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COMMISSION**

**(INEC)**

**2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

**POCKETBOOK FOR PARTY AGENTS**

# Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this pocketbook is to inform party agents on their roles, responsibilities, their rights and conduct in the electoral process. Specifically, the pocketbook seeks to assist party agents in the performance of their duties effectively during the Voter registration and display of the Preliminary Register of Voters and on Election Day. This is because as stakeholders in the electoral process, INEC recognizes the important role of party agents as essential in providing an environment of transparency and accountability at the registration, polling and counting venues.

Whereas party agents are expected to protect the interests of their political parties at the registration, polling and counting venues, they are expected to abide by the lawful instructions of INEC's electoral officials manning the venues. Their decisions are final, and objections to such decisions by aggrieved party agents should be channelled through INEC's laid down procedures.

## 2. **WHO IS A PARTY AGENT**

A political party agent is an accredited representative of a political party or candidate designed to witness the voter registration, display of the PRV, polling and counting processes on behalf of his/her political party/candidate at specific registration, polling and counting venues. In addition, the party agent projects his/her party's candidate interest at the registration, polling and counting venues. INEC allows only one agent per political party/candidate in every registration, polling and counting venue.

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## 3. APPOINTMENT OF PARTY AGENTS

Appointment of party agents is made in writing to the Electoral Officer (EO) at the Local Government Area (LGA), indicating the name and address of the appointee and duly signed by the approved party official.

**NOTE: Only party agents appointed by political parties and accredited by INEC will be allowed into the registration, polling and counting venues. The party agents MUST at all times wear their identification tags.**

## 4. ROLES OF PARTY AGENTS

### 4.1. During the Registration of voters and the display of the PRV

- i. Witness all aspects of the voter registration and display of the PRV processes at registration venues where they have been displayed.
- ii. May through the Registration officer verify and/or challenge the eligibility of a prospective registrant during the voter registration exercise.
- iii. May through the Registration officer file a claim or objection to the omission or inclusion of persons in the PRV during the display of the PRV exercise.

### 4.2 On Election Day

- i. Witness all aspects of the voting and counting processes at the polling venues where they have been deployed.
- ii. Prior to the commencement of voting at voting venues, inspect the polling venues, polling booth, examine the polling venues equipment and materials, examine the ballot box to ensure it is empty, and to witness the sealing of the ballot box by presiding officer (PO).

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- iii. May through the Polling Officer (PO) challenge and/or identify the identity of a voter.
- iv. To witness the making of ballot papers for incapacitated voters.
- v. May through the PO challenge the rejection or acceptance of a cast ballot paper

**NOTE: Non-attendance or the absence of party agents will not delay or invalidate the proceeding at the registration, polling and counting venues.**

### 5. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY AGENTS

The main responsibility of party agents at the registration, polling and counting venues is to observe the processes on behalf of their parties/candidate and ensure that the process is conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations. In the performance of their roles, party agents have the responsibility to:

- i. Perform their role in accordance to rules, code of ethics and laws governing the electoral process.
- ii. Strictly respect and comply with the Electoral Act 2006
- iii. Cooperate fully with instructions of the electoral officials assigned at the registration, polling and counting venues.
- iv. Bring to the attention of the electoral officials assigned at the registration, polling and counting venues, any action which they consider is not in accordance with the provision of the election rules.
- v. Refrain from speaking or attempting to influence any voter at the polling venues.

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**NOTE: Any party agent who leaves the counting venues during counting will not be allowed to re-enter nor will he/she be replaced with an alternative.**

## 6. RIGHT OF PARTY AGENTS

Every right herein is subject to the Constitution and the requirements, and procedures contained in the Electoral Act 2006. Party agents have the right to:

- i. Unlimited access to the registration, polling and counting venues at all times;
- ii. Observe the registration, polling and counting processes on behalf of their political parties at designated venues where they have been deployed;
- iii. Ensure that the registration, polling and counting processes are conducted in accordance with rules and regulations governing the processes.
- iv. File a claim/objection to any action which they consider contravenes the provisions of the elections rules.

