



**EDO STATE HIGH COURT (PRE- ELECTION MATTERS) PRACTICE
DIRECTIONS , 2020.**

In the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 6(6), 274 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 (10) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 21) Act 2017, which amends the provisions of Section 285 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), mandating all trial courts in every pre-election matter to deliver judgment within 180 days from the date of the filing of the suit and section 53(1) of the High Court Law Cap. 65 Vol. III of the defunct Bendel State of Nigeria (1976) as applicable to Edo state, I, Hon. Justice E.A. Edigin, The Honourable, the Chief Judge of Edo State, do hereby issue the following Practice Directions:

1. These Practice Directions shall, save to the extent and as may otherwise be ordered by the Honourable, the Chief Judge, apply to all pre-election matters filed before the High Court of Edo State

2. Nothing in the Edo State High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2018 shall prevent a Judge of the Court from hearing a pre-election matter already pending before the Court, during the vacation period until judgment is delivered.

3. (i) No petition against a Judge or application for transfer of a suit from one court to another shall be entertained during the hearing of any pre-election matter except in special or exceptional circumstances.
- (ii) Where a party on record petitions or applies for a transfer of a suit as in (i) above, such petition or application for transfer shall be accompanied by an affidavit verifying the contents of the petition/ application for transfer and in particular, shall establish such special or exceptional circumstance(s).
- (iii) The party shall cause same to be served on the Judge and all parties on record, notwithstanding that the petition/ application for transfer is addressed to The Honourable, the Chief Judge of Edo State.
- (iv) Where the petition or application for transfer is addressed to The Honourable, the Chief Judge, the proof of service of the advance copies on all parties on record and the Judge concerned shall accompany the petition.

Commencement

These Practice Directions take effect from^{3rd} day of August 2020.

MADE AT BENIN CITY THIS 29th DAY OF JULY, 2020



HON. JUSTICE E.A EDIGIN
CHIEF JUDGE
EDO STATE