



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

National Engineering Centre,  
Off National Mosque – Labour House Road  
Central Business District  
Abuja

## **ELECTION GUIDELINES 2021**

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The NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

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## **Introduction**

The Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) was established on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1958 in London and later inaugurated in Lagos on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1960. Since then its membership, Divisions and Branches have grown tremendously, and hence the need to have proper rules and procedures to guide its election.

Council in September 2007 approved guidelines for NSE elections, which was reviewed in 2016, 2019, 2020 and again reviewed in 2021. These guidelines are in line with the amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society.

It is expected that the election guidelines would help ensure orderliness in the supervision and conduct of NSE elections. Intending office seekers are advised to carefully read the guidelines and follow strictly the rules while seeking office in the Society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Momoh'.

**Engr. Dr. Okopi Alex Momoh, FNSE**  
Executive Secretary

a.	There shall be the Society's Annual General Meeting once in a year at any place in Nigeria the Council may prescribe for the purpose of transacting the business of the Society, announcement and ratification of the election results of the Deputy President, the Vice Presidents, Executive Committee Members and Statutory Audit Committee Members in conformity with Article 22 (1) of the Memorandum & Articles of Association
b.	<p>Election of Officers In accordance with Article 18 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society:</p> <p>i. There shall be an Electoral Committee of the Society. The President shall nominate the members of the Committee which shall be subject to the approval of Council. The Election Committee shall conduct the election of officers in accordance with the electoral guidelines approved by Council.</p> <p>ii. Election of officers into the National Executive Committee shall be done through online or electronic voting in accordance with the electoral guidelines approved by Council.</p> <p>iii. Results of elections of members of the Executive Committee, and Audit Committee shall be announced and ratified at the Annual General Meeting, and the winners declared.</p> <p>iv. For any member to be eligible for election/or to nominate candidates for election into any office he must not have subscription, dues and levies in arrears at the time of nomination.</p> <p>v. A Candidate for the post of Deputy President should have been a Corporate Member of the Society for at least 15 years and a Fellow for at least 5 years.</p> <p>vi. The Deputy President shall be elected from among serving and past Vice Presidents who had served for at least two calendar years.</p> <p>vii. The Deputy President shall automatically become the President at the expiration of the term of the incumbent President.</p> <p>viii. A Candidate for the post of Vice President should have been Corporate Member of the Society for at least 10 years, and a Fellow for at least 3 years, and must be a Nigerian.</p> <p>ix. A Candidate for the post of the Vice President must have served on the Council of the Society as Chairman of a Division or Branch for at least two (2) years.</p> <p>x. A Vice President shall be elected from each of the Six Geographical Zones of the country in consonance with the election guidelines approved by Council.</p> <p>xi. A Member of the Executive Committee shall be elected from each of the Six Geographical Zones. Candidates should have been Corporate Members of the Society for at least 10 years, and must be Nigerians.</p>

xii.	A Candidate for election as Executive Committee Member shall have served as Chairman of a Council Committee or on the Executive Committee of a Division or Branch for at least 2 years or as a member of Council for at least 2 years.
xiii.	Any member wishing to nominate a candidate for election to the National Executive Committee shall notify the Executive Secretary on the prescribed form duly signed by the nominees at least <i>six clear weeks</i> <b>from the date fixed for the Election.</b>
xiv.	Executive Committee Members referred to in Article 16 (1) (c) and (d) of the revised MemArt (revised February, 2021) shall not be eligible to serve in the Executive Committee of their various Divisions and Branches during their tenure as National Executive Members.
xv.	Council shall constitute a five-member Electoral Appeal Panel of past Presidents of the Society to hear pre-election and post- election issues.
xvi.	Any Aspirant or Member who may wish to challenge the outcome of the screening of any aspirant by the Election Committee shall within fifteen (15) days from the date of the release/display of the list of cleared candidates file a petition in writing before the Electoral Appeal Panel, stating the grounds for the petition.
xvii	Any Candidate or Member who may wish to challenge the outcome of the election result shall within nine (9) days of the release of the result file a petition in writing before the Electoral Appeal Panel, stating the grounds for the petition.
xviii	It shall be the duty of the Electoral Appeal Panel to hear all petitions brought before it, and may call for witnesses as it deems fit in the course of the hearing.
xi	The Electoral Appeal Panel shall within 30 days from the date of the closure of filing of pre-election petition(s), conclude and deliver judgment on all pre-election issues.
xx	The Electoral Appeal Panel shall within 17 days of the closure of filing of post-election petition(s), conclude and deliver judgment on all post-election issues.
xxi	Any Candidate or Member who may feel not satisfied with the judgment of the Electoral Appeal Panel shall within seven (7) days of the delivery of the judgment appeal the judgment of the Panel to the Council of the Society.
xxii	The decision of the Council shall be final.
xxiii	All petitions shall be addressed and delivered through the office of the Executive Secretary.
xxiv	The election of the Deputy President shall rotate between the Northern and Southern Zones of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in line with Article 3 (p), (q) and (r) of the Memorandum & Articles of Association (revised February, 2021).  No Zone shall produce the Deputy President in succession.
xxv	The Six Vice Presidents and Six Executive Members shall be elected each from the Six (6) Geographical Zones of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in line with Article 3 (s) and (t) of the Memorandum & Articles of Association (revised February, 2021).

