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INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

S. I. No. 7 of 1998

**INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
DECREE 1998  
(1998 No. 17)**

**Guidelines For Registration of Voters**

*Commencement:* 31st August, 1998

In exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 4 of the Independent National Electoral Commission Decree 1998 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Independent National Electoral Commission (in this Guidelines referred to as the "Commission") hereby makes the following Guidelines for the registration of voters in Nigeria;

**PART I - REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

1. The Commission shall, before the date fixed for registration of voters, issue a public notice or announcement stating -

Public Notice  
on Registration  
of voters.

(a) the days and time when registration of voters in the Federation for future elections shall take place; and

(b) the places at which registration centres are located.

2.-(1) The registration of voters shall be carried out at the same time throughout the Federation and at such registration centres as may be designated by the Commission.

Registration  
centres and  
period for  
registration.

(2) The registration centres shall be clearly identified and located in places which are easily accessible and near to the persons expected to register at such centres.

(3) The Commission may use as registration centres such public places as schools, halls, parks and other open spaces and booths constructed by the Commission for that purpose.

(4) On no account shall registration centres be located in private premises, churches, mosques or other religious places, military and Police barracks or club houses.

(5) Registration of voters shall last for a period of two weeks throughout the Federation and during this period registration shall begin in all registration centres at 8 am. and end at 6 pm. daily.

Qualification  
of Voters.

3. A person shall be qualified for registration as a voter if -

- (a) he is a Nigerian;
- (b) he has attained the age of eighteen years;
- (c) he is ordinarily resident in the area covered by the registration centre in which he intends to register; and
- (d) he has presented himself to the registration officers for purposes of registration as a voter within the period allowed by the Commission for registration of voters.

Registration  
Card.

4.-(1) A registered voter shall be issued a registration card upon being registered.

(2) A registration card shall contain the following information -

- (a) the registered voter's name;
- (b) the registered voter's age;
- (c) the registered voter's sex;
- (d) the registered voter's number;
- (e) the name of the State;
- (f) the name of the Local Government Area;
- (g) code number of the ward;
- (h) the registration area;
- (i) the registration unit;
- (j) the registered voter's thumb print;

(k) official rubber stamp and signature of the registration officer.

5.-(1) On no account shall a person so qualified to be registered as a voter be denied registration:

Right of a registered voter.

Provided that he has presented himself within the time allowed by the Commission for registration and has so presented himself at the appropriate registration centre.

(2) No person shall be accepted for registration after the end of the period allowed by the Commission, but registration shall continue until all persons who have presented themselves within the period allowed by the Commission are duly registered and issued voter's registration card.

(3) No person shall be allowed to register in more than one registration centre or to register more than once in the same registration centre.

6.-(1) A preliminary register of voters shall be displayed in each registration centre and at such places as the Commission may direct soon after the initial registration.

Display of preliminary register of voters.

(2) The purpose of displaying the preliminary register shall be to afford members of the public an opportunity to inspect the preliminary register and point out any errors which may be contained therein.

(3) The display of the preliminary register shall take place on such days and at the time specifically set aside for that purpose, and publicised by the Commission.

(4) The display of the preliminary register shall be carried out in a manner which affords easy and unimpeded inspection of the register by members of the public.

(5) At the end of the period allowed for inspection of the preliminary register the Commission shall effect the correction of such errors as may be brought to its notice and proceed to produce the final voters register.

Claims and  
objections.  
Form E.C. 2.

7 -(1) Any person qualified for registration as a voter may, if his name is omitted or is incorrectly stated in the voters' register, claim in writing in Form E.C. 2, to have his name and address inserted or to have any such entry corrected.

(2) Any person may by notice in writing to the officer in charge in Form E.C. 3, object to the inclusion of any name appearing in the preliminary voter's list, as being the name of a person not entitled to, or qualified for inclusion in the voters' register:

Power of the  
Commission  
to remove  
names from  
the prelimi-  
nary register.

8. The Commission shall have power to remove from the preliminary register any name which appears to it to have been erroneously or fraudulently entered in the register, or the name of any person who has died since the preliminary register was compiled.

## PART II - REVISION OF VOTERS' REGISTER

Revision of  
voters register.

