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2023

# NICASA ELECTIONS REPORT



**NIGERIAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION SOUTH AFRICA  
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (NIEC)**

Date: 29 October 2023

# 2023 NIEC TEAM



Dr Lawan Abdulhamid  
Chairman, NIEC



Engr Emmanuel Ukpoju, PhD  
Secretary, NIEC



Archbishop Chidebere Ogbu  
PRO, NIEC



Hon. Angel Chizoba  
Member, NIEC



Chief Prince Akukalia  
Member, NIEC



Chief Benson Nwaogwugwu  
Member, NIEC



Hon. Sunny Atiti  
Member, NIEC



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nigerian Citizen Association South Africa (NICASA) 2023 election was conducted on the 9th of September 2023, at the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg, with a total of 12 positions to be filled. The positions are: President General, Vice President I and II, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer, Organising Secretary, Deputy Organising Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chief Protocol Officer, Deputy Protocol Officer and Public Relation Officer (PRO). The election was carried out through an open secret ballot, ensuring privacy of eligible voters and transparency of the election process. The report reveals that out of the 188 delegates, 152 (80%) were accredited to take part in the election. 10 delegates from Eastern Cape were disallowed to take part in the election due to allegation of non-existence of NICASA branch in the Eastern Cape Province. The number then dropped to 142. Out of the 142 accredited delegates, 121 (85%) cast their votes for the election.

All candidates and voters had equal access to information and opportunities to express their preferences. The election committee diligently monitored the process, addressing any concerns promptly and maintaining the integrity of the election. The report provides a breakdown of the election results, highlighting the successful candidates for each position. The report identifies a few challenges faced during the election, such as delay in the start of the election due to the Eastern Cape delegates' eligibility. Recommendations are made to address these challenges and further enhance the election process in future years.

The NICASA 2023 Election Report demonstrates the association's commitment to upholding democratic principles and ensuring a fair and transparent election process. As NICASA moves forward, these findings and recommendations will serve as valuable insights to continuously improve its election procedures, ultimately strengthening the association's governance and service to its members.



Dr Lawan Abdulhamid  
NIEC Chairman



Engr Emmanuel Ukpoju, PhD  
NIEC Secretary

Date: 29 October 2023

# INTRODUCTION

The NICASA Independent Electoral Committee (NIEC) made up of the Chairman; Dr. Lawan Abdulhamid, Secretary; Engineer Emmanuel Ukpoju (PhD) and five (5) members; Archbishop Chidiebere Ogbu (PRO), Chief Benson Nwaogwugwu, Hon. Angel Chizoba Omozogie, Chief Prince Akukalia, and Hon. Sunny Atiti, inaugurated by the NICASA executives was tasked with the responsibility of conducting a free, fair and credible elections for the organization in 2023. In view of this, the committee released the Terms of Reference (ToF) and the guidelines for the conduct of the elections.

Information on the eligibility criteria, how to contest, position and cost of forms was widely publicised among members, and interested candidates were screened for the publicised positions, which included the positions of the President General, Vice president 1 and 2, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Organizing Secretary, Deputy Organizing Secretary, Chief Protocol Officer, Deputy Chief Protocol Officer, and Public Relations Officer (PRO).

The election was successfully held on Saturday the 9th of September 2023 at the Nigeria Consulate Johannesburg, and votes cast were publicly sorted and counted, and the winners were declared at venue on the same day and issued certificate of return.

## **Pre-election Matters**

In preparation for the 2023 NICASA general elections, the NIEC sort to conduct an election that beyond free, fair and credible, is inclusive of the major established socio-cultural groups, religious associations and professional organizations of Nigeria extraction in South Africa. Thus, the committee came up with its Terms of Reference (ToF) specifying the number of delegates (188) to be selected from all identified groups, who would be casting their votes at at the poll. The following groups were represented (see attached 2023 NICASA election infographic- Appendix 1)

- INICASA Board of Trustees
- CANSAF Christian Association of Nigeria, South Africa
- NPASA: Nigeria Pastors Association, South Africa
- ONSA: Ohaneze Ndigbo South Africa
- IGBO Union
- Nigerian Nurses and midwives
- Nigeria Lawyers Association
- Nigerian Women Association
- NNISA: Northern Nigerians in Southern Africa
- AYIDSA: Associations of Yorubas in Diaspora South Africa
- ODUVA: Oodua Peoples Union
- Islamic Association of Nigeria
- Niger Delta Union
- NANSSA; National Association of Nigerian Students South Africa
- NDFSA; Nigeria Doctors Forum South Africa
- NICASA Provincial Structures

