



# **GUIDELINES FOR PRIMARIES**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### GENERAL YOUTH PARTY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON PRIMARIES

CANDIDATE SCREENING FOR ELECTIONS	4
MANDATORY PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF PRIMARIES	5
ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS	5

### PART I

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	5
QUALIFICATION	5
DISQUALIFICATION	6
SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT	6
NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE	7

### PART II

GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	8
QUALIFICATION	8
DISQUALIFICATION	9
SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR	9
GUBERNATORIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE	10

### PART III

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION	12
QUALIFICATION	12
DISQUALIFICATION	12
SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT	13
NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE	14



STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY PRIMARY ELECTION	15
QUALIFICATION	15
DISQUALIFICATION	15
SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SEAT	16
STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SCREENING COMMITTEE	17
STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PANEL	17

**SCHEDULE**

NOTICE TO THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)	20
PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE	21



# YOUTH PARTY DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS 2022

## GENERAL YOUTH PARTY CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON PRIMARIES

1. Subject to the provisions of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), any aspirant who is a political appointee, civil servant, public servant or party official shall resign from such office not later than 7 (seven) days before the date of the collection of forms for the ward congresses.
2. Pursuant to Section 53 of our Party's Constitution, the National Executive Committee shall regulate the procedure for selecting the Party's candidates for elective offices in the following manner:
  - (a.) Adopt a closed direct primaries system wherein all the registered eligible members of the Party with continuous membership are entitled to participate and vote at their ward of registration. Any exception/waiver to this must be approved by the National Executive Committee;
  - (b.) The Party will take steps in all elections to encourage a greater level of representation and participation of everyone in our society who are currently under represented in our democratic institutions. In particular, the Party will seek to select more candidates who reflect the diversity in our society in terms of gender, disability and increase working class participation;
  - (c.) The election processes shall enable the inclusion and involvement of all members on an equal basis and take into account the barriers to participation which under-represented groups may face. One Member One Vote (OMOV) policy shall be adopted in all selections; and
  - (d.) The procedural rules and guidelines for the primaries shall endeavour to be clear, simple and easy to administer by the Party units.

## CANDIDATE SCREENING FOR ELECTIONS

3. This section outlines the requirements for screening of candidates vying for public offices in accordance with Section 53(2) (a) & (b) of Youth Party Constitution.
  - (a.) State Houses of Assembly Elections- the authorized body for the screening of candidates vying for these offices shall be an ad hoc State Elders Council, through the State Executive Committee and two others appointed by the National Working Committee.
  - (b.) Presidential, National Assembly and Gubernatorial Elections-For members aspiring for these offices, the deciding authority shall be the National Executive Committee.



## MANDATORY PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF PRIMARIES

4. All Primaries conducted within the Youth Party at all levels shall;
  - (a.) Be conducted in easily accessible public venues or platform without restriction against any aspirant or member.
  - (b.) Include only voters of voting age as prescribed by the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended) and the 1999 Constitution (as amended).
  - (c.) Include a properly maintained and duly certified membership register, which must be available for inspection by the Commission, the aspirants and any Party member that requests same.
  - (d.) Submit to the Commission as candidates, aspirants that have emerged in compliance with the Commissions Regulations for The Conduct of Political Party Primaries, its rules and regulations and the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended).

## ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS

5. All duly registered members will be deemed eligible to vote for their candidates in the Primary Elections.

## PART I: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

### QUALIFICATION

6. (1) Any aspirant to the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the platform of Youth Party shall:
  - (a.) Be a citizen of Nigeria by birth and has attained the age of 35 years according to Section 131 (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
  - (b.) Fulfill all the conditions set out in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the Constitution of the Party and the provisions of any other relevant law and these Guidelines;
  - (c.) Be a registered voter and attached a copy of his/her voters registration card to the duly completed Nomination form;
  - (d.) Complete and submit the Expression of Interest Form;
  - (e.) Be a duly registered member of the Party;
  - (f.) Resign/retire from office if a political appointee, civil servant, public servant or party official not later than 7 (seven) days before the date of the collection forms for the Primary Election; and
  - (g.) Possess educational qualification not below the level of Senior Secondary Certificate or



