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**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL
COMMISSION (INEC)**

GUIDELINES FOR THE

FORMATION

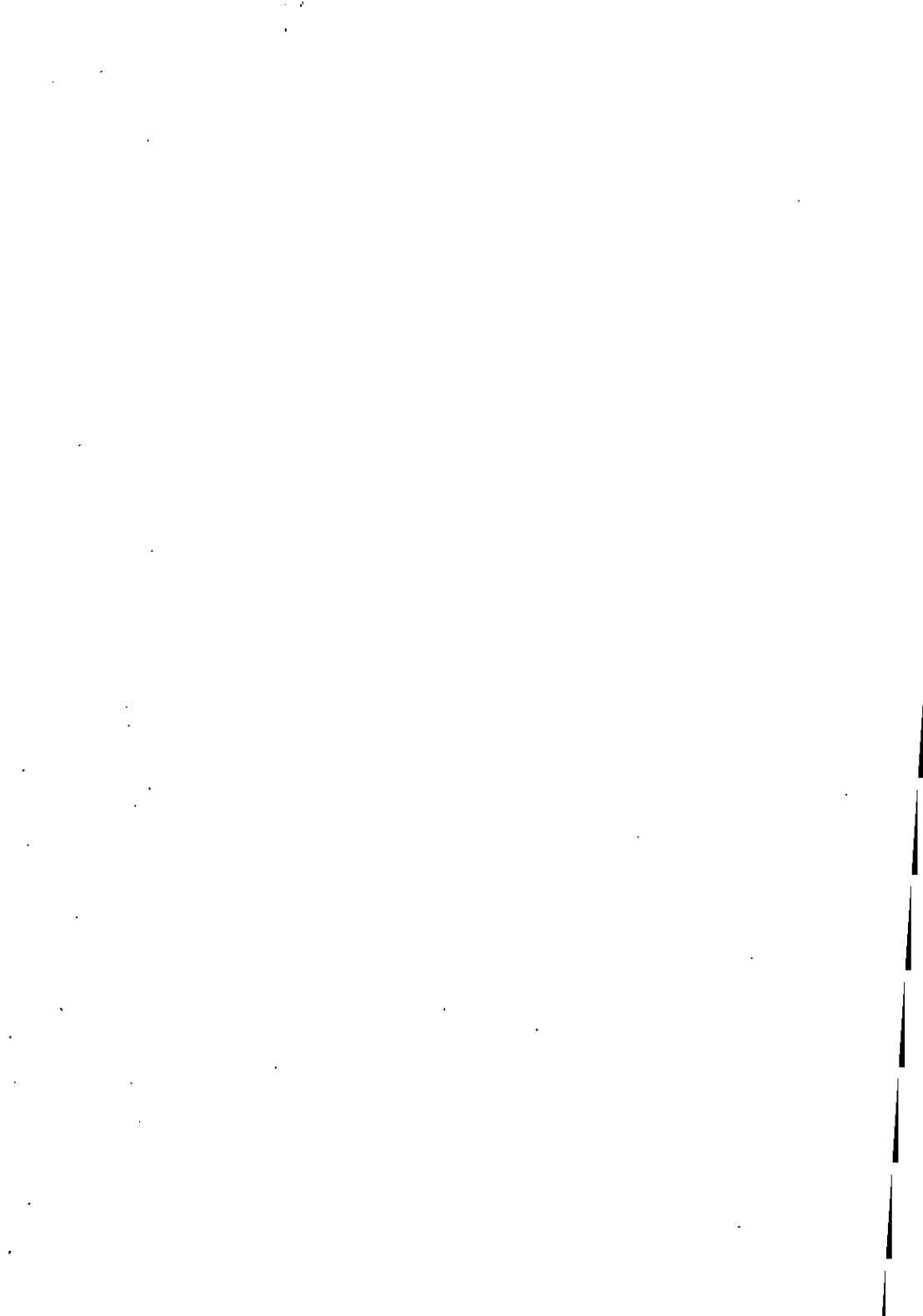
AND

REGISTRATION

OF POLITICAL PARTIES



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
ELECTORAL COMMISSION



**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL
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GUIDELINES FOR THE

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NATIONAL ANTHEM

se, O compatriots, Nigeria's call obey
serve our fatherland
th love and strength and faith
e labour of our heroes past,
all never be in vain
serve with heart and might
e nation bound in freedom
ace and Unity

God of creation, direct our noble cause;
uide our leaders right;
elp our youth the truth to know
love and honesty to grow
id living just and true
eat lofty heights attain
build a nation where peace
id justice reign.

NATIONAL PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria, my country
I be faithful, loyal and honest
I serve Nigeria with all my strength,
I defend her unity
I uphold her honour and glory
I help me God.

