



**GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MICROFINANCE COMPANIES**

*Integrity, Accountability, Commitment*

# **ELECTIONS GUIDELINES**

**2011**

## **National Board Members**

1. In accordance with Article 20 of the Constitution of GAMC there shall be elections for the following positions:

1. National Chairman
2. National Vice Chairman
3. National Treasurer.

### **1. 2. *Qualification of Nominees.***

No person is qualified to be elected as a national board member who -

- (a) is not a citizen of Ghana;
- (b) Is not a registered member of GAMC (by company membership);
- (c) Has been adjudged or otherwise declared –
  - (i) Bankrupt under any law in force in Ghana and has not been discharged; or
  - (ii) To be of unsound mind or is detained as a criminal lunatic under any law in force in Ghana; or
- (d) Has been convicted –
  - (i) For high crime under the Constitution of Ghana or high treason or treason or for an offence involving the security of the State, fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude; or
  - (ii) For any other offence punishable by death or by a sentence of not less than ten years; or
- (e) has been found by the report of a commission or a committee of inquiry to be incompetent to hold public office or is a person in respect of whom a commission or committee of inquiry has found that while being a public officer he acquired assets unlawfully or defrauded the State or mis-used his office, or wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the State, and the findings have not been set aside on appeal or judicial review; or
- (f) is under sentence of death or other sentence of imprisonment imposed on them by any court; or
- (g) is otherwise disqualified by a law for the time being in force.
- (h) is not a CEO or a Managing Director.

***Electoral College.***

3. Four (4) Representatives from each of the Ten Regions shall constitute the Electoral College for National Elections. A total of 40 delegates shall vote during National Elections.

***Nomination of candidates.***

4. (1) A candidate shall be nominated by filing a nomination form provided by the appointed Electoral Commissioner and the form shall be delivered by the candidate or his proposer to the National representative of the Commissioner at a date and time directed by the Commissioner.

(2) The nomination paper shall be endorsed by ten (10) registered member one (1) from each of the ten (10) regions in good standing as Endorsers. There can be only one Endorser from each company.

***Candidate's photograph.***

5. A candidate shall, at the time of his nomination, deliver to the returning officer one post-card size copies of his photograph (bust).

***Holding of election.***

6. The election shall be held –

(a) within fourteen days after the close of nominations; and

(b) at the Delegates Conference.

***Procedure for the election.***

7. (1) The Commissioner shall supervise the election of a regional representative to the national Board.

(2) The election shall be by secret ballot.

(3) The person who obtains the highest valid votes cast at the election shall be declared elected.

(4) Where two candidates obtain the highest number of valid votes cast, then unless there is a withdrawal, the process shall be continued until one candidate is elected.

***Application of existing electoral laws.***

10. Except as otherwise provided in this Instrument, the provisions of existing electoral laws shall apply to elections under this Instrument with such modifications and adaptations as may be necessary.

***Notification/Declaration of election results.***

11. The Electoral Commissioner shall announce the results upon closure of voting and counting to the Electoral College at the Annual General Meeting.

**Election of Sector Board Members**

In accordance with Article 8b of the Constitution of GAMC there shall be sector board to oversee the activities of the sectors. The following positions must be contested for:

- i. The Sector Board Chairman (President)
- ii. The Sector Vice-Board Chairman (Vice President)
- iii. Financial Secretary/Treasurer
- iv. Organiser/Secretary
- v. 5 Regional Representatives

***Qualification of Nominees.***

12. No person is qualified to be elected as a sector board member who -

- (a) is not a citizen of Ghana;
- (b) Is not a registered member of GAMC (by company membership);
- (c) Has been adjudged or otherwise declared –
  - (i) Bankrupt under any law in force in Ghana and has not been discharged; or
  - (ii) To be of unsound mind or is detained as a criminal lunatic under any law in force in Ghana; or

(d) Has been convicted –

(i) For high crime under the Constitution of Ghana or high treason or treason or for an offence involving the security of the State, fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude; or

(ii) For any other offence punishable by death or by a sentence of not less than ten years; or

(e) has been found by the report of a commission or a committee of inquiry to be incompetent to hold public office or is a person in respect of whom a commission or committee of inquiry has found that while being a public officer he acquired assets unlawfully or defrauded the State or mis-used his office, or wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the State, and the findings have not been set aside on appeal or judicial review; or

(f) is under sentence of death or other sentence of imprisonment imposed on them by any court; or

(g) is otherwise disqualified by a law for the time being in force.