its equivalent according to Section 131 (d) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- (2.) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as Amended) and any other applicable law, an aspirant to the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall not be eligible to be screened or contest the primary election, if he/she:
- (a.) Fails to produce his/her personal income tax certificate, or any evidence that he/she has paid his/her income tax for the last preceding 3 (three) years or evidence of exemption from payment of personal income tax; or
  - (b.) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever; or
  - (c.) Has been indicted for any misconduct set out in Section 61 (1) of the Constitution of the Party and has been punished in accordance of Section 62(1);
  - (d.) Has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council or from any other employment in the public or private sector; or,
  - (e.) Is a member of a secret society; or,
  - (f.) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria; or,
  - (g.) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence including homicide, fraud or dishonesty or the sale or use of narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substances by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; or,
  - (h.) Under the law in any part of Nigeria, he/she is adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; or,
  - (i.) Is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Nigeria or any other country; or,
  - (j.) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

- (3.) The screening procedure for an aspirant to the office of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the primary election of the Party shall be as follows:
- (a.) an aspirant shall obtain the Expression of Interest Form, upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N200,000) from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place as may be designated by the National Executive Committee of the Party, and, on completion, return same to the National Secretariat;
  - (b.) an aspirant shall obtain the Nomination form from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place designated by the National Working Committee of the Party and evidenced upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of Five Million Naira (N5,000,000) ; save



that female aspirants and persons with disabilities (PWD) shall pay 50% (half) of the prescribed nomination fee;

(c.) The Nomination form shall contain signatures of not less than 100 (hundred) persons from at least two-thirds of all States of the Federation, who shall be registered voters in their respective Local Government Areas and also registered members of the Party;

(d.) a copy of the Voter's Registration Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Nomination form;

(e.) a copy of the Party Membership Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Nomination form;

(f.) An aspirant shall provide a reference from his/her bank stating that he/she has been a customer for at least 5 (five) years preceding the date of the primary election or from his/her last employer;

(g.) The duly completed Nomination forms shall be accompanied by a sworn declaration made before a Commissioner of Oaths or Notary Public undertaking to abide by the guidelines, all laws and any rules or regulations made by the Party relating to the conduct of primary elections;

(h.) An aspirant shall ensure that all the information supplied by him/her in the relevant Nomination form is true and correct. Any aspirant who gives false information or makes false declaration in the Nomination form shall be disqualified and the Party shall reserve the right to report to the law enforcement authorities and

(i.) The decision of the National Executive Committee of the Party on all primary election matters shall be final and binding.

## THE NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

(4.) (1) A National Screening Committee shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party, whose sole responsibility shall be to screen presidential aspirants.

(a.) The National Screening Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary and 8 (eight) members. One shall be appointed from each of the six geo-political zones and would also include a minimum of 3 (three) women.

(b.) A National Screening Appeal Panel shall also be appointed. The National Screening Appeal Panel shall consist of members of the National Working Committee, plus members of the Board of Trustees, one from each zone and with the Board of Trustees Chair chairing.

(c.) The results of the screening shall be announced and a copy shall be displayed at the National Secretariat of the Party.

(d.) Any aspirant aggrieved by the decision of the National Screening Committee may appeal in writing to the National Screening Appeal Panel within 24 hours or soon thereafter from the time of the announcement of the result of the screening and the National Screening Appeal Panel shall pronounce its decision on the appeal within 48 hours or soon thereafter of the receipt of the petition.