Each of the identified group, with the exception of NICASA BOT (15) and NICASA provinces (10 each), NNISA (10) ODUVA (10) and ONSA (10) was required to present 5 delegates. All contestants and NICASA executives were also included as delegates bringing the total number of delegates to 188, for the elections. Similarly, nomination fee was specified for each position stated. The fees were allotted as follows:

National president- R5000  
 Vice President 1 R3000  
 Vice President 2 R3000  
 Secretary General R3000  
 Deputy Secretary General R1500  
 Organizing Secretary R2000  
 Financial Secretary R1500  
 Treasurer R1500  
 Deputy Organizing Secretary R1500  
 Chief Provost Officer R1000  
 Deputy Provost Officer R1000  
 Public Relations Officer R1000

Other elements of the TOR also included eligibility criteria, which stipulated that all contestants must be a passport carrying citizens of Nigeria, who are residing in South Africa and are having a valid resident permit. They must have a legitimate and provable means of livelihood; be of noble character and without a history of criminal conviction and have proven record of community service engagement. In addition, the term of office for the elected officers was specified for a 4-year term, as per the constitution, with the clause that it could be reduced to 3 years after the constitution amendment by the incoming executives. To ensure gender balance three positions were specifically reserved for female candidates. These are; Treasurer, Deputy Organising Secretary and Chief protocol officer. This does not exclude them from contesting in other positions.

### **Online expression of interest form**

The NIEC released a link for an online expression of Interest using Jotform. Contestants were required to attach the following documents: Nigerian Passport, Valid Resident Permit, two reference letters, letter of motivation and proof of payment for the form. All contestants' documents were confidentially handled without allowing anyone outside the NIEC access to them. The online form was extended twice to allow all vacant positions to be filled in. In each case information was released with clear date of open and closure of the form to the public through various Nigerian Associations WhatsApp groups.

### **Screening of candidates**

Seventeen (17) candidates were screened at the Nigerian consulate in Johannesburg. In the screening exercise we first checked the authenticity of the document submitted by scrutiny of the original document presented during the screening. All contestants were asked to fill in Pledge letter agreeing to peaceful conduct during the election (see Appendix 2) using the online expression of interest forms provided electronically, and the criteria enumerated for the positions. At the end of the screening, there were four (4) contested positions; President General, Vice President 1, Treasurer and Organizing Secretary. For other positions, candidates were unopposed.

## **Election guidelines**

Certain guidelines were set for the delegates and candidates to ensure a smooth conduct of the elections. Some of which indicated the type of election to be conducted, which is the simple majority. As for the contested positions, a candidate will be declared winner and returned elected. Meanwhile, candidates vying for the unopposed positions, must each secure 25% of the total votes cast to be declared winner. Additionally, contestants are to be listed as delegates to enable them to cast their votes. Specified in the guideline also, is the allotted time for the accreditation of delegates, slated for 8:00am to 9:30 am, and to be followed by a manifesto session by candidates. All candidates were required to come to the election venue with either the original Nigerian passport booklet or a coloured copy of the biodata page of their Nigerian passport, to gain access to the venue, and only confirmed delegates would be admitted into the vicinity of the Nigeria consulate, the venue of the election. Among other things, the guideline also barred campaigns by contestants on the election day. (For the comprehensive list please refer to the guidelines attached herein as Appendix 3).

## **Petitions and Withdrawals**

A couple of petitions were received from some contestants, provinces, Organizations and well-meaning Nigerians regarding the eligibility of certain candidates. These allegations were based on membership status of some contestants in NICASA and other Organizations, discrepancies in educational qualifications. These were dealt with and a resolution to allow all contestants to partake in the election was agreed. Consequent upon this, the AYIDSA community pulled out of the election citing an error of judgement on the part of the IEC. Also, the Nigeria Doctors Forum withdrew citing lack of mandate from their members to partake in the election.



## **ELECTION DAY**

The election was held on Saturday, the 9th of September 2023 at the premise of the Nigeria Consulate Johannesburg. The IEC accredited 152 delegates for the election. This is inclusive of 10 delegates from the Eastern cape. However, a decision was made to withdraw the 10 delegates from eastern Cape after series of debates concerning their eligibility. Thus, the total number of delegates dropped to 142. Nonetheless, only 121 voted in the elections. Votes were casted, sorted and counted publicly, and results were announced immediately on the same day and venue. Below is the breakdown of the votes and winners: Akanbi Kazeem Ganiyu, one of the contestants for the President General was allegedly withdrawn from the election few minutes before the commencement of the voting.