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF INEC

HON. JUSTICE EPHRAIM O.I. AKPATA JSC (RTD)	CHAIRMAN
MRS. FATI MUAZU	MEMBER
AWLHAJI USMAN LADAN BAKI	"
ALHAJI SHEHU MUSA	"
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CHIEF (MRS) ELIZABETH IVASE	"
MR. OKPO SAM OKPO	"
MRS. IFEYINWA MARY OBEGOLU	"
ALHAJI ADAMU BAWA MUAZU	SECRETARY

GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMATION AND REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Application by an Association for registration as a Political Party shall be on the prescribed Form and shall be accompanied by the following information and documents

Application for registration as a Political Party

- (a) a short profile, that is-
 - (i) when and where the Association held its inaugural meeting, accompanied by a record of such meeting and its major decisions.
 - (ii) evidence regarding the hosting of its National Congress or intention to hold such Congress,
 - (iii) Where the Congress has been held, including a list of the Association's officers and the method of their selection;
 - (b) twenty printed copies of the Association's current constitution, which shall also indicate the proposed Party's name, symbol, emblem and motto;
 - (c) twenty printed copies of the Association's manifesto;
 - (d) evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) to the Commission;
 - (e) every application for registration as a Political Party shall be addressed and submitted to the Chairman of the Commission at the Commission's Headquarters. The Commission shall acknowledge in writing the receipt of the application.
- (f) There shall be multiple Political Parties in the Federation. Conditions for the formation of Political Parties shall be as follows:-

- (a) It is first recognized and provisionally registered by the Commission;
- (b) the names and addresses of the members of its National, State and Local Government Area Executive Committees are registered with the Commission;
- (c) its membership is open to every Nigerian citizen irrespective of place of origin, circumstances of birth, ethnic group, sex or religion;
- (d) it accepts the principle of power sharing and rotation of key Political Offices.

(2) An Association which applied to the Commission for registration as a Political Party shall be considered as being open to every Nigerian if-

- (a) it maintains functional branches in at least 24 States of the Federation.
- (b) the name, slogan or motto, and the identifying symbols and colours of the Association shall not have any ethnic, religious professional or other sectional connotation or give the appearance that its activities are confined only to a part of Nigeria.

(3) No Association shall be registered as a Political Party unless-

- (a) it declares its assets and liabilities as well as indicate its Bankers, the sources and uses of its funds;
- (b) its Constitution and rules provide for periodic elections on democratic basis, of its Executive Committees or other governing bodies;
- (c) its organization at National level reflects the Federal Character principle, while at State and Local Government Area levels, it takes account of geographical, group and cultural peculiarities;

- (d) it furnishes the Commission with a certified copy of its Constitution and notifies the Commission of any alteration thereof within 30 days from the date of making such alteration.
- (e) it has its National Headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory.

3. Political Associations that have applied for registration may merge before the last date given by the Commission for submission of application for registration of Political Parties. Merger of Political Associations

4 The following restrictions shall be observed by Association Seeking registration as Political Parties - Restriction on membership of Political Association.

- (a) no person below the age of 18 years shall be a member of a Political Party;
- (b) no Youth Club, or any form of registered Association, Wings and such like shall form part of a Political Party;
- (C) no member of the Armed Forces, Police, Security Agencies, Para Military Organs and a member of the Public Service of the Federation or of a State or of a Local Government shall be a member of a Political Party;
- (d) traditional rulers as defined in Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979 as amended shall be insulated from partisan politics; and
- (e) no alien shall be eligible to be a member of a Political Party.

5. Apart from organizational and operational requirements set out above, an Association applying for registration as a Political Party shall, in addition to affirming its commitment to observe, conform to and enforce the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979 relating to the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principle of State Policy, articulate Issues to be reflected in the manifestoes of Political Associations seeking registration as

unambiguously the Policies and Strategies for tackling the problems inherent in getting the various objectives implemented, in particular-

Political Parties

- (a) the Government and the people;
- (b) political objectives and the indivisibility of the Nigerian Polity;
- (c) Economy, Agriculture and Industrialization;
- (d) Health and Education;
- (e) Internal security and National Defence;
- (f) Regional, African and Foreign Policy/Relations;
- (g) Human Rights and Environmental Obligations;
- (h) Nigerian Culture and Societal ills, Ethnicity, Statism, Corruption, etc.;
- (i) women in Politics and National Development;
- (j) the Judicature;
- (k) Mass Media in National development; and
- (l) Scientific and Technological Development.

6. Every Constitution of a Political Association must contain the following -

Issues that must be reflected in the Constitution of Association seeking registration as Political Party.

- (a) evidence of its resolution to conform with the principles of Power sharing and Rotation of Key Political Offices
- (b) a provision relating to election on democratic basis of its principal officers and members of the executive

committees or other governing bodies, periodically and in any case, not later than 4 years from the previous election;

- (c) a provision relating to the disciplinary procedure of the Association, stating clearly the method of expelling an ordinary member, a Party or Political Office holder including a member of a Legislative House

7. Every Political Association applying for registration shall fill the Form obtained from the Commission at the prescribed fee. The following information is required on the prescribed form-

- (a) the full name of the association and its abbreviated form;
- (b) the association's symbols and or the motto;
- (c) a comprehensive description of the identification symbols and colours
- (d) the location, address, and telephone number (if any) of the State and Local Government Area Offices of the Association

8. (1) After the closing date for the submission of application by Associations wishing to be registered as Political Parties, the Commission shall consider all the applications received and verify the claims of the Political Associations.

