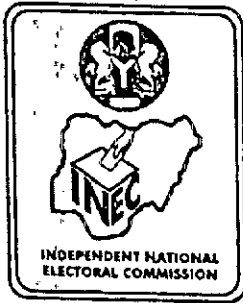


Exhibit Wec 1



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION



GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

2026

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

GUIDELINES FOR THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Independent National Electoral Commission (Commission) is empowered by Section 153 and Paragraph 15(a) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to:

“organize, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the President, Vice – President, the Governor, and Deputy Governor of a State and to the Membership of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly of each State of the Federation.”

1.2 Pursuant to its Constitutional mandate, the Commission approves and issues Timetable and Schedule of Activities for elections.

1.3 In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Commission by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act, 2026, the following Guidelines are hereby issued for the nomination of candidates for elections.

1.4 These Guidelines shall apply to the nomination of candidates for election into the following offices:

- i. President and Vice President;
- ii. Governor and Deputy Governor;
- iii. National Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives);
- iv. State Houses of Assembly;
- v. Chairmen and Vice - Chairmen of Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT); and
- vi. Councillorship of Area Councils of the FCT.

1.5 These Guidelines supersede all other Guidelines on the Nomination of Candidates for Elections issued by the Commission and shall remain in force until replaced by new Guidelines or amendments approved by the commission.

2.0 PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PRESCRIBED FORMS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

- 2.1 Political Parties seeking to nominate candidates for elections shall hold Primaries for aspirants into elective positions listed in Clause 1.4 above, in accordance with the provisions of Section 84 of the Electoral Act, 2026.
- 2.2 All Political Parties shall, not later than 120 days to the date appointed for a General Election and Area Council Election, submit to the Commission in the prescribed Forms, a list of candidates they intend to sponsor accompanied with an Affidavit sworn to by the candidate indicating that he or she has fulfilled all constitutional requirements for the office.
- 2.3 The submission of all Forms referred to in Clause 2.2 shall be made on the INEC Candidates Nomination Portal (ICNP) only in respect of candidates that emerged from validly conducted primaries.
- 2.4 The period for submission shall commence at 9.00am on the first day and end at 11.59pm on the last day as stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the election.
- 2.5 Every Political Party intending to sponsor candidates for elections in accordance with Section 29(1) of the Electoral Act 2026 shall:
- (a) Obtain access codes from the Commission on a date stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for election;
 - (b) Upload covering letter duly signed by the designated National Executives authorised by the respective Political Party's Constitution;
 - (c) Complete Form EC9 (Affidavit in Support of Personal Particulars) and EC 9(A)-(G) (whichever is applicable) on the ICNP;
 - (d) Ensure Forms EC9 (A -G) are signed electronically by the designated National Executives authorised by the respective Political Party's Constitution;

(e) Ensure the completed Form EC9 is downloaded and sworn to by the candidate at the Federal High Court, High Court of a State or of the Federal Capital Territory indicating that he or she has fulfilled all the constitutional requirement for election into that office;

(f) Upon swearing to the oath, scan and upload the oath page and other supporting documents to the ICNP;

(g) Ensure that all required fields are completed and all prompts on the ICNP are followed to enable successful submission.

2.6 After submission, an acknowledgment slip shall be generated. The ICNP will also send an e-mail confirmation to the e-mail address registered by the Political Party.

2.7 **NOTE:**

a. The prescribed Forms referred to in these guidelines are listed in Schedule 1.

b. The portal shall no longer be accessible for submission of prescribed Forms and other documents listed in Clause 2.5 (b), (d) and (f) after 11.59pm on the last day stipulated by the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the submission of Forms EC9 and EC9 (A – G);

c. Hard copies of Forms and documents delivered in person, by Courier, or postal service deliveries shall NOT be accepted or processed by the Commission.

3.0 **PROCESSING OF PRESCRIBED FORMS**

3.1 **CLEARANCE BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON. CHAIRMAN:**

Upon submission by Political Parties, the Hon. Chairman shall initiate the processing of Forms by forwarding submissions made by Political Parties on the ICNP to the Election Party and Monitoring Department (EPM) for verification and clearance.

3.2 ELECTION AND PARTY MONITORING DEPARTMENT

The EPM Department Shall:

- (a) Verify and confirm the signatures of designated National Executives authorised by the respective Political Party's Constitution with the sample signatures in the ICNP database; and
- (b) Upon confirmation, the EPM shall clear and forward submissions made by the Political Parties to the Legal Drafting and Clearance Department (LD&C) for further processing.

