



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ORIGINAL ELECTORAL BILL AND MANIPULATED BILL

This table highlights the differences between the earlier version of the Electoral Bill 2021 and the version that came out in early July 2021, which contained manipulations purported to be made unilaterally by a section of the Joint Committee on INEC and Electoral Matters in the National Assembly.

S/N	Issue	Original Bill	Manipulated Bill
1	Smart Card Reader – Section 47(3)	Where a smart card reader or any other technological device deployed for accreditation of voters fails in any unit and a fresh card reader is not deployed, the election in that unit shall be cancelled and another election shall be scheduled within 24 hours.	Where a smart card reader or any other technological device deployed for accreditation of voters fails in any unit and a fresh card reader is not deployed, the election in that unit shall be cancelled and another election shall be scheduled within 24 hours. The Commission is allowed to conduct another election only if it is satisfied that the election in that polling unit will substantially affect the final result of the whole election and declaration of a winner in that constituency concerned.
2	Transmission of Results – Section 50(2)	Voting and transmission of results should be in accordance with a procedure determined by the Commission.	Provides that procedure for voting should be determined by the Commission which may include electronic voting, provided that results should not be transmitted by electronic means.
3	Declaration of Results – Section 65	Proviso makes mention of the power of the Commission to review the declaration and return made by the Returning officer within seven days.	The proviso is completely non-existent.

5	Decision of the Commission subject to judicial review – Section 76	A legal action challenging the decision of the Commission not to register an association as a political party shall be commenced within 14 days from the date of the receipt of the decision on non-registration from the Commission.	A legal action challenging the decision of the Commission not to register an association as a political party shall be commenced within 45 days from the date of the receipt of the decision on non-registration from the Commission.
6	Nomination of candidates by parties – Section 84(1)	A political party seeking to nominate candidates for elections under this Act shall hold direct or indirect primaries for aspirants to all elective positions, which shall be monitored by the Commission.	A political party seeking to nominate candidates for elections under this Act shall hold direct or indirect primaries for aspirants to all elective positions, which may be monitored by the Commission
4	Campaign Finance – Section 88	Section 88(2); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for presidential election shall not exceed ₦5,000,000,000	Section 88(2); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for presidential election shall not exceed ₦15,000,000,000
		Section 88(3); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for Governorship election shall not exceed ₦1,000,000,000	Section 88(3); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for Governorship election shall not exceed ₦5,000,000,000
		Section 88(4); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of a senatorial and House of Representatives seat shall not exceed ₦100,000,000 and ₦70,000,000 respectively.	Section 88(4); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of a senatorial and House of Representatives seat shall not exceed ₦1,500,000,000 and ₦500,000,000 respectively.
		Section 88(5); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for state Assembly election shall not exceed ₦30,000,000 .	Section 88(5); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for state Assembly election shall not exceed ₦50,000,000 .
		Section 88(6); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for an Area Council election shall not exceed ₦30,000,000 .	Section 88(6); election expenses to be incurred by a candidate for an Area Council election shall not exceed ₦50,000,000 .
7	Election expenses of political parties – Section 89(4)	Maximum amount of fine for failure of political party to make audited return on election expenses is ₦1,000,000	Maximum amount of fine for failure of political party to make audited return on election expenses is ₦5,000,000

8	Disclosure by political parties – Section 90	<p>Section 90(2)(b); a political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution more than ₦1,000,000.</p> <p>Section 90(3); a political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution more than ₦1,000,000 unless it can identify the source of the money or other contribution to the Commission.</p>	<p>Section 90(2)(b); a political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution more than ₦50,000,000.</p> <p>Section 90(3); a political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution more than ₦50,000,000 unless it can identify the source of the money or other contribution to the Commission.</p>
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