c.	All Aspirants must apply on the prescribed nomination form available at the Secretariat or on the Society's Web site.
d.	All Aspirants must be proposed and seconded by financial corporate members of the Society.
e.	All nomination forms must be physically submitted or e-mailed to the Executive Secretary of the Society as set out on the election time-table released by the Election Committee.
f.	Where at the close of nomination there is no candidate validly nominated, the Executive Secretary shall in consultation with the President extend the time for submission of nomination.
g.	All Aspirants shall be notified by the Executive Secretary the result of the screening exercise of the Election Committee not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the screening.
h.	<p>A member shall not be qualified to contest NSE election if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. he/she is under a sentence of death imposed on him by any competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria or fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud by whatever name called.</li> <li>ii. within the last ten years before the date of the NSE election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. he/she has been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty by a Competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria.</li> <li>b. he/she has been found guilty of professional misconduct, dishonesty or fraud by COREN Tribunal and or the Society's Disciplinary Tribunal and upheld by Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. he/she has been dismissed from employment on grounds of misconduct.</li> </ul>
i.	Candidates shall submit their profile which will include their contribution to the Society to the Executive Secretary and this shall be posted on the Society's web site.
j.	Candidates or their agents are not allowed to campaign by whatever means – open air, posters, gsm, e-mail, radio, television, newspapers or magazines; visits to Divisions and Branches for purposes of campaign etc are for the purposes of this section considered as campaign and therefore NOT allowed. There shall be no financial inducement. Violation of this section is considered as an act of professional misconduct and automatically disqualifies the candidate.
k.	Candidates may withdraw their candidature in writing to the Executive Secretary Twenty-Four hours before the election.
l.	<p>There shall be an Election Committee of the Society to be appointed by the Society to conduct the business of the election in accordance with these guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. President shall nominate the names of members of the Election Committee by September of every year for council's approval.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>ii.</b> The members shall be appointed to cover the main groups of engineering – civil, mechanical, electrical, material/process, agricultural and interdisciplinary/specialist groups.</p>
m.	Only financial Corporate Members shall be appointed as members of the Election Committee.
n.	Only Corporate financial members of the Society are eligible to vote.
o.	Candidates will appoint one agent each to protect their interests.
p.	Only Corporate financial members of the Society can act as agents. The agents are to report to the Election Committee.
q.	The Election Committee shall determine the commencement and end of poll, but this should be communicated to all members before the commencement of elections.
r.	No member shall cast more than one vote for any candidate.
s.	No member shall be allowed to vote, once poll is declared closed, by the Election Committee.
t.	The Election Committee shall collate the votes and count them in front of the agents.
u.	There shall be the election result form to include names of candidates, post contested for, votes scored, ranking among different contestants, signatures of candidates’ agents and signatures of members of Election Committee.
v.	The election result shall be entered into the form described above.
w.	<p>Candidates shall become duly elected if:</p> <p>For Deputy President, he/she has a simple majority of votes cast.</p> <p><b>i.</b> for Vice President, he/she scores the highest number of votes among the candidates that contested from his/her Geographical Zone.</p> <p><b>ii.</b> for Member of the Executive Committee, he/she scores the highest number of votes among the candidates that contested from his/her Geographical Zone.</p>
x.	Once election is successfully completed, the Chairman of the Election Committee shall announce the results, or in the absence of the Chairman, any other member of the Election Committee that has been so nominated by other members of the Committee shall announce the results of the election.
y.	The decision of the Election Committee on scores by candidates shall be final. However, complaints arising from any candidate on the outcome of the election shall be forwarded to the Election Appeal Panel.