NAME: ANIMASHAUN JOLADE KAUSARAT

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ASSIGNMENT: Constitution is important for the consolidation of democracy. However, the making of Nigeria’s constitutions have been under two political dispensations that have anti-democracy tendencies and this has been a great impediment to democratic governance in Nigeria. Examine some of the loopholes in Nigeria’s constitutions over the years that have affected democracy in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTION

Constitution can be define as the a primarily set of rules and principles specifying how a country should be governed, how powers is distributed and controlled, and what rights citizens possess. It usually written down and contained within a single document, the UK is unusual in having an uncodified constitution with many resources. Constitution vary in length, the famous US constitution of 1787 being rather short, but will typically all contain guidance on matters such as Rules and guidelines for conducting elections, The relationships between the key institutions or branches of government, T he location of sovereignty, Ways in which a constitution can be amended, A statement of the right of citizens against the state and how redress might be gained. Constitution is also the basic principles and laws of a nation, state or social groups that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it. A constitution contains the fundamental principles that outline the purpose , structure and limits of an organization. Essentially, the constitution provides a foundation upon which an organization operates.

IMPORTANT OF CONTITUTION IN DEMOCRACTIC CONSOLIDATION

Democratic consolidation is the process by which a new democracy matures, in a way that it is unlikely to revert to authoritarianism without an external shock. The notion is contested because it is not clear that there is anything substantive that happens to new democracies that secures their continuation beyond those factors that simply make it most likely that they continue as democracies. Unconsolidated democracies suffer from formalized but intermitted elections.

A democracy is widely considered consolidation when several or all of the following conditions are met. Firstly, there must be a durability or permanence of democracy over time, including adherence to democratic principles such as rule of law, independent judiciary, competitive and fair elections, and a developed civil society. Some theorist believe that this secondary process of instilling democracy into the institution of government is how consolidation occurs. The democracy must also be accepted by its citizens as the ruling form of government, thus ensuring and again, minimizing the risk of reverting to an authoritarian regime. There are two critical tasks that constitutions are expected to perform in many states as they resolve to move towards democracy and stability. The first task is to establish or reinforce the political community while the second one is to establish or reform the rules of the allocation and exercise of the state power.