



APPLICATION DECISION PROCESS

1st	ENTRY STAGE
<p>All applications would be completed online. On deadline, the entries are electronically collected via the online filled forms and would be run against the eligibility criteria. The first stage would see instant disqualification of applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria and approval of those who meet the eligibility criteria. Once approved, you'll get a confirmatory email of approval and entry. Unfortunately, this confirmation can only be sent out after the deadline. Endeavor to check your email throughout the decision process timelines to track your progress.</p>	
2nd	APPROVAL & SHORTLISTING STAGE
<p>The second stage will introduce anonymity in the decision process. The submitted essays would be copied into <i>ECA Reading Template</i> and each applicant would be assigned a random number. All applications that make this stage would be shortlisted on the website and considered as a potential winner. These would be passed on to <i>The Reviewers</i> – a group of readers with good command of English Language, who will select the best 15 submissions for the next stage.</p>	
3rd	REVIEWING COUNCIL (REFERAL STAGE)
<p>At this point (stage three), <i>The Reviewers would be blinded in order to achieve fairness</i>, and henceforth, would be dealing with tagged random numbers, instead of the real names of the applicants. The eligible applications would be reviewed alongside their accompanying essays. The Reviewers will scrutinize each essay against the marking criteria and thereafter refer ONLY fifteen (15) submissions to the <i>Nominating Council</i>. The council is comprised of individuals from different walks of life who are doing well in their respected fields and would be made known before the opening of the application portal. Emails would be sent out to the owners of the fifteen submissions congratulating them for making it to the <i>Nominating Council</i>. All submissions that make this stage would be shortlisted on the website as finalists.</p>	
4th	NOMINATING COUNCIL (NOMINATING STAGE)
<p>These referred submissions would be brought to the <i>Nominating Council</i> for final reviews and voting on a 5-point scale. Each of the final fifteen submissions would be reviewed critically by the members. Once the review is completed, they will start the voting process. <i>A submission can get a maximum of five (5) votes and a minimum of one (1) vote from each of the council members</i>. For instance, where there are five Nominating Council members, it is possible for a submission to get a maximum of 25 votes (if all the five members gave five votes each) or a minimum of five votes (if all the five members gave one vote each). When all votes have been collected and counted, five submissions with most votes would be nominated to the <i>Governing Council</i> for the final consideration and award. Emails would be sent to the owners of the final</p>	

five submissions congratulating them for making it to the *Governing Council* (Attached in the email would be a digital certificate acknowledging their nominations).

5th

GOVERNING COUNCIL (DECIDING STATGE)

The Governing Council is primarily made up of Dr Emmanuel C. Anadebe and other elite(s) who would have been appointed beforehand. At this point, the number of votes received by each submission from the Nominating Council becomes irrelevant and won't count towards the final decision. This council would now match the five submissions with their letters of motivation and deliberate on them until a winner is decided. A first runner-up and second runner-up would be identified and placed on reserve list. Unanimously, **The ECA Award Winner(s)** would be selected (verification immediately made to establish the authenticity of the scanned First Term Assessment Result), congratulatory email sent to the winner and subsequently, announce on the website that a winner has emerged. The winner(s) would be given 10 days from announcement to accept or decline the award. If the winner declines or does not accept the award within this time, the *Governing Council* will appoint the first runner-up as the winner of the Award. Once the winner accepts the award, the winner will then be revealed/announced. The decision cycle can be completed within one month. May the best win. Good luck!



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