



## **The Electoral Act 2022: A Policy Advocacy Triumph**

1. On Friday, 25 February 2022 President Muhammadu Buhari after much delay over the years signed the reworked Electoral Amendment bill into law. The Bill has the potential to significantly strengthen the legal framework governing our electoral system and set the pace for a better and more credible elections in 2023.
2. The Youth Party welcomes the new Electoral Act 2022 and is pleased to have contributed significantly to the final outcome of the Act through numerous policy advocacy interventions. The Youth Party was one of the few parties that responded to the invitation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in a letter dated 18th June, 2019 to submit recommendations<sup>1</sup> for reform of the electoral process after the last general elections. The Party also submitted an extensive memorandum to the National Assembly Joint Committee on INEC and Electoral Matters which was also presented at the public hearing of the Bill by our Financial Secretary, Mr. Ifeanyi Nwoye even though we were given a very short notice.
3. The final outcome of the Bill reflects some of the propositions and recommendations levied by the Party. Some of our recommendations led to the deletion or addition of certain provisions in the Bill for instance we recommended the deletion of the provision of Section 78 (1) which gave INEC the power to deregister political parties for failing to win the Presidency, Governorship, National or State House of Assembly election as it the provision was antithetical to democratic norms.
4. Also, we recommended that the law should allow for the admissibility of electronic versions of voters register during election petition cases as the previous position requiring obtaining certified true copies of the voters register from INEC was frustrating, cumbersome and outdated; and the adoption of e-collation and transmission of election results as malpractices largely occur from the previous manual system, these recommendations formed part of the final Amended Act particularly in section 15 and 50.
5. We further recommended the deletion of the provision of Section 87 (8) of the previous Bill on election of ad-hoc delegates and the provision of Section 87(13) mandating the State Independent National Electoral Commission to monitor local governments, ward and councillorship primaries as it amounted to overregulation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available online via <https://usercontent.one/wp/youthpartyng.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Memoranda-to-INEC-for-electoral-reforms-2-1.pdf>.



6. Other accepted recommendations include the early conduct of primaries to allow for early determination of pre-election matters (Section 29), a possibility for the adoption of e-voting (Section 50) etc.
7. For the umpteenth, it is important to restate that running for public office is not the only duty of any political party, the duty of political parties equally includes advocating and presenting alternate policies which contributes to the social-economic development of the country and acting as an issue-based effective opposition when not in power.
8. We also commend the National Assembly for adhering to democratic norms in its decision-making process by not just seeking recommendations from the public but providing a platform for us to present our recommendations and adopting same in the final outcome of the Act in spite of partisan differences.

---

Ifeanyi Nwoye  
**National Financial Secretary**

---

Ayodele Adio  
**National Publicity Secretary**