



Office of the Head of Service of the Federation

THE PRESIDENCY

Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama, Abuja. P.M.B. 248, Tel: 09-2348284

CIRCULAR

HCSF/479/II/19

5th May, 2022

Chief of Staff to the President,
Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, Office of the Vice-President,
Honourable Ministers/Ministers of State,
Permanent Secretaries,
National Security Adviser,
Special Advisers/Senior Special Assistants,
Chief of Defence Staff/Service Chiefs/Inspector-General of Police,
Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria,
Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission,
Chairman, Police Service Commission
Chairman, Code of Conduct Bureau,
Chairman, Code of Conduct Tribunal,
Chairman, Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission,
Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service,
Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission,
Chairman, National Population Commission,
Chairman Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences
Commission,
Chairman, Economic & Finance Crimes Commission,
Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency,
Chairman, National Salaries, Incomes & Wages Commission,
Chairman, National Assembly Services Commission,
Surveyor-General of the Federation,
Directors-General/Executive Secretaries/Managing Directors



HCSF/479/II/19

5th May, 2022

**CLARIFICATION ON THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICE RULES (PSR)
VIS-À-VIS THE SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT AS IT RELATES TO PARTICIPATION OF
CIVIL SERVANTS IN PARTISAN POLITICS**

The Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) has been inundated with requests for clarification on the provision of Public Service Rules (PSR) vis-à-vis the Supreme Court Judgment as it relates to participation of civil servants in partisan politics.

2. In the light of the above, it has become necessary to draw the attention of all civil servants to the legal opinion of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice (HAGF&MJ) on this matter. In his letter, Ref. No. SGF/PS/HCSF/210/II dated 26th November, 2018, HAGF&MJ asserted, *inter alia*, that:

"neither the 1999 Constitution nor the Supreme Court has authorized civil servants to engage in partisan politics. The provisions of Rules 030422 and 030423 of the Public Service Rules (2008 Edition) were not nullified by the Supreme Court, hence, they remain in force and binding on all civil servants seeking to participate in nomination exercises or party primaries".

He concluded that:

"the provisions of Rules 030402(g), 030422 and 030423 of the Public Service Rules (2008 Edition) should be enforced ... and that the attention of civil servants (be drawn) to the fact that the Supreme Court judgment in INEC vs Musa did not set aside or nullify these provisions of the Public Service Rules, hence, they must be complied with by any civil servant who wishes to seek nomination or participation in party primary elections".

3. Accordingly, in the overall best interest of neutrality, harmony, integrity and development of Nigerian Civil Service, all civil servants are strongly advised to be guided by the provisions of PSR and the legal opinion of Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation/Minister of Justice on the subject.

4. The contents of this circular should be given widest circulation for the compliance of all concerned.


Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan
Head of the Civil Service of the Federation