## 7. OVERVIEW OF ELECTORAL PROCESS

Free, fair and credible elections are not just about events that occur on the Election Day. They relate to the entire electoral cycle ranging from the provision of voter education to the dissolution of the Houses of Assembly, maintaining an up-to-date Register of voters, nominations and campaigns (pre-election period), polling day activities, announcements of results (election period) and post elections activities (post-election period).

### 7.1 Types of Elections

Generally, elections take every 4 years for presidential, national and state assemblies and for local government depending on the state, every 2-3 years. There are instances when and where elections may be held before

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the expiry of the 4 years (and/or 2-3 years). The 1999 Constitution list instances in which vacancies may arise, necessitating by-elections to be held.

### 7.2 **The Electoral Calendar**

The Commission is mandated to produce and make public the Election Calendar. The Elections calendar provides dates and information on electoral activities and events throughout the electoral period.

#### 7.2.1 **Voter Registration**

Voter registration is the compilation of a list of all citizens who are eligible to vote in an election and forms the basis for determining who is eligible to vote on Election Day. Only qualified persons who present themselves before a Registration Officer shall be registered as voters

##### **7.2.1.1: Period of Voter Registration Exercise**

###### **7.2.1.1.1: Time of Registration**

Registration shall commence daily at 08:00a.m and end at 5:00p.m throughout the registration period

###### **7.2.1.2: Registration Procedures**

The Registrant:

- i. Arrives at the registration venues;
- ii. Has his/her fingers checked for indelible ink stain to ascertain that he/she has not registered previously
- iii. Is asked for his/her name, age/date of birth, gender, address and occupation which are then entered and stored using the Direct Capture (DDC) unit
- iv. Has his/her temporary voter's card printed and laminated
- v. Is then issued with the temporary voter's card and is directed to the Registration Official

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- vi. Has his/her name and other details manually recorded on Form EC. 1A.

**NOTE: This manual record forms the backup in the event the computer data is lost.**

- vii. Has his/her right thumbing mark inscribed on the appropriate section on form EC1A
- viii. Has his/her left thumb nail cuticle marked with indelible ink as proof that he/she has already registered.

### **7.2.2 The display of the PRV**

The PRV is a printed list of containing the names, photographs and other details of persons who have duly been registered as voters. The display of the PRV allows voter to check whether they are duly registered to vote or need to contact the Registration officials to request for amendments to their details as they appear in the PRV. In addition, the display of the PRV allows people to make claims to and objections against the inclusion or omission of names in the register.

#### **7.2.2.1: The period for the display of the PRV**

The period for the display of the PRV shall not be less than 5 days and not more than 14 days after the end of the registration period. A copy of the PRV shall be displayed from 8:00a.m to 5:00p.m daily throughout the stipulated period for public scrutiny.

#### **7.2.2.2: The Display Procedure**

During the display of the PRV, the Registration Official:

- i. Place a notice stating the dates and hours when the PRV shall be produced and displayed for public scrutiny

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- ii. Arrange the venue to allow easy movement by the public
- iii. Complete the notices of hearings of claims and objections and post the notices at the display venue
- iv. Paste copy of each page of the PRV on the notice board provided at a place visible for public scrutiny.
- v. Open the display period claims and objects may be made

### **7.2.2.3: Procedures for making Claims and Objections**

During the display period, any person who wishes to make a claim and/or objections:

- i. Shall produce such evidence to support the claim or objection
- ii. Is entitled to file his/her claim and/or objection in the prescribed forms for such purpose and submit it to the EO or REVO.
- iii. After completion of the form, be informed on the date, time and venue appointed for the hearing of claims and objections

**NOTE: In the event of appeals against determination of claims and objections by the REVO, the dissatisfied persons may appeal to the REC whose decision shall be final.**

### **7.2.3 Nominations**

Nominations refer to the process of selecting candidates to contest for elections. Every political party contending any election is expected to submit a list of their nominated candidates and their details to INEC. The period is characterized by vigorous campaigns all over the country even before the official campaign dates are announced.