## **RESULTS OF THE ELECTION**

### ***Contested positions***

#### **PRESIDENT GENERAL**

Total votes cast - 121

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes - 02

Lawan Ibrahim Tanko - 29

Akanbi Kazeem Ganiyu - 06

Francis Godswill Onyekwelu - 84

**WINNER: Francis Godswill Onyekwelu**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT 1**

Total votes cast - 121

Total valid votes - 117

Total invalid votes - 04

Amakan Elisha Agoni - 50

Kolawole Adedotun Olumide - 67

**WINNER: Kolawole Adedotun Olumide**

## **TREASURER**

Total votes cast - 121

Total valid votes - 120

Total invalid votes - 01

Ifeyinwa Obi Emedo - 52

Vivian Chinasa Oparah – 68

**WINNER: Vivian Chinasa Oparah**

## **ORGANISING SECRETARY**

Total votes cast - 121

Total valid votes - 118

Total invalid votes - 03

Benjamin Anike - 68

Anthony Ohiaogu Ewulonu (Duke) - 50

**WINNER: Benjamin Anike**

## ***Unopposed Positions (Requires 25% to Win)***

### **VICE PRESIDENT 2: Nkolika Ukadike (Odibeze)**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 98

% of endorsed votes 82%

**Nkolika Ukadike (Odibeze) declared WINNER for VP 2**

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL: Ojo-Fafore Elizabeth Motunrayo**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 96

% of endorsed votes 80%

**Ojo-Fafore Elizabeth Motunrayo declared WINNER for SG**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL: Ikechukwu Paulicarp Onumajulu**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 89

% of endorsed votes 74%

**Ikechukwu Paulicarp Onumajulu declared WINNER for DSG**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Atolagbe Trust Robert**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 100

% of endorsed votes 83%

**Atolagbe Trust Robert declared WINNER for FIN SEC**

**DEPUTY ORGANISING SECRETARY: Agatha Ezeh Ngozi**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 87

% of endorsed votes 73%

**Agatha Ezeh Ngozi declared WINNER for DOS**

**CHIEF PROTOCOL OFFICER: Ijeoma Faith Nwodo**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 91

% of endorsed votes 76%

**Ijeoma Faith Nwodo declared WINNER for Chief Protocol**

**DEPUTY PROTOCOL OFFICER: Ukpabi Chukwudi Lawrence**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 88

% of endorsed votes 73%

Ukpabi Chukwudi Lawrence declared WINNER for Deputy Protocol

**PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER: Okorie Tony Okwudili**

Total votes cast - 120

Total valid votes - 119

Total invalid votes – 01

Total endorsed votes – 105

% of endorsed votes 88%

Okorie Tony Okwudili declared WINNER for PRO

**Table 1: List of successful candidates**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>State Of Origin</b>
1	Rev. Francis <u>Godswill Onyekwelu</u>	President	<u>Abia</u>
2	Hon. <u>Kolawole Olumide</u>	Vice President 1	Lagos
3	Hon. <u>Nkolika Ukadike</u>	Vice Present 2	Anambra
4	Mrs. Elizabeth <u>Ojo-fafore</u>	Secretary General	Oyo
5	<u>Ikechukwu Paulicarp Onumajulu</u>	Deputy Sec. Gen	Imo
6	Mr. Trust Robert <u>Atolagbe</u>	Financial Secretary	<u>Kwara</u>
7	<u>Vivian Chinasa Oparah</u>	Treasurer	Imo
8	<u>Benjamin Anike</u>	Organising Secretary	Delta
9	<u>Agatha Ezeh</u>	Deputy Organising Sec	Anambra
10	<u>Ijeoma Faith Nwodo</u>	Chief Protocol Officer	Enugu
11	<u>Ukpabi Lawrence Chukwudi</u>	Deputy Chief Protocol Officer	Imo
12	<u>Anthony Okorie</u>	Public Relation Officer	Imo

## FINANCIAL REPORT

NIEC was mobilised by NICASA to the sum of R40,000 to perform its responsibility of conducting the NICASA 2023 elections. Through the sale of the Expression of Interest (EOI) forms, the committee realised the amount of R45,000 paid by the 17 contestants directly to the NICASA National Bank Account. The overall breakdown of the financial report including the income and expenses is detailed as follows:

