	
	(c)		rdinarily resident in the Ward where he s to vote, or is an indigene of the Ward; and	
	(d)	intends to be p	egistered as a voter in the ward where he s to vote and has obtained a registration card resented at the Polling Station or Unit on y of the election;	
	(e`	on the or Unit	however, a person claims that his name is Register of Voters for the Polling Station b, but that his voter's card is missing or had estroyed, the Presiding Officer shall, if:-	
		(i)	the name of the person is found in the Register of Voters for the Polling Station or Unit; and	
		(ii)	he satisfies himself that the person is not impersonating any other person.	
	allow t	the perso	on to vote.	
7:(1) Voting shall be by open secret ballot and in accordance with the procedure shown in these Guidelines.			Voting by Secret ballot,	
(2)		roughou	ke place on the same day and at the same at the country; as may be announced by the	
8:-(1)	Every	registere	d Political Party shall on or before the 30th	

January, 1999, in the case of National Assembly elections, and 12th February, 1999, in the case of Presidential election, deliver to the Commission;

- (a) in Form C.F. 001 the personal particulars of its candidates for the election as supplied by the candidates; and
- (b) in Form C.F. 002 a list of candidates the Political
 Party proposes to sponsor at the elections.

(2) The Commission shall on or before 7th February, 1999 in the case of National Assembly elections and on 15th February, 1999 in the case of Presidential election, after receipt of the list of candidates and their personal particulars from the Political Parties, deliver to the Political Parties;

- (a) in Form C.F. 003, a List of Candidates who are adjudged qualified to contest the election; and
- (b) where applicable, in Form C.F. 004, a separate List of Candidates disqualified from contesting the elections.

(3) Where a candidate is rejected, the Commission shall allow the Political Party concerned an opportunity to substitute the candidate with another candidate PROVIDED the substitution is made within the time allowed by the Commission for the purpose.

(4) Any person not satisfied with the decision of the State Screening Committee regarding qualification or disqualification of a candidate for National Assembly elections may appeal to the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja for review, using Form C.F. 005 delivered to the Chairman of the Commission on or before the 7th February, 1999.

9:(1) No Political Party shall be allowed to present more than one candidate for the same election to the Commission.

(2) No Political Party shall be allowed to replace a candidate it has presented and who has been screened and cleared oy the Commission.

Form C.F. 005.

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(3) Without prejudice to sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, a Political Party shall be free within the specified time to replace a candidate who has been disqualified by the Commission for any reason.

10:(1) Every candidate shall, before his nomination paper is delivered to the Commission, deposit or cause to be deposited with the Commission the sum specified in Paragraph 4(f)(g) or (h), as the case may be, of these Guidelines, and shall at the time of the delivery of the nomination paper produce and show to the Electoral Officer or the Resident Electoral Commissioner, the official receipt for the said sum.

(2) No nomination shall be valid unless it is backed by the receipt for the deposit made in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph.

11: A candidate or any person nominating him shall obtain the nomination paper in Form E.C. 4CA, E.C. 4C or E.C. 4D as the case may be, from the place appointed by the Commission for the purpose.

12.(1) If after the latest time for the delivery of nomination papers E.C and the withdrawal of candidates for the National Assembly elections, that is one o'clock in the afternoon of the second day before and the election, only one candidate remains duly nominated, that candidate shall be deemed returned unopposed.

(2) If atter the latest time for the delivery of nomination papers and for withdrawal of candidates for the National Assembly elections, more than one candidate remains duly nominated, a poll shall be taken and the candidate with a simple majority of votes cast at the election shall be returned as elected.

 $1\dot{3}(1)$ Where in an election to the Office of President one of the candidates nominated for the election is the only candidate after the close of nomination by reason of the disqualification, withdrawal, incapacitation, disappearance or death of the other candidates the Commission shall extend the time for nomination.

(2) A candidate for an election to the Office of President shall be deemed to have been duly elected to office where being the only candidate nominated for the electionNonrefundable deposit

Nomination papers; Forms E.C. 4A, E.C.4C and E.C.

- (a) he has a majority of Yes votes over No votes cast at the election; and
- (b) he has not less than one-third of the Yes votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

but where the only candidate fails to be elected in accordance with this sub-paragraph, then there shall be fresh nominations.

(3) A candidate for an election to the office of President shall be deemed to have been duly elected where, there being only two candidates for the election:-

- (a) he has the majority of the votes cast at the election; and
- (b) he has not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

(4) If no candidate is duly elected in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) of this paragraph the Commission shall within 7 days arrange for another election between the two candidates, and a candidate at this last election shall become duly elected if he scores a simple majority of the votes cast at the election.