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### **7.2.3.1 Period for Submission of Lists of Candidates By Political Parties**

Political parties are mandated by law to submit to INEC the list of candidates not later than 120 days before the election date. Any changes to the list should be done not later than 60 days before the election date. The time for submission of such list is during normal working hours.

### **7.2.3.2: Period for Submission of Lists of Candidate by Political Parties**

Within 7 days after receipt of the same from political parties, INEC shall publish the lists of candidates in the constituencies where the candidates intend to contest the election for public scrutiny.

### **7.2.4: Campaigns**

A political campaign is an organized effort to influence the selection of public office holders or to influence the outcome of a referendum or plebiscite. Campaigns for the purposes of an election are carried out by candidates, their political parties and supporters in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by INEC.

#### **7.2.4.1: Time and Period for Campaign**

The law does not provide for when the campaigns should begin. Nonetheless, it stipulates that all forms of campaigns and canvassing for votes are required to end not later than 24 hours before the day of elections.

### **7.2.5:**

#### **7.2.5.1: Election Dates**

The election schedules for April 2007 shall be for Presidential National and State Houses of Assembly.

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### **7.2.5.2: Date for Governorship and State houses of Assembly Elections**

The date for Governorship and state Houses of Assembly elections shall take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. Polling station shall remain open for voting from 8a.m to 5p.m

### **7.2.5.3: Date for Presidential and National Assembly Elections**

The Presidential and National Assembly elections shall take place on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2007. Polling station shall remain open for voting from 8a.m to 5p.m

### **7.2.5.4: Voting Procedures**

Voting takes place at polling venues identified by INEC. Voting is by open secret ballot method. That is, the voter makes his/her mark in secret but casts his/her vote into the ballot box in the full glare of all present. Voting procedures involve the following steps:

- i. Arrival: Voter presents him/herself at the polling station where he/she is registered as a voter with his/her voter's card.
- ii. Identification: Voter is directed to the poll clerk who asks for the voter's card and confirms that the voter is the same person as the picture and fingerprint in the card and checks the voter's finger for indelible ink to ascertain that the voter has not previously voted.
- iii. Verification: the poll clerk confirms that the voter's name, finger print, photograph and number appears in the register of that polling station and marks the register against the voter's name.

**NOTE:** the marking shall be according to the type of election e.g NAE for National Assembly, GE for Governorship election

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- iv. Embossing of voter's card: The poll clerk shall then stamp the back of the voter's card, sign and write the date of the election therein.
- v. Application of indelible ink: The poll clerk shall apply indelible ink to the appropriate finger of the voter's left hand depending on the type of election. (Cuticle of the thumb for National Assembly Elections, cuticle of the middle finger for Presidential and Governorship run-off where applicable; cuticle of the ring finger for State Assembly elections; cuticle of the little finger for the second run-off where necessary)
- vi. The poll clerk shall return the voter's card to the voter and direct the voter to the presiding officer
- vii. Issuance of ballot paper: the presiding officer issues the voter with a ballot paper and directs the voter to the polling booth.
- viii. Marking the ballot: upon receiving the ballot paper, the voter shall proceed to the polling booth and mark in the manner prescribed by INEC.
- ix. Casting the vote: The voter shall then proceed to the ballot box and in full view of those present, shall deposit his/her marked ballot paper into the ballot box.
- x. Exit: The voter shall leave the polling station immediately after casting his/her vote.

### **7.2.6: Announcement of Results/Winners**

Announcement of result and winners is done immediately after counting of the votes and the tallying of the same at counting venues.

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### **7.2.6.1: Counting Procedures**

The presiding officer shall with the assistance of other polling officials convert the polling station into a counting station for purposes of counting the votes.