3.3 LEGAL DRAFTING AND CLEARANCE (LD&C) DEPARTMENT

The LD&C Department shall:

- (a) Accept and validate the submissions forwarded by the EPM Department;
- (b) Print all prescribed Forms and other supporting documents uploaded by Political Parties, which shall already be electronically stamped;
- (c) Date and sign each page of the printed Forms and documents;
- (d) Sort all Forms according to elective office and on State basis;
- (e) Arrange, process, and forward all Forms EC9 to State and FCT offices of the Commission within 21 days for publication in compliance with Section 29(3) of the Electoral Act, 2026.

4.0 INTERIM LIST OF CANDIDATES

The LD&C Department shall:

- (a) Generate the list of candidates for each election from the ICNP;
- (b) Vet the List of Candidates with the information provided in Form EC9;
- (c) Process for Commission's information.

5.0 WITHDRAWAL/SUBSTITUTION OF CANDIDATES

5.1 A Political Party that intends to change its candidate in accordance with Section 33 of the Electoral Act, 2026, shall, within the period stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for election:

- (a) Notify the Commission of the conduct of fresh primaries to replace its withdrawn or dead candidate, and attach evidence of withdrawal or death; and
- (b) Ensure that the date fixed for the conduct of fresh primaries is within the 14 days of the withdrawal/death and the period for substitution stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for election.

5.2 Upon the emergence of a substitute candidate in accordance with Section 33 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the Political Party shall:

- (a) Upload on the ICNP, a letter signed by designated National Executives authorised by the respective Political Party's Constitution, forwarding the proof of death or withdrawal letter duly signed by the candidate withdrawing;
- (b) Complete and upload:
 - i. Withdrawal of Candidates Form EC11 A -G (whichever is applicable) signed by the candidate withdrawing and the substitute candidate; and
 - ii. Passport photographs of the withdrawn and substitute candidate
- (c) Complete and upload Forms EC9, EC9 (A-G) in respect of the substitute candidate using the procedure in Clauses 2.3

-2.5.

5.3 Note that there shall be no withdrawal/substitution of candidates for bye-elections EXCEPT in the case of death.

6.0 FORM EC13 (A - G)

6.1 Political Parties shall:

- (a) Download and complete Forms EC13 A - G (whichever is applicable) in respect of candidates sponsored for elections within the stipulated period in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for election; and
- (b) Upload the completed Forms EC13 A - G (whichever is applicable).

7.0 FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES

7.1 The LD&C Department shall:

- (a) Integrate the names of substitute candidates with the Interim List of candidates;
- (b) Vet the List of Candidates with the information provided in Form EC9;
- (c) Seek the Commission's approval for publication of the Final List of candidates within the timeline stipulated in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the election;
- (d) Forward the Final List to the respective State and FCT offices of the Commission for publication at least 60 days before the date of election in compliance with Section 32(1) of the Electoral Act, 2026.

8.0 COURT ORDERS

8.1 Where there is a Court Order in respect of the nomination of any candidate, the Commission shall comply with such Order and indicate same against the name of the court ordered candidate on the Final List of Candidates.

These Guidelines complement the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act, 2026.

Dated this10th..... day ofJUNE..... 2026



Prof. Joash Ojo Amupitan, SAN
Chairman

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

SCHEDULE 1 PRESCRIBED FORMS

Presidential	Governorship	Senatorial	House of Reps	State House of Assembly	Chairmanship	Councillorship
A series	B Series	C Series	D Series	E Series	F Series	G Series

S/N	FORM NO.	FORM
1	EC9	Affidavit In Support of Personal Particulars (All Elections)
2	EC9 A	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (Presidential Election)
3	EC9 B	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (Governorship Election)
4	EC9 C	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (Senatorial District Election)
5	EC9 D	Submission Of Names of Candidates by Political Party (House of Representatives Election)
6	EC9 E	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (State House of Assembly Election)
7	EC9 F	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (FCT Area Council Chairmanship Election)
8	EC9 G	Submission of Names of Candidates by Political Party (FCT Area Council Councillorship Election)
9	EC11 A	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (Presidential Election)
10	EC11 B	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (Governorship Election)
11	EC11 C	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (Senatorial District Election)
12	EC11 D	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (House of Representatives Election)
13	EC11 E	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (State House of Assembly Election)
14	EC11 F	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (FCT Area Council Chairmanship Election)
15	EC11 G	Notice of Withdrawal of Candidate (FCT Area Council Councillorship Election)
16	EC13 A	Nomination Form (President)
17	EC13 B	Nomination Form (Governor)
18	EC13 C	Nomination Form (Member of Senate)
19	EC13 D	Nomination Form (Member of House of Representatives)
20	EC13 E	Nomination Form (Member of State House of Assembly)
21	EC13 F	Nomination Form (FCT Area Council Chairman)
22	EC13 G	Nomination Form (FCT Area Council Councillor)