(5) A candidate for an election to the Office of President shall be deemed to have been duly elected where, there being more than two candidates for the election-

- (a) he has the highest number of votes cast at the election; and
- (b) he has not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

(6) Where no candidate is duly elected in accordance with subparagraph (5) of this paragraph, there shall be a second election in accordance with sub-paragraph (7) of this paragraph at which the only candidates shall be-

- the candidate who scored the highest number of (a) votes cast at the election:
- (b) one among the remaining candidates who has the highest number of votes in the highest number of States including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

so however, that where there are more than one candidate with the highest number of votes in the highest number of States including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,¹ one among them with the highest total number of votes cast at the election shall be the second candidate for the election

In default of a candidate duly elected under sub-paragraph (7)(5) of this paragraph, the Commission shall within 7 days of the result of the election held under that sub-paragraph, arrange for another election between the two candidates selected under sub-paragraph (6) of this paragraph, and a candidate at such election shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the Office of President if he has a simple majority of the votes cast at the election.

14:(1) Each candidate may appoint one person as his Party Agent Party for each Polling Station and Collation Centre in the Constituency in which he is contesting the election.

Notice in writing shall be given to the Commission by each (2)candidate not later than two days before the day of the election conveying the names and addresses of his Party Agents and the respective Polling Stations or Units to which they have been assigned by the candidate.

15:(1) No person shall be permitted to vote at any Polling Station Allocation or Unit other than the one at which he is entitled to vote according to his area or location.

of Polling Stations or Units

(2)The Presiding Officer shall regulate the admission of voters to the Polling Station, and shall exclude all other persons except candidates, Party Agents, Poll Clerks, Poll Orderly, Security Personnel and any other person who in his opinion has lawful reason to be admitted.

Agents.

16:(1-) ti=ne sti	pulated by the Commission.	Accredi- tation
(2)	The Presiding Officer shall;	procedure
AF SA	(a) cross-check the voter's card of a person applying for accreditation against the register and may ask the voter if required by a candidate or the Party Agent, the following questions or any of the questions; that is-	
	 (i) "Are you the person whose name is on the register of voters as follows	
	(ii) "Are you a person above 18 years of age?"	
	(b) not accredit any voter who answers the questions in sub- paragraph (2) (a) of this paragraph in the negative;	
	(c) mark the name of the voter in the register with biro;	
	(d) stamp and sign each voter's card at the back with the appropriate stamp and state the date and type of election in code; and	
	(e) enter in Form EC 8A, Statement of Result Form, the number of persons registered to vote at the Polling Station, the number of registered voters accredited, the serial numbers of the ballot papers issued to the Polling Station, the serial numbers of the balance of unused ballot papers and the number of accredited voters standing in the queue at the commencement of voting.	
	e Presiding Officer and the Party Agents shall sign Form EC uthenticate the numbers entered therein.	
and no persons	ached, the Presiding Officer shall declare accreditation closed	Closing of accredita- tion

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18.	At the c (a)	close of accreditation, the Presiding Officer shall- explain the voting procedure to be followed;	Post accredi tation proce
	(b)	introduce the Poll Clerk, Poll Orderly and Party Agents;	dure.
• 	(c)	explain the activities which constitute election offences within the polling zone, including penalties for committing each offence;	
	(d)	call the roll of accredited voters.	
19. Guideli	ines the I	ompliance with the provisions of paragraph 18 of these Presiding Officer shall-	Voting a. National
	(a)	announce the commencement of voting;	Assembly and Presi-
	(b)	request the accredited voters to line up;	dential
	(c)	separate the queue between men and women if, in that area of the country, the culture is such that it does not permit the mingling of men and women in the same queue.	elections.
	(d)	request Security Agents or Poll Orderlies to stand at the end of the queue behind the last accredited voter and request the voters in the queue to show their voter's cards duly stamped by the Presiding Officer;	
:	(e)	issue accredited voters with two ballot papers in the case of National Assembly Election and one ballot paper for Presidential Election:	
	(f)	direct voters to the voting table, where, after thumb- marking the ballot papers/paper secretly, they shall vote in the full view of all present;	
	(g)	count the votes at the close of poll in the presence of the voters;	
	(h)	enter the scores of the candidates in Form E.C. 8A or E.C. 8A (i), as the case may be;	
	(i)	announce loudly the number of votes received by each of the candidates; and	
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	(j)	give copies of Form E.C. 8A or E.C. 8A(1) as the case may be, to the Party Agents and the Police, if available and take the original to the Ward Collation Officer.		
20.	The V	Ward Collation Officer shall:	Collation of	
	(a)	take delivery of all Forms E.C. 8A and E.C. 8A(i) for the Senatorial and House of Representatives elections respectively from the Presiding Officers;	votes for National Assembly Elections	
	(b)	collate the votes entered in Form E.C. 8A, in the case of Senatorial election and Form E.C. 8A (i) in the case of House of Representatives election, using Form E.C. 8B or Form E.C. 8B (i), as the case may be;	at the Wards.	
	(c)	enter the votes in both words and figures in the appropriate space in Forms E.C. 8B and E.C. 8B (i) respectively, sign the Forms and get the agents to sign too;		
	¢	give copy of Forms E.C. 8B and E.C. 8B(1) respectively to each Party Agent and the Police, if available at the Ward Collation Centre;		
	(e)	take the originals of Form E.C. 8B to the Local Government Area Collation Officer for the Senatorial election;		
	(f [•]	take the originals of Form E.C. 8B(1) to the Federal Constituency Returning Officer, in the case of a Federal Constituency made up of not more than one Local Government Area; or		
	(g)	take the originals of Form E.C. 8B(1) to the Local Government Area Collation Officer, in the case of a Federal Constituency made up of more than one Local Government Area.		
	21. The Federal Constituency Returning Officer, in the case of a Federal Constituency made up of not more than one Local Gov- ernment Area, shall:-			