The presiding officer shall:

- i. Open the ballot box and pour out the content of the ballot box onto a table
- ii. Display to the persons present the ballot papers sufficiently for them to ascertain the vote.
- iii. Separate the cast ballot papers according to:
  - The ballot papers in support of each of the different political parties/candidates for that particular election.
  - The ballot papers which will be rejected because:
    - There has been voting for more than one choice
    - Anything written or so marked as to be uncertain for what choice the vote has been cast
    - They bear a serial number different from the serial number of the respective polling station and which cannot be verified from the counterfoil of ballot papers used at that polling station
    - The voter can be identified (i.e the voter has indicated his/her name)
    - The mark is outside the rectangle box for purposes of making the vote
    - The vote is marked elsewhere than in the proper place
    - Of the ballot papers which are disputed
- iv. Count with the assistance of the other officials:
  - The votes cast in support of each of the different political parties/candidates for the particular elections
  - The ballot papers marked rejected (i.e. do not have any mark or marked wrongly or the intention of the voter is not clear, the voter can

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- be identified- i.e. the voter has indicated his/her name, or the mark is outside the rectangle box for purposes of making the vote)
- The ballot papers which are disputed
- v. Record the results in the designated form stating the number of votes:
    - Cast in support of each of the different political parties/candidates for that particular election
    - That were rejected
    - That were disputed
  - vi. Announce the results of the voting at the polling station
  - vii. Display the results of the voting at the polling station, public entrance to the polling station or any place convenient and visible to the public within the polling station
  - viii. Communicate the results to the collation officer for the constituency
  - ix. Closing as soon as practical after counting of voice and announcement of the results at the polling station, the presiding officer shall proceed to close the polling station in accordance with the laid down procedures.

### **7.2.6.2: Announcement of Results Procedures**

Results from the various polling stations are sent to the collation venues where the collation/returning officer tallies the results from each station and declares the results.

- i. Results for the House of Representatives Elections are announced by the Constituency Returning Officers after all results have been collated from the wards at local level
- ii. Results for the Houses of Representatives Elections are announced by the Constituency Returning Officers after all results have been collated from the wards at local level, local government area and federal constituency
- iii. Results for the Senatorial election after all the results have been collated from the Senatorial

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- district levels are announced by the Senatorial District returning Officers
- iv. Results for Governorship Election are announced by the State Returning Officer after collations from all levels
  - v. Results for Presidential Elections are announced by the chief Electoral Commissioner who is the Chairman of the Commission.

### **7.2.6.3: Procedures for declaring winners**

Decisions for declaring winners of any election depend on the election type.

- i. Winners to State House of Assembly and National assembly are by simple majority
- ii. Winners to Governorship elections are decided when candidates score highest number of voters at that election and not less than one quarter of all votes cast in each of at least two-third of the Local Government Areas of the State.
- iii. Winners of Presidential election is decided when a candidate scores the highest number of votes at that election and not less than one quarter of all votes cast in each of at least two-third of the states of the federation.

## **8 ELECTORAL OFFICIALS**

The electoral process usually involves the following officials:

- 8.1 Chief Electoral Commissioner  
He/she is the Chairman of the commission and responsible for management and administration of the electoral process and all elections in the country, except for local government elections.  
He/she is assisted by 12 national commissioners and the secretariat at the headquarters.
- 8.2 Resident Electoral Commissioner

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He/she is in charge of the administration, management and conduct of the electoral process at the state level and all other electoral officials report to him/her. He/she is assisted by the administration secretary.

### 8.3 Electoral Officer

The EO is in charge of the administration, management and conduct of the electoral process at the local government level. The EO is assisted by the Assistant Electoral Officers.

### 8.4 Ad-Hoc Officials

These are temporary officials appointed by INEC to undertake certain electoral activities. They include:

#### 8.4.1 Voter Registration Officials

- i. Supervisory Assistant Registration Officer (SARO): is responsible for supervising the registration exercise in the registration venues assigned to him/her. The SARO may be assigned between 5 to 15 registration venues.
- ii. Assistant Registration Officers (ARO I & II): are responsible for the conduct of the registration exercise at the registration venues. The ARO I has overall responsibility for the registration exercise in his/her registration venues, assisted by the ARO II. While the ARO has the overall responsibilities for the display of the PRV exercise.
- iii. Poll Orderly: security agent detailed to a polling venue to ensure law and order at the venues.