- (e.) Only aspirants cleared by the National Screening Committee or whose appeal the National Screening Appeal Panel has upheld shall be qualified to participate in the primary election.
- (2.) The Presidential primary election shall adopt a closed direct primary system where all the registered eligible members of the Party are entitled to participate and vote. Any exception to this must be approved by the National Executive Committee.
- (3.) The designated date and time for the elections shall be published and made known to members of the Party at least 7 (seven) days before the date for the presidential primary election.
- (4.) Results of the Presidential Primary elections shall be collated by the Chief Returning Officer recommended by the National Working Committee subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee:
- (a.) No result shall be upheld as valid in the presidential primary election except the same has been entered on the result sheet and duly signed by the Chief Returning Officer.
- (b.) The Chief Returning Officer shall ensure that copies of completed result sheet are given to the aspirants or their agents, but failure or refusal to collect the result sheet shall not invalidate the result contained therein.
- (c.) The result sheet shall be duly signed by the Chief Returning Officer, failing which it shall be deemed invalid unless otherwise approved by the National Electoral Panel
- (d.) Where, at the end of the election, no winner emerges, by a reason of tie there shall be a run-off election between aspirants whose votes tie and the aspirant with a simple majority of the votes cast during the run-off shall be returned elected.
- (5.) The aspirant with the highest number of votes shall be screened or elected as the Presidential flag bearer of the Party.
- (6.) Where, after the successful election of a presidential candidate at the primaries, the candidate so elected dies or withdraws, or is otherwise incapacitated, the National Executive Committee of the Party shall summoned a Special National Convention for the purpose of nominating or electing another candidate.

## **PART II: GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

### **QUALIFICATION**

7. (1) An aspirant for the Gubernatorial primary election shall:
- (a.) Be a citizen of Nigeria by birth and a registered Party member;
- (b.) Fulfill all the conditions set out in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the Constitution of the Party and the provisions of any other relevant law and these Guidelines;
- (c.) Be a registered voter in the State where he or she expresses interest to contest and attach a copy of his/her voters registration card to the duly completed Nomination form;
- (d.) Be a duly registered member of the Party;





- (e.) Complete and submit the Expression of Interest Form; an aspirant shall obtain the Expression of Interest Form, upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N150,000) from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place as may be designated by the National Executive Committee of the Party, and, on completion, return same to the National Secretariat;
- (f.) an aspirant shall obtain the Nomination form from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place designated by the National Working Committee of the Party and evidenced upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of Three Million Naira (N3,000,000) ; save that female aspirants and persons with disabilities (PWD) shall pay 50% (half) of the prescribed nomination fee;
- (g.) Resign/retire from office if a political appointee, civil servant, public servant or party official not later than 7(seven) days before the date of the collection forms for the Ward congresses; and
- (h.) Possess educational qualification not below the level of Senior Secondary Certificate or its equivalent according to section 176 (d) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- (2.) An aspirant to the gubernatorial primary election shall not be qualified to be screened or contest the primary election, if he/she:
  - (a.) Fails to produce his/her personal income tax certificate, or any evidence that he/she has paid his/her income tax for the last preceding three years or evidence of exemption from payment of personal income tax; or
  - (b.) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever; or
  - (c.) Has been indicted for any misconduct set out in Section 61 (1) of the Constitution of the Party and has been punished in accordance of Section 62(1);
  - (d.) Has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council or from any other employment in the public or private sector, or
  - (e.) Is a member of a secret society; or
  - (f.) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria; or
  - (g.) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence including homicide, fraud or dishonesty or the sale or use of narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substances by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; or
  - (h.) Under the law in any part of Nigeria, he/she is adjudged by a court to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; or
  - (i.) Is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Nigeria or any other country; or
  - (j.) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

## SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR



- (3.) ) An aspirant to the gubernatorial primary election shall not be qualified to be screened or contest the primary election, if he/she:
- (a.) Fails to produce his/her personal income tax certificate, or any evidence that he/she has paid his/her income tax for the last preceding three years or evidence of exemption from



payment of personal income tax; or

- (b.) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever; or
- (c.) Has been indicted for any misconduct set out in Section 61 (1) of the Constitution of the Party and has been punished in accordance of Section 62(1);
- (d.) Has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council or from any other employment in the public or private sector, or
- (e.) Is a member of a secret society; or
- (f.) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria; or
- (g.) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence including homicide, fraud or dishonesty or the sale or use of narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substances by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; or
- (h.) Under the law in any part of Nigeria, he/she is adjudged by a court to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; or
- (i.) Is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Nigeria or any other country; or
- (j.) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