**Table 2: Summary of Financial Report**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount (R)</b>
Mobilization funds received	40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
1. Hosting of the <u>jotform</u> Expression of Interest Form	*****
2. Design & printing of Ballot papers and boxes	4,500
3. Design & printing of Certificate of Return & Delegate list.	1,253.21
4. Transportation/Logistics of IEC members	15,000
5. Light refreshments at meetings (13 meetings)	4563
6. Refreshment on the day of Contestants' screening	1,400
7. Breakfast on the day of Election	1000
8. Purchase of Ink & Ink pad ( <i>for Voting</i> )	199.40
9. Election T-shirts, Lanyard and caps (7)	2840
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,755.61</b>

The committee therefore remitted to the NICASA bank account the balance of R9,244.39. (see Appendix 4)

It is worthy of mention that the hosting of the online jotform access for the expression of interest form wasn't budgeted for. Nevertheless, the committee chairman; Dr. Abdulhamid Lawan graciously took up the task at a cost of R7000 without refund. This is a measure of the committee's selfless disposition to the given task.

## **APPRECIATION**

The NIEC committee wishes to extend its gratitude to the Consul General; Hon. Andrew Idi and the entire Consulate staff for their selfless service especially on the day of the election and also in the provision of refreshment for the entire delegates who had come from far and near. Also, worthy of mention is the Nigeria's High Commissioner to South Africa; Amb. Haruna Manta for his fatherly guidance.

## **OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The process leading up to the election, including the conduct of the election was generally peaceful. This election marked a watershed in the history of NICASA. It is the first time that the leadership of NICASA will have five (5) women in its fold. This is hugely encouraging and commendable.

However, certain issues are to be highlighted, and recommendations are thus, made in effect.

- **Clarity of Membership:** There is a need for the Constitution of NICASA to be reviewed to correct membership ambiguity. NICASA should as a matter of urgency have a Registration Directory.
- **Imbalance in Regional and Provincial Representation:** Key offices in NICASA National should be zoned across geopolitical divides and Provinces. This will motivate other regional blocs to fully commit to strengthening NICASA.
- **Provincial Relevance:** National Elections to be moved within Provinces to encourage and enhance general participation in NICASA National functions.

## **CONCLUSION**

On the 9th of September 2023, NICASA successfully held its general election at the Nigerian consulate, Johannesburg. The election had 142 delegates, whose votes ushered in the new sets of executives, through a simple majority vote. While certain positions were fiercely contested, others were largely unopposed. However, each unopposed candidate was required to gain 25% of the total votes cast, to be declared a winner. Although participation was impressive, there is a need for a more balanced representation of the different regions in Nigeria.



# Independent Electoral Commission

## 2023 NICASA Elections

iec.nicasa2023@gmail.com

### Election Guidelines

- 176 delegates from: NICASA Executives, Provincial Leaders, BOTs, Regional and Professional Nigerian associations will vote in the 2023 election.
- In Person voting at the Nigerian Consulate Office in Johannesburg.
- **Date of election: Sarurday 26 August, 2023**
- Positions of Treasurer, Chief Protocol Officer and the Deputy Organising Secretary exclusively for women.
- This doesn't foreclose women from seeking other elective positions.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Nigerian resident in South Africa (holder of Nigerian Passport) with valid resident permit.
- Legitimate and provable means of livelihood.
- Noble character and not convicted of any crime.
- Active in community service in South Africa.
- Must not be insolvent.
- President General, Vice President 1 and 2, Secretary General and Treasurer must have permanent resident permit

### How to Contest?

- To contest for any position in this election, you must fill in Expression of Interest Form available online **not later than 14 July, 2023.**  
<https://form.jotform.com/lawanabdula/Expression-of-interest-form>
- You must upload the following
- Certified copy Nigerian Passport
  - Certified copy Valid Permit
  - Recent CV
  - Two referee reports
  - Proof of payment of form to NICASA account with ref. Surname, Position
  - Absa Bank, Nigerian Citizen Association South Africa.
- 9345448215 Branch code: 633005