#### 8.4.2 Polling and Counting Officials

- i. **Collation/Returning Officer:** is responsible for the collation of data and results from the

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- polling stations in his/her jurisdiction and declares the results where required.
- ii. **Supervisory Presiding Officer:** supervises the administration and conduct of elections in the registration area assigned to him/her. The registration area may be made up of 5-15 polling venues.
- iii. **Presiding Officer (PO):** is responsible for the administration, management and conduct of elections at a polling venue. He/she ensures that proceedings at the polling venues are conducted in an orderly manner.
- iv. **Poll Clerk:** assists the PO in the conduct of elections at a polling venue. He/she may deputize for the PO in the latter's absence.
- v. **Poll Assistant:** assists in election duties at the polling venues. There may be one or more poll assistants.
- vi. **Poll Orderly:** security agents detailed to a polling venue to ensure law and order at the venues.

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## **APPENDICES PART VIII ELECTORAL OFFENCES**

124. Any person who:

- a. Without authority, destroys, mutilates, defaces, removes or make any alteration in any notice or document required for the purpose of registration under this Act.
- b. Knowingly gives false information or makes a false statement with reference to any application for registration of his name or withreference to any objection to the retention of the name of a person in the register of voters.
- c. Presents himself to be, or does any act whereby he is by whatever name or description howsoever, included in the register of voters for a constituency in which he is not entitled to be registered or causes himself to be registered in more than one registration or revision centre.
- d. Published any statement or report which he knows to be false or does not believe to be true so as to prevent persons who are qualified to register from registering as voters.
- e. Makes in record, register or document which he is required to prepare, publish or keep for the purpose of registration, any entry or statement which he knows to be false or does not believe to be true.
- f. Impedes or obstructs a registration officer or a revision officer in the performance of his duties.

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- g. Without proper authority, wears the identification of a registration officer or assistant registration officer or wears any other identification purporting to be the identification of a registration officer or assistant registration officer
- h. Forges a registration card; or carries out registration or revision of voters at a centre or place not designated by the Commission, commits an offence and liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both.

125.

- 1. A person who:
  - a. Forges any nomination paper
  - b. Wilfully defaces or destroys any nomination
  - c. Delivers to an electoral officer any nomination paper knowing to be forged
  - d. Signs a nomination paper as a candidate in more than one constituency at the same election
  - e. Forges any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of return.
  - f. Wilfully destroys any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of return
  - g. Without authority, gives a ballot paper to any person
  - h. Wilfully places in any ballot box any unauthorized paper
  - i. Wilfully removes from a polling station any ballot paper whether or not the ballot paper was issued to him in that polling station
  - j. Without authority destroys or in any manner interferes with a ballot box or its content or any ballot paper then in use or likely to be used for the purpose of an election.
  - k. Signs a nomination paper consenting to be candidate at an election knowing that he is

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ineligible to be a candidate at that election, commits an offence.

2. A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) of this section is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦200, 000 or imprisonment for 2 years or to both.

A person who:

- a. Without proper authority prints a ballot paper or what purports to be is capable of being used as a ballot paper at an election.
  - b. Being authorized by the Commission to print ballot papers print more than the number or quantity the Commission authorized.
  - c. Without being authorized, is found in possession of a ballot paper when he is not in the process of voting and at a time when the election for which the ballot paper is intended is not yet completed.
  - d. Manufactures, constructs, imports into Nigeria, has in his possession, supplies to any election official or uses for the purpose of an election, or cause to be manufactured, constructed or imported into Nigeria, supplies to any election, or cause to be manufactured, constructed or imported into Nigeria, supplies to any election official for use for the purpose of any election, any ballot box including compartment, appliance device or mechanism on or by which a ballot paper may or could be secretly placed or stored in, or having been deposited during polling may be secretly diverted, misplaced or manipulated, commits an offence.
3. A person who commits an offence under subsection (2) of this section is liable on conviction to a

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maximum fine of ₦500, 000 or imprisonment for 5 years or to both.