## **GUBERNATORIAL SCREENING COMMITTEE**

8. (1) A Gubernatorial Screening Committee appointed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party, whose sole responsibility shall be to screen gubernatorial aspirants.
  - (a.) The Gubernatorial Screening Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary and 8 (eight) members. One shall be appointed from each of the 6 (six) geo-political zones and shall include a minimum of three women.
  - (b.) A Gubernatorial Screening Appeal Panel shall also be appointed. The Gubernatorial Screening Appeal Panel shall consist of a Chair, 12 (twelve) other members, representing each geo-political zones, one of whom shall be the National Deputy Chair who shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee.
  - (c.) The results of the screening shall be announced and a copy shall be displayed at the State Secretariat.
  - (d.) Any aspirant aggrieved by the decision of the Gubernatorial Screening Committee may appeal in writing to the Gubernatorial Screening Appeal Panel within 24 hours or soon thereafter from the time of the announcement of the result of the screening and the Gubernatorial Screening Appeal Panel shall pronounce its decision on the appeal within 48 hours or soon thereafter of the receipt of the petition.
  - (e.) Only aspirants cleared by the Gubernatorial Screening Committee or whose appeal the



Gubernatorial Screening Appeal Panel has upheld shall be qualified to participate in the primary election.

- (2.) The Gubernatorial Primary Elections of the Party shall be held on a date approved by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party.
- (3.) (a.) Each State of the Federation shall have a State Electoral Panel which shall consist of 5 (five) persons appointed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party as follows:
  - (i.) a Chair
  - (ii.) a legal practitioner
  - (iii.) at least one woman and
  - (iv.) 2 (two) others, one of whom shall be the State Party Chair

Provided that where Electronic-Voting is adopted, there shall only be one State Electoral Panel consisting of 13 (Thirteen) persons; (2) Two from each geo-political zones and a person as may be appointed by the National Executive Committee.

(b.) The Chair of the State Electoral Panel shall be the Chief Returning Officer for the Gubernatorial Primary Election.

(c.) The designated venue, date and time for the gubernatorial primary election shall be published and made known to members and aspirants at least 7 (seven) days before the date of the election.

(d.) The State Electoral Panel shall, for the purpose of the gubernatorial primary election, appoint such officers as may be required to carry out such duties as may be deemed necessary subject to the approval of the National Working Committee.

(e.) The Chair of the State Electoral Panel shall be the State Returning Officer for the purpose of supervising and directing the gubernatorial primary election.

(f.) Voting at the gubernatorial primary election shall be done through a closed direct primary system wherein all the registered eligible members of the Party with continuous membership are entitled to participate and vote. Any exception to this must be approved by the National Executive Committee.

(g.) Results of the Gubernatorial Primary elections shall be collated by the Returning officer.

(h.) No result shall be upheld as valid in the gubernatorial primary election except the same has been entered on the result sheet and duly signed by the Returning Officer.

(i.) The Chief Returning Officer shall ensure that copies of completed result sheets are given to the aspirants or their agents, but failure or refusal to collect the result sheet shall not invalidate the result contained therein.

(j.) The result sheet shall be duly signed by the Returning Officer of the State failing which it shall be deemed invalid unless otherwise approved by the State Electoral Panel

(k.) The aspirant with the highest number of votes shall be declared winner of the gubernatorial primary elections, who shall be the Party's candidate in the State Elections.



- (4.) A Gubernatorial Electoral Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees with the former nominating 3 (three) members and the latter nominating the remaining 2 (two) members of the panel:
- (a.) Any aggrieved aspirant shall have the right to appeal in writing to the Gubernatorial Electoral Appeal Panel within 24 hours from the time of the receipt of the decision appealed against.
- (b.) The Gubernatorial Electoral Appeal Panel shall pronounce its decision on the appeal within 48 hours of the hearing of the appeal or soon thereafter.
- (5.) Where, after the successful election of a gubernatorial candidate at the primaries, the candidate so elected dies or withdraws, or is otherwise incapacitated, the State Executive Committee of the Party shall summon a Special State Congress for the purpose of nominating or electing another candidate.