### Positions & Cost of forms

- President General – R5000
  - Vice President 1 – R3000
  - Vice President -2 – R3000
  - Secretary General – R3000
  - Deputy Sec General – R2000
  - Organizing Secretary – R2000
  - Financial Secretary – R2000
  - Treasurer – R2000
  - Deputy Org. Secretary – R1500
  - Chief Protocol Officer – R1500
  - Deputy Protocol Officer – R1500
  - Public Relation Officer – R1500
- Note that cost of form is non refundable**

### Chairman

Dr Lawan Abdulhamid

### Secretary

Engr Emmanuel Ukpoju, PhD

### Members:

Archbishop Chidebere Ogbu

Chief Prince Akukalia

Chief Benson Nwaogwugwu

Hon Angel Chizoba Ormozogie

Hon Sunny Aitfi





# APPENDIX 2



## Independent Electoral Commission NICASA 2023 Elections

iec.nicasa2023@gmail.com

### PLEDGE TO ACCEPT OUTCOME OF AN ELECTION

The pledge to accept the outcome of an election is a commitment made by you to respect the democratic process and honor the results of a free and fair election. By pledging to accept the outcome, you agree to the following

1. **Respect for Democratic Principles:** Recognizing that free and fair elections are the foundation of a democratic society and committing to uphold those principles.
2. **Non-Violence:** Agreeing to resolve any disputes or grievances through peaceful and lawful means, rather than resorting to violence or civil unrest.
3. **Supporting Democratic Institutions:** Demonstrating support for independent electoral commission and the rule of law to ensure the legitimacy of the election process.
4. **Unity and Cooperation:** Encouraging unity and cooperation among other contestants and citizens, irrespective of the election results.
5. **Public Statements:** Making public statements or declarations that affirm the commitment to accepting the outcome of the election.
6. **Educating Supporters:** Ensuring that supporters and followers also understand and respect the importance of accepting election results.

Name:

Sign:

Date:

#### Chairperson

Dr Lawan Abdulhamid

#### Secretary

Engr Emmanuel Ukpoju (PhD)

#### Members:

Archbishop Chidebere Ogbu

Chief Prince Akukalia

Chief Benson Nwaogwugwu

Hon Angel Chizoba Omozogie

Hon Sunny Atiti

# **APPENDIX 3**

## **2023 NICASA Election Guidelines**

The Independent Electoral Commission for the NICASA 2023 elections wishes to inform all the delegates and contestants of the following guidelines for the 9 September 2023 elections at the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg.

1. There are four contested positions: President General, Vice President 1, Organising Secretary and the Treasurer. With a simple majority, a candidate will be declared the winner of the election and will be returned elected.
2. There are eight unopposed positions, a candidate will be declared a winner and returned elected only when he/she gets at least a quarter (25%) of the total votes cast. Otherwise, the position will be declared vacant.
3. All contestants shall be listed as delegates, this will enable them cast their votes.
4. Accreditation of delegates will be from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. This will be followed immediately by a manifesto session by all contestants.
5. Light refreshments will be served to all delegates on the day of the election. Delegates from provinces outside Gauteng are strongly advised to arrive in Johannesburg on Friday.
6. No campaign will be allowed on the day of the election.
7. ONLY delegates will be allowed into the Consulate premises for the elections.
8. All voting delegates must come along with their Nigerian passport booklets or coloured copies for proper identification.

NIEC would like to reassure the Nigerian community of its readiness to conduct a credible, free, and fair election.

God bless us all.

Dr. Lawan Abdulhamid  
Chairperson  
NIEC 2023

# APPENDIX 4



## NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENT

To Whom it may Concern:

First National Bank hereby confirms that the following payment instruction has been received:

Date Actioned : 2023/10/18  
Time Actioned : 19:20:56  
Trace ID : 1ZFSSKBL

### Payer Details

Payment From : MR EMMANUEL A UKPOJU  
Cur/Amount : ZAR9244.39

### Payee Details

Recipient/Account no : .448215  
Name : NIGERIA CITIZENS ASS  
Bank : ABSA BANK LIMITED  
Branch Code : 632005  
Reference : NIEC 2023 REFUND

END OF NOTIFICATION

To authenticate this Payment Notification, please visit the First National Bank website at [fnb.co.za](http://fnb.co.za), select the "Verify Payments" link and follow the on-screen instructions.

Our customer (the payer) has requested First National Bank Limited to send this notification of payment to you. Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this notice, please contact the payer. First National Bank Limited does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy and integrity of the information and data transmitted electronically and we accept no liability whatsoever for any loss, expense, claim or damage, whether direct, indirect or consequential, arising from the transmission of the information and data.

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