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(a)	take delivery of all original Forms E.C. 8B(1) from the Ward Collation Officers together with other materials pertaining to the House of Representatives election;	made up of one Local Government Area.
(b)	collate the House of Representatives election by entering the scores of each candidate in the original Forms E.C. 8B(1) into Form E.C. 8C(1) in words and figures, sign the form and ask the Party Agents to countersign:	
(c)	cross-check the figures in Form E.C. 8C(1) and distribute copies of the form to Party Agents and the Police if they are available at the Collation Centre;	
(d)	enter the score of each candidate into the Declaration of Result Form E.C. 8E(1) for the House of Representatives election; and	
(e)	declare the result for the Federal Constituency and return the candidate with the simple majority of votes as duly elected.	
22. The Lo of a Federal Con ment Area, shal	Collation at Local Govern ment Area Level for Federal	
(a)	take delivery of all original Forms E.C. 8B (I) from the Ward Collation Officers together with other electoral materials pertaining to the House of Representatives election;	Constituency with more than one Local Gover- nment Area.
(b)	collate the result of the House of Representatives election by entering the votes in the original Forms E.C. 8B(I) into Form E.C. 8C(I) in words and figures, sign the form and ask the Party Agents to countersign;	
(c)	cross-check the figures in Form E.C. 8C(I), announce the scores of the candidates loudly and distribute copies of the form to Party Agents and	

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(13)

the Police if available at the Collation Centre; and

(d, take the original Form E.C. 8C(1) to the designated Collation Centre for the Federal Constituency where he shall hand same over to the Returning Officer for the Constituency together with other materials relating to the House of Representatives election.

23. The Returning Officer, in the case of Federal Constituency with more than one Local Government Area, shall:-

- (a) collate the scores of the candidates from Form E.C.
 8C(I) to Form E.C. 8D(1);
- (b) enter the votes in both words and figures in the spaces provided in the said Form E.C. 8D (I).
- (c) cross-check the figures in Form E.C. 8D(I), sign the form, ask the Party Agents to countersign and distribute copies of same to Party Agents and the Police if available at the Collation Centre;
- (d) enter the scores of the candidates in the Declaration of Result Form E.C. 8E(1) for the House of Representative election; and
- (e) declare the result for the Federal Constituency and return the candidate who has scored the simple majority of votes as duly elected.

24. The Local Government Area Collation Officer for the Collation Senatorial election shall:- of result of

> (a) receive the originals of Form E.C. 8B for the Senatorial election from the Ward Collation Officers together with other materials pertaining to the Senatorial election;

Senatorial

election at

the Local

Government

Area Level.

- (b) enter the scores of t e candidates from the Forms E.C. 8B to orm E.C. 8C in words and figures;
- (c) cross-check the figures, sign the Form E.C. 8C, a the Party Agents to countersign, announce the scores of each candidate loudly and distribute copies to the

	Party Agents and the Police if available at the Collation Centre; and			
(d)	take the original Form E.C. 8C together with other materials pertaining to the election to the Returning Officer for the Senatorial election.	Collation at		
	25. The Returning Officer for the Senatorial District shall at the designated District Collation Centre:-			
(a)	take delivery of all the original Forms E.C. 8C from the Local Government Area Collation Officers together with other materials pertaining to the Senatorial election;	Centre for the Senator- ial District.		
(b)	enter the scores of the candidates from Forms E.C. 8C to Form E.C. 89D in words and figures;			
(c)	sign the duly completed Form E.C. 8D, ask the Party Agents to countersign, if available at the Collation Centre;			
(d)	cross-check the figures in Form E.C. 8D and distribute copies of same to the Party Agents and the Police, if available at the Collation Centre;			
(e)	enter the scores of the candidates in the Declaration of Result Form E.C. 8E for the Senatorial election;			
(f)	declare the result of the Senatorial District and return the candidate who has scored the simple majority of votes as duly elected; and			
(g)	return to the Resident Electoral Commissioner for the State the originals of Forms E.C. 8D and E.C. 8E together with other materials pertaining to the Senatorial election.			
of these Guide	residing Officer having complied with paragraph 19 lines on the day of Presidential election shall take the rm E.C. 8A to the Ward Collation Centre.	Presidential election.		