## **PART III: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION**

### **QUALIFICATION**

9. (1) An aspirant for primary election to the National Assembly shall:
- (a.) Be a citizen of Nigeria;
- (b.) Fulfill all the conditions set out in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the Constitution of the Party and the provisions of any other relevant law and these Guidelines;
- (c.) Be a registered voter and attached a copy of his/her voters registration card to the duly completed Nomination form;
- (d.) Complete and submit the Expression of Interest Form;
- (e.) Resign/retire from office if a political appointee, civil servant, public servant or party official not later than 7 (seven) days before the date of the collection forms for the Primary Elections;
- (f.) Possess educational qualification not below the level of Senior Secondary Certificate or its equivalent; and
- (g.) Is a duly registered member of the Party whose name is contained in the membership register of the Party.

### **GROUND FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

- (2.) An aspirant shall not be qualified to contest the primary election to the National Assembly, if he/she:
- (a.) Fails to produce his/her personal income tax certificate, or any evidence that he/she has paid his/her income tax for the last preceding three years or evidence of exemption from payment of personal income tax; or
- (b.) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever; or



- (c.) Has been indicted for any misconduct set out in Section 61 (1) of the Constitution of the Party and has been punished in accordance of Section 62 (1);
- (d.) Has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council or from any other employment in the public or private sector, or
- (e.) Is a member of a secret society; or
- (f.) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria; or
- (g.) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence including homicide, fraud or dishonesty or the sale or use of narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substances by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; or
- (h.) Under the law in any part of Nigeria, he/she is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; or
- (i.) Is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Nigeria or any other country; or
- (j.) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT

- (3.) The screening procedure for an aspirant in the primary election of the Party into the National Assembly shall be as follows:
  - (a.) An aspirant shall obtain the Expression of Interest Form, with the prescribed non-refundable fee of Eighty Thousand Naira (N80,000) for the Senate and Forty Thousand Naira (N40,000) for House of Representatives from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place as may be designated by the National Executive Committee of the Party, and, on completion, return same to the National Secretariat;
  - (b.) An aspirant shall obtain the Nomination form from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place designated by the National Working Committee of the Party and evidenced upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of Two Million Naira (N2,000,000) for the Senate and One Million and Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N1,500,000) for House of Representatives; save that female aspirants and persons with disabilities (PWD) shall pay 50% (half) of the prescribed nomination fee;
  - (c.) The Nomination form shall contain signatures of not less than 30 (thirty) persons from at least two-thirds of all Local Government Areas within the Senatorial Districts or the Federal Constituencies, who shall be registered voters in their respective Local Government Areas within the Senatorial District/Federal Constituency and also registered members of the Party;
  - (d.) A duplicate copy of Voter's Registration Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Nomination form;
  - (e.) A copy of the Party Membership Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Screening;



- (f.) An aspirant shall provide a reference from his/her bank stating that he/she has been a customer for at least 5 (five) years preceding the date of the primary election or from his/her last employer;
- (g.) The duly completed Nomination forms shall be accompanied by a sworn declaration made before a Commissioner of Oaths or Notary Public undertaking to abide by the guidelines, all laws and any rules or regulations made by the Party relating to the conduct of primary elections and code of conduct on behavior and directives of the Party for its members or Senate and/or in the House of Representatives;
- (h.) An aspirant shall ensure that all the information supplied by him/her in the relevant Nomination form is true and correct. Any aspirant who gives false information or makes false declaration in the Nomination form shall be disqualified and the Party shall reserve the right to report to the law enforcement authorities; and
- (i.) The decision of the National Executive Committee of the Party on all primary election matters shall be final, subject only to the right appeal by an aggrieved aspirant.

