



**GUIDELINES FOR BYE ELECTIONS**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

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### ***General Provisions***

1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution 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,

### ***Mandatory Provisions for the Conduct of Primaries***

3. The Primaries 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 2022 (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.

### ***Eligibility***

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

### ***Qualification***

5. (1) An aspirant for the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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;
- 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 Ward congresses; and,
- g) 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***

5 (2.) An aspirant to the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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

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

- g) 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

- h) 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
- i) Has been convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### ***Screening Procedure***

5 (3.) An aspirant to the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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;
- b) Presents a false birth certificate or declaration of age for the purpose of the primary election or for any purpose whatsoever;
- 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,

- e) Is a member of a secret society;
- f) Has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any court in Nigeria;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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 Committee***

6. (1) A Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly aspirants.
  - a) The Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary and 6 (six) members. One shall be appointed from each of the 6 (six) geo-political zones and shall include a minimum of three women.
  - b) A Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Appeal Panel shall also be appointed. The Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Appeal Panel shall consist of a Chair, 6 (six) 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 Senatorial, House Of

Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Committee may appeal in writing to the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Appeal Panel within 24 hours or soon thereafter from the time of the announcement of the result of the screening and the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Appeal Panel shall pronounce its Decision on the appeal within 24 hours or soon thereafter of the receipt of the petition.

- e) Only aspirants cleared by the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Committee or whose appeal the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Screening Appeal Panel has upheld shall be qualified to participate in the primary election.

6 (2.) The Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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.

6 (3.)

- a) There shall be 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 maybe appointed by the National Executive Committee.
- b) The Chair of the State Electoral Panel shall be the Chief Returning Officer for the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Primary Election.
- c) The designated venue, date and time for the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly primary election.

- f) Voting at the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Primary elections shall be collated by the Returning officer.
- h) No result shall be upheld as valid in the Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly primary elections, who shall be the Party's candidate in

the State Elections.

6 (4.) A Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly 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 Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Electoral Appeal Panel within 24 hours from the time of the receipt of the decision appealed against.
- b) The Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly Electoral Appeal Panel shall pronounce its decision on the appeal with 24 hours of the hearing of the appeal or soon thereafter.

6 (5.) Where, after the successful election of a Senatorial, House Of Representative and House Of Assembly candidate at the primaries, the candidate so elected dies or withdraws, or is otherwise incapacitated, the State Executive Committee of the Party shall summoned a Special State Congress for the purpose of nominating or electing another candidate.

## PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE

S/No.	Activities	Date
1	Sale of Expression of Interest and Nomination forms	27 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
2	Screening	5 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024
3	Screening Appeal	6 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024
4	Primaries	7 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024
5	Appeal from Primaries	8 <sup>th</sup> January, 2024