**NAME UKWOSAH FAVOUR**

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The democratic strata in Nigeria is in peril. Nigeria is said to be practicing a “democratic” system of government. But however it is flawed in a number of places. This is as a result of its previously erected constitutions. For example the Clifford constitution. The elected legislative council did not in anyway carry the interests of the people because the council was filled with Europeans. Not only that, but the north was isolated and was not represented in the council. This did not represent the term democracy at all for not all sides were represented. Even in the executive council excluded Nigerians. Also, there was no consistency when it came to meeting. There would be 8 days at most in total for meeting and not much could be done within that time.

The Richards constitution didn’t make matters better in any way. It brought regionalism, which brewed regional rivalry because each region represented an ethnic group. For example; the north represented the Hausa/Fulani people, the east represented the Igbo people and the western region represent the Yoruba people. This gave birth to ethnic and tribalism. Democracy is to be a government for the people, of the people and by the people, but this cant occur if there is a bridge that gaps each tribe from one another. There was also limited franchise, in the sense that only people from the upper class could participate in electoral activities and this didn’t capture the essence of democracy cause it didn’t represent the majority. Furthermore, Nigerians were not fully consulted before the operations of the constitutions and as such was autocratic in nature.

The MacPherson constitution was actually undemocratic in the sense that it was the governor that provided questions to those answers formed by the constitution. The constitution made no provision for the establishment of a second chamber in the center and it did not provide for the house of chiefs in the eastern region. Which further progressed regionalism.

The lyttleton constitution, there was no central ruling authority a democracy cannot thrive in a place with no form of authority whatsoever.as a result of that the council had actually remained inactive, and as no office of the prime minister was available, central ministers that were elected only sought for the benefits of their own region which also boosted regionalism and killed democracy slowly. Even the means of carrying out electoral practices were not uniform, the north practiced indirect while the east and south practiced direct respectively.

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