### **NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE**

- 10. (1) The National Screening Committee established under Section 6(4) of these Guidelines shall be responsible for screening National Assembly aspirants.
- (2.) The primary election for the Senate and House of Representatives shall be held in the following order:
  - (a.) In the conduct of primaries for the Party's candidates for the Senate of the Federation Republic of Nigeria, the primaries shall be held at the Senatorial District Headquarters;
  - (b.) The Senatorial District Headquarters shall be as prescribed by the National Working Committee. Provided that where primaries are conducted via e-voting, this section shall not apply.
- (3.) In the conduct of primaries for the Party's candidates for House of Representatives, the primaries shall be held at the Federal Constituency Headquarters. Provided that where primaries are conducted via e-voting, this section shall not apply.
  - (a.) The Constituency Headquarters shall be as prescribed by the National Working Committee.
  - (b.) The names of the aspirants shall be announced and published.
    - (i.) No aspirant for the primary election to the Senate or the House of Representatives shall be declared screened or elected, unless he/she has polled the highest votes cast and the winner shall be declared returned by the Chief Returning Officer immediately after the election.
    - (ii.) Where at the end of the first ballot, no winner emerges, by reason of a tie, there shall be a run-off election between aspirants whose votes tie and the aspirant with a simple majority of the votes cast during the run-off election shall be returned elected.
    - (iii.) No result shall be upheld as valid until it has been announced and duly signed by the Chief Returning Officer.



(iv.) The Returning Officer shall ensure that copies of duly completed result sheets are made available to aspirants or their agents.

(v.) The result sheet shall be signed by the Returning Officers and if unsigned, shall be deemed invalid, unless otherwise approved for sufficient cause by the National Working Committee of the Party.

(vi.) Where, after the successful primary election a National Assembly candidate so elected dies, or withdraws, or is otherwise incapacitated, the State Executive Committee of the Party shall, immediately upon becoming aware of the death, withdrawal or incapacitation, summon an emergency National Assembly Special Congress for the purpose of nominating or electing another candidate.

## **PART IV: STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY PRIMARY ELECTION**

### **QUALIFICATION**

11. (1) An aspirant for primary election to the State Houses of Assembly shall:

- (a.) Be a citizen of Nigeria;
- (b.) Fulfill all the conditions set out in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the Constitution of the Party and the provisions of any other relevant law and these Guidelines;
- (c.) Be a registered voter and attached a copy of his/her voters registration card to the duly completed Nomination form;
- (d.) Complete and submit the Expression of Interest Form;
- (e.) Resign/retire from office if a political appointee, civil servant, public servant or party official not later than 7 (seven) days before the date of the collection forms for the Primary Elections;
- (f.) Possess educational qualification not below the level of Senior Secondary Certificate or its equivalent according to Section 65 (2) (a); and
- (g.) Is a duly registered member of the Party whose name is contained in the membership register of the Party.

### **GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

(2.) An aspirant shall not be qualified to contest the primary election to the State Assembly, if he/she:

- (a.) Fails to produce his/her personal income tax certificate, or any evidence that he/she has paid his/her income tax for the last preceding three years or evidence of exemption from payment of personal income tax; or





- (b.) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever; or
- (c.) Has been indicted for any misconduct set out in Section 61 (1) of the Constitution of the Party and has been punished in accordance of Section 62 (1); or
- (d.) Has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council or from any other employment in the public or private sector, or
- (e.) Is a member of a secret society; or
- (f.) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria; or
- (g.) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence including homicide, fraud or dishonesty or the sale or use of narcotic drugs or any other psychotropic substances by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or
- (h.) within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; or
- (i.) Under the law in any part of Nigeria, he/she is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; or
- (j.) Is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Nigeria or any other country; or
- (k.) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### SCREENING PROCEDURE FOR STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ASPIRANTS