4. Any person who commits any offence under this section shall be punishable in the same manner as the offence itself.

126. Any person who is, at a political meeting held after the date for an election has been announced.

- a. Acts or incites another to act in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was convened, or
- b. Has in his possession an offensive weapon or missiles, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

127. Any person who

- a. Being entitled to a voter's card , gives it to some other person for use at an election other than an officer appointed and acting in the course of his duty under this Act
- b. Not being an officer acting in the course of his duty under this Act, receives any voter's card in the name of some other person or persons for use at an election, uses it fraudulently.
- c. Without lawful excuse has in his possession more than one voter's card, or
- d. Buys, sells, procures or deals with a voter's card otherwise than as provided in this Act, commits an offence and liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

128.

1. No person shall provide for the purpose of any other person to a registration office or a polling station nay

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government vehicle or boat, or any vehicle or boat belonging to a public corporation except in respect of a person who is ordinarily entitled to use such vehicle or boat and in emergency in respect of an electoral officer.

2. Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50,000 or to imprisonment for six months or to both

129.

1. Any person who:
  - a. Applies under this Act to be included in any list of voters in the name of some other person whether such name is that of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person
  - b. Having, once to his knowledge, been properly included in a list of voters under this Act as a voter at any election, applies, except as authorized by this Act, to be included in any other list of voter prepared for any Constituency.
  - c. Applies for a ballot paper in the name of some other person, whether such name is that of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person.
  - d. Having voted once at an election, applies at the same election for another ballot paper
  - e. Votes or attempts to vote at an election knowing that he is not qualified to vote at the election, or
  - f. Induces or procures any other person to vote at an election knowing that such other person is not qualified to vote at the election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or 12 months imprisonment.

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2. Any person who commits the offence of imprisonment or who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of that offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.
3. No person charged with the offence of impersonation shall be convicted except on the evidence of at least two witnesses.

130.

1. Any officer appointed for the purposes of this Act, who without lawful excuse does any act or omits to act in breach of his official duty commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or to imprisonment for 12 months or both.
2. Any polling officer who fails to report promptly at his polling station on an election day without lawful excuse, commits an offence of dereliction of duty and on conviction, is liable to maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or 12 months imprisonment or both.
3. Any polling officer who fails to discharge his lawful duties at his polling station without lawful excuse, commits an offence
4. Any person who announces or publishes an election result knowing same to be false or which is at variance with the signed certificate of return commits an offence and is liable on conviction to 36 months imprisonment.
5. Any returning officer or collation officer who delivers or causes to be delivered a false certificate of return knowing same to be false to the Commission, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum imprisonment for 3 years without an option of fine.
6. Any person who delivers or causes to be delivered a false certificate of return knowing same to be false to any news

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media, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for 3 years.

131.

1. Any person who:

- a. Directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers promises.
- b. Promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote, to refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting, at any election.
- c. Directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, corruptly makes any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement to or for any person, in order to induce such person to procure or to endeavour to procure the return of any person as a member of a Legislative House or to an elective office or the vote of any voter at any election upon or in consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, corruptly procure the return of any person as a member of a legislative house or an elective office or the vote of any voter at any election.
- d. Upon or in consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement corruptly procures, or engages or promises or endeavours to procure the return of a person as a member of a legislative house or to an elective office or to the vote of any voter at any election.
- e. Advances or pays or cause to be paid any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays or cause to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election.