(h) is not a member of the sector

(i) is not a CEO, Managing Director or a Senior Management staff. The Position of the President and the Vice can only be contested by CEOs or Managing Directors of member companies.

13. On sector level, all members in good standing shall vote or stand to be voted for. Good standing in this context means members who have paid up all mandated fees and subscriptions as approved by Association.

**14. *Nomination of candidates.***

14. (1) A candidate shall be nominated by filing a nomination form provided by the appointed Electoral Commissioner and the form shall be delivered by the candidate or his proposer to the National representative of the Commissioner at a date and time directed by the Commissioner.

(2) The nomination paper shall be endorsed by five (5) registered members in good standing one from each of five (5) the regions that forms the sector as proposer.

***Candidate's photograph.***

15. A candidate shall, at the time of his nomination, deliver to the electoral commissioner one post-card size copies of his photograph (bust).

***Holding of election.***

16. The election shall be held –

- (a) within fourteen days after the close of nominations; and
- (b) at the Sector Annual General Meeting.

***Procedure for the election.***

17. (1) The Commissioner shall supervise the election of a regional representative to the sector Board.

(2) The election shall be by secret ballot.

(3) The person who obtains the highest valid votes cast at the election shall be declared elected.

(4) Where two candidates obtain the highest number of valid votes cast, then unless there is a withdrawal, the process shall be continued until one candidate is elected.

***Application of existing electoral laws.***

18. Except as otherwise provided in this Instrument, the provisions of existing electoral laws shall apply to elections under this Instrument with such modifications and adaptations as may be necessary.

***Notification/Declaration of election results.***

19. The Electoral Commissioner shall announce the results upon closure of voting and counting to the Electoral College at the Sector General Meeting.

## **Election of Regional Representative**

In accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution of GAMC there shall be a Regional Representative

### ***Qualification of Nominees.***

20. No person is qualified to be elected as a regional representative -

- (a) is not a citizen of Ghana;
- (b) Is not a registered member of GAMC (by company membership);
- (c) Has been adjudged or otherwise declared –
  - (i) Bankrupt under any law in force in Ghana and has not been discharged; or
  - (ii) To be of unsound mind or is detained as a criminal lunatic under any law in force in Ghana; or
- (d) Has been convicted –
  - (i) For high crime under the Constitution of Ghana or high treason or treason or for an offence involving the security of the State, fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude; or
  - (ii) For any other offence punishable by death or by a sentence of not less than ten years; or
- (e) has been found by the report of a commission or a committee of inquiry to be incompetent to hold public office or is a person in respect of whom a commission or committee of inquiry has found that while being a public officer he acquired assets unlawfully or defrauded the State or mis-used his office, or wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the State, and the findings have not been set aside on appeal or judicial review; or
- (f) is under sentence of death or other sentence of imprisonment imposed on them by any court; or
- (g) is otherwise disqualified by a law for the time being in force.
- (h) is not a member of the sector
- (i) is not a CEO, Managing Director or a Management Staff.

21. All registered members in good standing of the Region shall vote to elect their Representatives. Good standing in this context means members who have paid up all mandated fees and subscriptions as approved by Association.

***Nomination of candidates.***

22. (1) A candidate shall be nominated by filing a nomination form provided by the appointed Electoral Commissioner and the form shall be delivered by the candidate or his proposer to the National representative of the Commissioner at a date and time directed by the Commissioner.

(2) The nomination paper shall be endorsed one registered member in good standing as proposer.

***Candidate's photograph.***

23. A candidate shall, at the time of his nomination, deliver to the electoral commissioner one post-card size copies of his photograph (bust).

***Holding of election.***

24. The election shall be held –

(a) within Seven days after the close of nominations; and

(b) at the Regional General Meeting.

***Procedure for the election.***

25. (1) The Commissioner shall supervise the election of a regional representative to the sector Board.

(2) The election shall be by secret ballot.

(3) The person who obtains the highest valid votes cast at the election shall be declared elected.

(4) Where two candidates obtain the highest number of valid votes cast, then unless there is a withdrawal, the process shall be continued until one candidate is elected.

***Application of existing electoral laws.***

26. Except as otherwise provided in this Instrument, the provisions of existing electoral laws shall apply to elections under this Instrument with such modifications and adaptations as may be necessary.

***Notification/Declaration of election results.***



11. The Electoral Commissioner shall announce the results upon closure of voting and counting to the Electoral College at the Regional General Meeting.