- (3.) The screening procedure for an aspirant in the primary election of the Party into the State House of Assembly shall be as follows:
  - (a.) an aspirant shall obtain the Expression of Interest Form, with the prescribed non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000) from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place as may be designated by the National Executive Committee of the Party, and, on completion, return same to the National Secretariat;
  - (b.) an aspirant shall obtain the Nomination form –from the National Secretariat of the Party or such other place designated by the National Working Committee of the Party and evidenced upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of One Million Naira (N1, 000,000); save that female aspirants and persons with disabilities (PWD) shall pay 50% (half) of the prescribed nomination fee;
  - (c.) The Nomination form shall contain signatures of not less than 30 (thirty) persons from at least two-thirds of all Local Government Areas within the State Constituency, who shall be registered voters in their respective Local Government Areas and also registered members of the Party.
  - (d.) a duplicate copy of Voter's Registration Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Nomination form;
  - (e.) a copy of the Party Membership Card of the aspirant shall be attached to the duly completed Screening;



(f.) An aspirant shall provide a reference from his/her bank stating that he/she has been a customer for at least (five) years preceding the date of the primary election or from his/her last employer;

(g.) the duly completed Nomination forms shall be accompanied by a sworn declaration made before a Commissioner of Oaths or Notary Public undertaking to abide by the guidelines, all laws and any rules or regulations made by the Party relating to the conduct of primary elections and code of conduct on behavior and directives of the Party for its members or State House of Assembly primaries.

(h.) An aspirant shall ensure that all the information supplied by him/her in the relevant Nomination form is true and correct. Any aspirant who gives false information or makes false declaration in the Nomination form shall be disqualified and the Party shall reserve the right to report to the law enforcement authorities.

(i.) The decision of the National Executive Committee of the Party on all primary election matters shall be final, subject only to the right appeal by an aggrieved aspirant.

### STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SCREENING COMMITTEE

12. Primary election for the candidate of the Party into a State House of Assembly shall be held on the date appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

(a.) For the purpose of the primary election, a State Screening Panel shall consist of the State Elders' Council and 2 (two) persons appointed by the National Working Committee.

(b.) The State Screening Panel shall comprise of five persons as follows:

(i.) a Chair and two others appointed by the National Executive Committee of the Party;  
and

(ii.) 2 (two) persons appointed by the State Executive Committee who shall be posted to serve in States other than their own.

(c.) There shall be for each State, a State Screening Appeal Panel which shall comprise of three persons appointed by the National Working Committee of the Party.

(d.) Any aggrieved aspirant shall have the right to appeal in writing to the State Screening Appeal Panel within 24 hours or soon thereafter from the time of receipt of the result of the Screening.

(e.) The State Screening Appeal Panel shall pronounce its decision on the appeal within 48 hours of the hearing of the appeal or soon thereafter.

Only aspirants cleared by the State Screening Committee shall be allowed to participate in the primary elections.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE ELECTORAL PANEL

(4.) (a.) There shall be a State Electoral Panel composed of five persons for each State as follows:

(i.) three persons appointed by the National Working Committee one of whom shall be the



- Chair, and
- (ii.) 2 (two) other persons appointed by the State Executive Committee.
  - (iii.) the names of the 2 (two) persons so appointed shall be submitted to the National Working Committee for posting to constituencies other than their own.
- (b.) Provided that where Electronic-Voting is adopted, there shall only be one State Electoral Panel consisting of 13 (thirteen) persons; 2 (two) from each geo-political zones and a person as maybe appointed by the National Executive Committee.
- (5.) The Chair of the State Electoral Panel shall be the Returning Officer for the State House of Assembly Primary election.
- (6.) The State Electoral Panel shall appoint Returning Officers for each State House of Assembly Constituency and the Returning Officers shall be deployed to Constituencies other than their own. Each Local Government Executive Committee shall, for this purpose, forward two names to the State Electoral Panel.
- (a.) The venue for the primary election shall be the State Assembly Constituency Headquarters as the case may be or any other suitable venue earlier approved in writing by the state electoral panel.
  - (b.) Any official change of venue shall made public by means of written publication and announcements in the electronic media not later than 3 (three) days to the commencement of the primary election.
  - (c.) Where a change of venue is not published to the public as stated in these guidelines, it may be a ground to void the election conducted therein. Provided that where primaries are via e-voting, this section shall not apply.
- (7.) The names of the aspirants shall be announced and published on the Party's website and at the office.
- (a.) All the results of the election shall be publicly announced and properly recorded and entered on the official result sheet Form.
  - (b.) A copy of the result shall be given to each aspirant or his agent and a copy sent to the State Electoral Panel but failure or refusal to collect the result shall not invalidate the result contained therein.
  - (c.) An appeal may be made by an aggrieved aspirant in writing to the State Electoral Appeal Committee against the decision of the State Electoral Panel within 24 hours of the time of the receipt of the decision appealed against.
  - (d.) There shall be for each State and FCT, a State Assembly Electoral Appeal Panel, which shall comprise of 3 (three) persons appointed by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party, whose sole responsibility shall be to screen State Assembly aspirants; Provided that where Electronic-Voting is adopted, there shall only be one State Electoral Panel consisting of 5 (five) persons as maybe appointed by the National Executive Committee.
  - (e.) The State Electoral Appeal Committee shall pronounce its decision on the appeal within