- f. After any election, directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having votes or refrained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting or having induced any candidate to refrain from canvassing for votes for himself at any such election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to - months imprisonment or both.
2. A voter commits an offence of bribery who before or during an election directly or indirectly, himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for himself, or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to refrain from voting at any such election.
3. Nothing in this section shall extend or apply to money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any lawful expenses bona fide incurred at or concerning any election.
4. Any person who commits the offence of bribery is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.
5. Any person who conspires, aids or abets with any other person to commit any of the offences under this part of his shall be guilty of the same offence and punishment thereto.

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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6. For the purpose of this Act, a candidate shall be deemed to have committed an offence if it was committed with his knowledge and consent of a person who is acting under the general or special authority of the candidate with reference to the election.

### 132.

1. Every person in attendance at a polling station including every other officer charged with the conduct of an election and his or her assistants and every polling agent and candidate in attendance at a polling station or at the collation venue, as the case may be, shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.
2. No person in attendance at a polling booth under this section shall, except for some purpose authorized by law, communicate to any person information as to the name or number on the register of any voter who has or has not voted at the place of voting.
3. No person shall
  - a. Interfere with a voter casting his vote, or by any other means obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that place is about to vote for or has voted for, or
  - b. Communicate at any time to any other person information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate to whom a voter is about to vote or has voted for
4. Any person acting contrary to the provision of this section commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50,000 or to imprisonment for 6 months or both.

133. Any person who:

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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- a. Votes at an election or induces or procures any person to vote at an election, knowing that he or such person is prohibited from voting thereat; or
- b. Before or during an election, publishes any statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at such election knowing it to be false or reckless as to its truth or falsity; or
- c. Before or during an election, publishes any statement as to the personal character or conduct of a candidate calculated to prejudice the chance of election of the candidate or to promote or procure the election of another candidate and such statement is false and was published without reasonable grounds for belief by the person who published it that the statement was true, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months or both.

134.

1. Any person who knowingly votes or attempts to vote in a constituency in respect of which his name is not on the register of voter commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months or both.
2. Any person who knowingly brings into a polling station during an election a voters card issued to another person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months or both.

135. Any person who at an election acts or incites others to act in a disorderly manner commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.

136.

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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1. No person shall on the date on which an election is held do any of the following acts or things in a polling station or within a distance of 300 metres of a polling station.
  - a. Canvass for votes
  - b. Solicit for the vote of any voter
  - c. Persuade any voter not to vote for any particular candidate
  - d. Persuade any voter not to vote at the election
  - e. Shout slogans concerning the election
  - f. Be in possession of any offensive weapon or wear any dress or have any facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to intimidate voters
  - g. Exhibit, wear or tender any notice, symbol, photograph or party card referring to the election
  - h. Use any vehicle bearing the colour or symbol of a political party by any means whatsoever
  - i. Loiter without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote
  - j. Snatch or destroy any election materials; and
  - k. Blare sirens
2. No person shall in the vicinity of a polling unit or collation centre on the day of which election is conducted:
  - a. Convene, hold or attend any public meeting during the hours of poll as may be prescribed by the Commission;
  - b. Unless appointed under this Act to make official announcements, operate any megaphone, amplifier or public address apparatus
  - c. Wear or carry any badge, poster, banner, flag or symbol relating to a political party or to the election
3. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of N50, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months for every such offence.

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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4. Any person who snatches or destroys any election materials commits an offence and is liable on conviction to 24 months imprisonment.

137. A person who:

- a. Corruptly by himself or by any other person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election; or
- b. Being a voter corruptly accepts or takes money or any other inducement during any of the period stated in paragraph (a) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N100, 000 or 12 months imprisonment or both.

138. A person who:

- a. Directly or indirectly, by himself or by another person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint;
- b. Inflicts or threatens to inflict by himself or by any other person, any minor or serious injury, damage, harm, loss on or against a person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of such person having voted or refrained.

# Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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## **ADDRESSES OF INEC STATE OFFICES**

STATE	LOCATION
1. Abia	UCDA Road, Opposite Abia State Secretariat, P.M.B. 7223, Umuahia
2. Adamawa	3, Galadima Aminu Way, Adjacent NNPC Mega filling station, Jimeta, Yola
3. Akwa-Ibom	Plot 4/5 Udo Udoma Avenue P.M.B. 1116, Uyo
4. Anambra	House Of Assembly Road, Off Aroma Junction, Enugu-Onitsha Express Way, Akwa

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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|----|-------------|---|
| 5. | Bauchi      | High Court Close, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Bauchi                          |
| 6. | Benue       | No. 8 Jonah Jang Crescent, Opposite Federal Secretariat, Makurdi.       |
| 7. | Borno       | Airport Road, P.M.B. 1645, Maiduguri, Borno State                       |
| 8. | Bayelsa     | Road Safety Road, Yenagoa   |
| 9. | Cross-River | No. 81 Murtula mohammed Highway, Calabar.                               |
| 10 | Delta       | NTA Road, Off Okpanam Road, Asaba                                       |
| .  |             |   |
| 11 | Ebonyi      | No. 5 Town Planning Road, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State                       |
| .  |             |   |
| 12 | Edo         | No.3 Benin-Auchi Road, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City                          |
| .  |             |   |
| 13 | Ekiti       | INEC HQ, GRA Extension, New Iyin Road, P.M.B. 5324, Ado Ekiti           |
| .  |             |   |
| 14 | Enugu       | No.5 Auhi Street, Independence Layout, Enugu                            |
| .  |             |   |
| 15 | FCT         | No.3 Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Area 10 Garki, Abuja                        |
| .  |             |   |
| 16 | Gombe       | Along Bauchi Road, behind Total Filling Station, P.M.B. 50, Gombe State |
| .  |             |   |
| 17 | Imo         | Plot 1002 Port-Harcourt Road, Opposite Imo State Secretariat, Owerri    |
| .  |             |   |
| 18 | Jigawa      | INEC Link Street, Off Sani Abacha Way, Dutse, Jigawa                    |
| .  |             |   |
| 19 | Kebbi       | Olusegun Obasanjo Avenue, Aliero Quarters, P.M.B. 1038 Birnin Kebbi.    |
| .  |             |   |
| 20 | Kaduna      | No.109, Isa Kaita Road, P.M.B. 2322, Ungwar Rimi, Kaduna                |
| .  |             |   |
| 21 | Kogi        | Along Marine Road, Lokoja P.M.B. 1034                                   |

## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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- .
- 22 Kano No. 1 Pilgrim's Camp Way, Opposite Hajj Camp, P.M.B 3435, Kano
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- 23 Katsina Daura Road, Behind Kupda Kastina
- .
- 24 Kwara Western Reservoir Road, Yebumot Hotel Area, Ilorin
- .
- 25 Lagos No. 6 Birrel Avenue, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos
- .
- 26 Niger David Mark Road, Tunga, Minna, P.M.B. 84
- .
- 27 Nassarawa Kurikyo Road, Off Sani Abacha Way (Jos Road) Lafia, P.M.B. 039, Lafia
- .
- 28 Ondo No.12, Ola Akadiri Street, Algbaka Quarters, Akure, Ondo State
- .
- 29 Ogun Opposite Olusegun Obasanjo Library, Magbon, Abeokuta
- .
- 30 Osun KM 4. Gbongan Road, Abere, Osogbo, P.M.B. 4344 Abere
- .
- 31 Oyo Parliament Road, P.M.B. 034, Agodi Gate Office, Ibadan
- .
- 32 Plateau Miango Road, P.M.B 2739, Jos
- .
- 33 Rivers Plot 236, Aba Road, Port-Harcourt.
- .
- 34 Sokoto No.3 Tangaza Road, Opposite Police HQ, Low Cost, Sokoto.
- .
- 35 Taraba Wuro Sembe Road, P.M.B.1046, Jalingo
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## Guidelines for Political Party Agents

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36 Yobe

KM 6 Kashim Ibrahim Way, Damaturu

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37 Zamfara

Along Obasanjo Drive, Off Bye-Pass Road, P.M.B 01002,  
Gasau.

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