9.-(1) The Commission shall whenever it considers it expedient or desirable undertake a revision of the voters' register throughout the country.

(2) Whenever the Commission decides to revise the voters' register, it shall issue a public notice stating -

(a) the date and time when the revision of the voters' register shall take place; and

(b) the location or centres at which the display of the voters' register shall take place.

Notice of  
revision of  
voters register.  
Form E.C. 1.

10.-(1) The voters' register shall be revised at the same time throughout the Federation at the various centres where the registration of voters originally took place.

(2) An application for inclusion in the voters' register during the revision of voters' register shall be in Form E.C. 1 and shall be from persons -

(a) claiming to have attained eighteen years of age since after the registration of voters exercise; or

(b) who have changed abode since after the registration of voters exercise; or

(c) who give any other reasons acceptable to the Commission for not being registered during the registration of voters exercise.

11. Any person may by notice in writing to the Revision Officer in charge of a revision centre, in Form E.C. 3A, report that a person whose name is on the voters' register is dead.

Notification of death of a person named on the register. Form E.C. 3A.

12. The revision of the voters' register shall take place between the hours of 9 am. and 6 pm. throughout the period allowed by the Commission for the registration of voters exercise.

Period of revision.

13.-(1) The Commission shall have power to remove from the register of voters-

Power of Commission to remove names from register of voters.

(a) any name which appears to it to have been erroneously or fraudulently entered in the voters' register; or

(b) the name of any person reported to have been dead.

(2) The report that a person whose name is on the voters' register was erroneously or fraudulently entered, or that a person whose name appears in the register is dead and made in the appropriate form obtainable from the Commission, shall be returned to the officer in charge of the appropriate revision centre.

### **PART III - APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND SUPERVISION OF REGISTRATION**

14.-(1) The Commission shall, for the purpose of the conduct and supervision of the registration of voters or the revision of voters' register, appoint such *ad hoc* officers, as supervisory registration or revision officers, registration or revision officers, clerks, orderlies and others which are required to effectively carry out the registration of voters or revision of voters' register in each Local Government Area of the Federation.

Supervisory power of electoral officers.

(2) The Commission shall be at liberty to assign any functions or duties in relation to the registration of voters or revision of voters' register to any of such officers as appointed under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph without regard to nomenclature or designation.

(3) An officer appointed under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph may be required by the Commission to carry out his functions or duties in one or more registration or revision centres, and may be required to work in any part of this Federation.

General supervision and control.

15. An Electoral Officer or an Assistant Electoral Officer of the Commission shall exercise supervisory powers over the officers appointed under paragraph 14 of these Guidelines within his Local Government Area and may, subject the general direction of the Commission, give instructions to such officers with regard to the performance of their assigned functions or duties.

Power of the Commission to give directives.

16.-(1) Subject to paragraph 14 and 15 of these Guidelines, the Commission may appoint in respect of any Local Government Area an officer or officers, by whatever name called to control or supervise the registration of voters or the revision of voters register in that Local Government Area and any such officers shall have and exercise the powers which may be conferred or assigned to them by the Commission.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph 16 of these Guidelines, the general supervision and control of the registration of voters or revision of voters' register in each Local Government shall be vested in the Electoral Officer of the Local Government Area.

(3) The Electoral Officer may -

(a) demand information from any officer appointed under these Guidelines with respect to any matter relating to the functions of that officer or the registration of voters or revision of voters' register in general; and

(b) give specific directives or instructions to any officer with respect to the performance of his functions or duties.



(4) Any such officer shall comply with the demand or the directives of the Electoral Officer.

17. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 16 of these Guidelines, the power of control and supervision of the registration of voters or the revision of voters' register shall be vested in the Commission and any rules, regulations, circulars, directives and instructions given by the Commission regarding the registration of voters or the revision of voters' register shall be binding, and complied with by all permanent staff and temporary officers involved in the registration of voters' or the revision of voters' register.

Power of the Commission to give directives.

**MADE** at Abuja this 31st day of August 1998.

**HON. JUSTICE EPHRAIM OMOROSE IBUKUN AKPATA (Rtd)**  
**CHAIRMAN**

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