48 hours of the hearing of the appeal or soon thereafter.

(f.) Notwithstanding the provisions of these Guidelines and any other rules or regulations laid down by the Party, the decision of the National Executive Committee as advised by the National Working Committee shall be final and binding on the aspirants, officers and organs of the Party in respect of the primary election to a State House of Assembly on the platform of the Party.

(8.) The aspirant with the highest votes cast shall be declared winner and returned immediately after the election by the State Constituency Returning Officer. Where no winner emerges at the end of the first ballot by reason of a tie, there shall be a run-off election between aspirants whose votes tie and the aspirant with a simple majority of the votes cast during the run-off shall be returned elected.

(a.) No result shall be regarded as valid until it has been announced and duly signed by the Chief Returning Officer.

(b.) Returning Officer shall ensure that copies of duly completed result sheets are given to aspirants or their agents and that the aspirant or his agent signs.

(c.) The Refusal, neglect or failure of an aspirant or his agent to sign a result sheet shall not invalidate the result of the primary election.

(d.) The result sheet Form shall be signed by the Returning Officer and where it is submitted unsigned, the result shall be held invalid, unless otherwise approved by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the National Working Committee of the Party.

(e.) Where, after the successful screening of a State Assembly candidate at the Special State Assembly Congress, the candidate so elected dies, or withdraws, or is otherwise incapacitated, the State Executive Committee of the Party shall immediately upon becoming aware of the death, withdrawal or incapacitation, summon an emergency State Assembly Special Congress for the purpose of nominating or electing another candidate.



## **SCHEDULE**

### **NOTICE TO THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)**

1. The provisions of Section 1 shall be of effect only after National Executive Committee of the party sends a notification of the conduct of primaries, containing the date, time, location and routine of primaries, signed by the Chair and National Secretary, to the Commission headquarters at least 21 days prior to, or has made provisions to so do.
2. Notice of the 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.) 50 (fifty) copies of the guidelines or rules issued by the party for the conduct of the primaries, congresses or conventions;
  - (e.) 10 (ten) copies of the Constitution of the party certified by the Commission;
  - (f.) Any other document that the Commission may from time to time determine; and
3. Conduct of primaries shall commence at the time and venue provided in the relevant notice communicated to the Commission by the party. In the event of a rescheduling of any scheduled primary, the party shall by a written communication to the Commission not later than 7 (seven) days to the new date, clearly state the reasons for rescheduling, the new date and the venue.
4. The Chairman and/or Secretary of the party shall provide a signed copy of the result sheet for the primaries 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.



## PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE

1. Sale of Forms	5th April – 21st May, 2022
2. Screening and Appeals from Screening	22nd – 29th May, 2022
3. State House of Assembly Primaries	30th May, 2022
5. House of Reps. and Senate Primaries	30th May, 2022
6. Governorship Primaries	31st May, 2022
7. Presidential Primary	31st May, 2022
8. Appeals from Primaries	1st – 2nd June, 2022



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