Consideration of the application and claims of the Political Associations.

(2) Any Political Association which, through the submission of false or misleading information, procures a provisional or full registration as a Party from the Commission shall have such registration cancelled by the Commission.

9. In accordance with the provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979 the following are

Conduct of Political

binding on all registered Political Parties in the Federation:- Parties.

- (a) every Political Party shall, at such times and in such manner as the Commission may require, submit to it a statement of its assets and liabilities;
- (b) every Political Party shall submit to the Commission a detailed Annual Statement and Analysis of its sources of funds and other assets together with a similar statement of its expenditure in such form as the Commission may require;
- (c) no Political Party shall receive external funds from whatever source for election or any activity relating to the Party;
- (d) no Political Party shall hold or possess any funds or other assets outside Nigeria and any fund remitted or sent to it from outside Nigeria shall be paid over or transferred to the Commission within twenty-one days of receipt, with such information as the Commission may require;
- (e) no Political Party shall organize, retain, or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting its political interest or objectives;
- (f) the Commission shall have power to give directions to Political Parties regarding the books or records of financial transactions which they shall keep and examine all such books and records, either through any member of the staff or any person who is an auditor by profession, and who is not a member of a Political Party;
- (g) the Commission shall carry out such inspections or investigations as will enable it to form an opinion as to whether proper books of accounts and proper records have been kept by each Political Party; and
- (h) the Commission or its duly authorized agents shall have a right of access at all times to the books and accounts and vouchers of

all Political Parties and shall be entitled to obtain from the officers of the Parties such information and explanation as the Commission or the Agents think necessary for the performance of the Commission's duties under the Constitution.

10.-(1) At the end of the verification of the claims of the Political Associations the Commission shall recognize, and grant provisional registration Certificate to Political Associations which have satisfied the requirements of these Guidelines.	Grant of Provisional Registration Certificate.
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(2) Any Political Association granted a provisional registration certificate under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall be entitled to contest the first Local Government Council Election to be conducted by the Commission.

(3) A Political Association recognized and granted provisional registration certificate under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall automatically lose its recognition and have its provisional registration certificate withdrawn by the Commission unless it polls at least 10 per cent of the total number of votes cast in each of at least 24 States of the Federation at the said Local Government Council election provided that for this purpose the Federal Capital Territory shall be regarded as a State.

11. After the said Local Government Council Election, any Political Association which satisfies the provisions of paragraph 10 (3) above shall be granted certificate of registration as a Political Party.	Certificate of registration for Political Parties.
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12. Where only one Political Association satisfies the requirement of paragraph 10 (3) of these Guidelines, the Commission shall register one other Political Association that scored ten per cent of the total number of votes cast in the highest number of States of the Federation.	Where only one Political Association satisfies the minimum requirement.
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13. Where no Political Association satisfies the requirement of paragraph 10 (3) of these Guidelines, the Commission	Where no Political
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shall register two Political Associations that scored ten per cent of the total number of votes cast in the highest number of States of the Federation. Association satisfies the minimum requirement.

14. Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13 of these Guidelines, where two or more Political Associations score ten per cent of the total votes cast in equal number of States, the Political Association with the highest total number of votes cast at the election shall first be considered. Equality of scores.

15. Any Political Association which fails to qualify for registration as a Political Party under paragraph 10 of these Guidelines shall not be entitled to participate in subsequent elections conducted by the Commission, or to canvass for votes for a candidate at any such election. Political Association not registered barred from elections.

16. Any Political Party that fails to abide by the Conditions of its registration as contained in these Guidelines shall have its registration withdrawn. Withdrawal of registration

17. Political Parties registered in accordance with these Guidelines shall conform with the following code of conduct; Code of Conduct of Political Parties

- (a) comply with the election laws and rules
- (b) co-operate with the Independent National Electoral Commission.
- (c) show respect for the right of the Voters and right of other Parties to campaign freely.
- (d) desist from violence and use of inflammatory language.
- (e) reject the use of Corrupt Practices, the offering of inducement, etc.
- (f) assist in ensuring peaceful and orderly voting on polling day.

**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
AUGUST, 1998**

**TIME TABLE FOR FORMATION AND REGISTRATION
OF POLITICAL PARTY**

1. Tuesday 25th August, 1998 - Release of Guidelines for Formation of Political Parties
2. Thursday 27th August, 1998 -
Wednesday 9th September, 1998 - Submission of Claims by Political Association
3. Monday 14th Sept., 1998 - Verification
4. Thursday 24th Sept., 1998 - Release of Provisionally Registered Political Parties

**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
AUGUST, 1998**