27.	The Ward Collation Officer for the Presidential election shall.			
	(a)	take delivery of originals of Form E.C. 8A for the Presidential Election from the Presiding Officers from the Polling Stations or Units;		
	(b)	collate the scores from Forms E.C. 8A using Form E.C. 8B, entering them in both words and figures in the spaces provided:		
	(c)	sign the Form E.C. 8B, request the Party Agents if available at the Ward Collation Centre, to counter- sign the Form and loudly announce the score of each Presidential candidate;		
	(d)	give copies of Form E.C. 8B to Party Agents and the Police, if available; and		
	(e)	take the original of Form E.C. 8B together with other materials returned to him by the Presiding Officer: to the Local Government Area Collation Centre.		
2 8 . Preside	28. The Local Government Area Collation Officer for the Presidential Election shall:			
	(a)	take delivery of the originals of Forms EC. 8B from the Ward Collation Officers together with other electoral materials relating to the election;	Government Area Centre	
	(b)	collate the scores from Forms EC. 8B, using Form EC. 8C, entering them in both words and figures in the spaces provided;		
	(c)	cross-check the figures carefully, announce loudly the scores of each candidate and distribute copies of Form EC. 8C to Party Agents and the Police, if available at the collation centre; and		
	(d)	take the original of Form EC. 8C together with other materials returned to him by the Ward Returning Officers to the State collation centre.		
29:	The St	ate Collation Officer for the Presidential Election shall:	Collation at State Level	

(a)	Local	elivery of the originals of Form EC. 8C from the Government Area Collation Officers together with electoral materials relating to the election;		
(b)		the scores from Forms EC. 8C, using Form EC. tering them in both words and figures in the spaces ed;		
(c)	scores EC. 81	check the figures carefully, announce loudly the of each candidate and distribute copies of Form to Party Agents and the Police, if available at the ollation centre; and		
' (d)	materia him by	ake the original of Form EC. 8D together with other naterials relating to the election which were returned to im by the Local Government Area Collation Officers, to he national collation centre.		
30. nationa	The Re I level sl	Collation at the national level		
	(a)	take delivery of the original of Form EC. 8D from the State Collation Officers, together with other electoral materials relating to the election;		
	(b)	collate the scores from Forms EC. 8D, using Form EC. 8DA, entering them in words and figures in the spaces provided;		
	(c)	cross-check the figures, carefully sign Form EC. 8DA, request the Party Agents to countersign the Form and issue copies to the Party Agents and the Police if available at the national level collation centre;		
	(d)	enter the scores of the candidates in Form EC. 8E for the declaration of the Presidential election result;		
	(e)	complete carefully Form EC. 8E and sign the same;		
	(f)	declare the result of the Presidential election and return the candidate who has complied with the		
		(17)		

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	requirements of the law and scored the majority of votes at the election.			
31.	The de of the questio	Decision of Returning Officer final		
	(a)	ballot papers;		
	(b)	scores of candidates; or		
,	(ç)	return of a candidate,		
		nd subject to review only by an Election Tribunal or na! Court, in an election petition proceedings.		
32. more c Officer shall be Commi	Equality of Votes			
33. to ever these G	Certificate of Return at election			
34. shall be Electio the Cor	Resolution of an election dispute			
35. (1) case of Preside	Election Petition			
within		An election petition shall be heard and determined in the case of a National Assembly election, and in the case of Presidential election, from the date iled.		
36:(1) respect tional C	Election Appeals			

(2) An appeal against the decision of the Constitutional Court in respect of Presidential election shall lie to the Supreme Court.

37:(1) An appeal against the decision of an Election Tribunal in respect of a National Assembly election shall be brought within 7 days from the date of the decision appealed against.

Time within which to bring an appeal

(2) An appeal against the decision of the Constitutional Court in respect of Presidential election shall be brought within 7 days from the date of the decision appealed against.

DATED at Abuja this _____ day of _____1999

HON. JUSTICE E.O.I. AKPATA, JSC (Rtd) CHAIRMAN, INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

JANUARY, 1999

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