

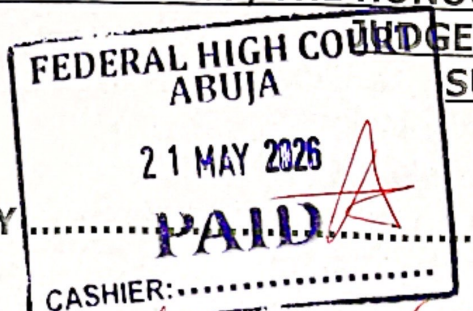
IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH DAY OF MAY, 2026
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE M. G. UMAR

BETWEEN:

YOUTH PARTY

AND

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL
COMMISSION



SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/517/2026

PLAINTIFF

DEFENDANT

JUDGEMENT ORDER


UPON THE ORIGINATING SUMMONS dated and filed 11th March, 2026 praying this Court for the following Orders:

1. **A DECLARATION** that upon a proper consideration and interpretation of the provisions of Sections 29, 82 and 84(1) of the Electoral Act, 2026, the powers of the Defendant to receive notice of party primaries and the personal particulars of candidates, and its duty to attend, observe and monitor such primaries, does not extend to fixing or prescribing the timetable within which political parties may conduct their primary elections for the purpose of nominating candidates for the 2027 general elections.
2. **A DECLARATION** that having regards to Section 29(1) of the Electoral Act, 2026 which requires political parties to submit the personal particulars of their candidates not later than 120 days to an

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HON. JUSTICE M. G. UMAR
JUDGE

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election, the Defendant cannot lawfully abridge or limit that statutory period by prescribing a shorter timeframe in its 2027 election timetable.


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HON. JUSTICE M. G. UMAR
JUDGE

3. **A DECLARATION** that having regards to Section 31 of the Electoral Act, 2026 which permits political parties to withdraw and substitute candidates not later than 90 days to the conduct of an election, the Defendant cannot lawfully abridge or limit that statutory period by fixing earlier deadline for the withdrawal and replacement of candidates in its 2027 election timetable.
4. **A DECLARATION** that having regards to Section 32 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the Defendant does not possess the statutory power to publish the final list of candidates for the 2027 general election before the 60 days minimum period prescribed by law.
5. **A DECLARATION** that upon a proper construction of Section 98 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the Defendant does not possess the statutory authority to fix in its timetable for the 2027 general elections for campaign to end 2 days before the elections.
6. **AN ORDER** setting aside or nullifying the timeframes imposed by the Defendant in its Revised Timetable and Schedule of Activities for 2027 General Election for the conduct of primary elections by political parties for the 2027 general elections, the submission of personal particulars of candidates by their political parties for the 2027 general elections, the withdrawal and replacement of candidates by political parties for the 2027 general elections, the publication of the final list of candidates for the 2027 general

elections and campaigning for the 2027 general elections.

7. **ANY OTHER OR FURTHER CONSEQUENTIAL ORDER OR ORDERS** of this Honourable Court as the circumstances of this case may require in the interest of justice.

AFTER HEARING J. O. Olotu, Esq. of Counsel for the Plaintiff and Sarafa Yusuf, Esq. of Counsel for the Defendant.

AND the Court having delivered its judgement.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A Declaration is hereby made that upon a proper consideration and interpretation of the provisions of Sections 29, 82 and 84(1) of the Electoral Act, 2026, the powers of the Defendant to receive notice of party primaries and the personal particulars of candidates, and its duty to attend, observe and monitor such primaries, does not extend to fixing or prescribing the timetable within which political parties may conduct their primary elections for the purpose of nominating candidates for the 2027 general elections.
2. A Declaration is made that having regards to Section 29(1) of the Electoral Act, 2026 which requires political parties to submit the personal particulars of their candidates not later than 120 days to an election, the Defendant cannot lawfully abridge or limit that statutory period by prescribing a shorter timeframe in its 2027 election timetable.
3. A Declaration is made that having regards to Section 31 of the Electoral Act, 2026 which permits political parties to withdraw and substitute candidates not later than 90 days to the conduct of an election, the


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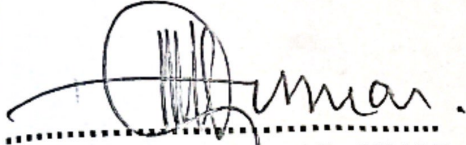
Defendant cannot lawfully abridge or limit that statutory period by fixing earlier deadline for the withdrawal and replacement of candidates in its 2027 election timetable.

4. A Declaration is made that having regards to Section 32 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the Defendant does not possess the statutory power to publish the final list of candidates for the 2027 general election before the 60 days minimum period prescribed by law.
5. A Declaration is made that upon a proper construction of Section 98 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the Defendant does not possess the statutory authority to fix in its timetable for the 2027 general elections for campaign to end 2 days before the elections.
6. A Declaration is made that upon a proper interpretation to Section 33 of the Electoral Act, 2026, the time frame prescribed by the Defendant for submission of membership registers for the conduct of primary elections is NOT applicable to primary elections conducted for the purpose of replacing withdrawn candidates.
7. Order is hereby granted setting aside or nullifying the time-frames imposed by the Defendant in its Revised Timetable and Schedule of Activities for 2027 General Election for the conduct of primary elections by political parties for the 2027 general elections, the submission of personal particulars of candidates by their political parties for the 2027 general elections, the withdrawal and replacement of candidates by political parties for the 2027 general elections, the publication of the final list of candidates for the 2027 general elections and campaigning for the 2027 general elections which


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are inconsistent with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 2026.

ISSUED AT ABUJA, under the hand of the Presiding Judge, **Hon. Justice M. G. Umar**, and seal of the Court this 20th day of May, 2026.


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HON. JUSTICE M. G. UMAR
JUDGE


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MU'AZU KASIMU
REGISTRAR

PREMIUM TIMES