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**ASSIGNMENT TITLE: TERM PAPER**

**COURSE TITLE: CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN NIGERIA**

**COURSE CODE: POL104**

### **QUESTION**

**ASSIGNMENT (10 MARKS) CONSTITUTION IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, THE MAKING OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTION HAVE BEEN UNDER TWO POLITICAL DISPENSATIONS THAT HAVE ANTI-DEMOCRACY TENDENCIES. AND THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT IMPEDIMENT TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NICERIA. EXAMINE SOME OF THE LOOPHOLES IN NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTION OVER THE YEARS THAT HAVE AFFECTED DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA.**

### **ANSWERS**

- 1. THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT A PRODUCT OF ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. IT WAS HURRIEDLY PREPARED BY THE OUTGOING MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL ABDULSALAM ABUBAKAR. THUS, MANY NIGERIANS CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE IT AND SEE IT MORE AS A MILITARY CONSTITUTION THAN THE CIVILIAN CONSTITUTION**

- 2. THE CONSTITUTION FAILS TO DEFINE THE ROLES OF THE TRADITIONAL RULERS IN GOVERNMENT.**
- 3. THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT CLEAR ON THE FUNCTIONS AND CREATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THIS MAKES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BE OF HELP TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THEN, THIS ISSUE OF CREATING MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS A DOMINANT SOURCE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN STATES AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. A CLASSICAL EXAMPLE WAS LAGOS AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DURING OBASANJO'S ADMINISTRATION.**
- 4. THE EXCLUSIVE LIST IS TOO BOGUS. IT MAKES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE TOO DOMINANT, WHILE THE STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BECOME UNNECESSARILY DEPENDENT ON THE CENTRE.**
- 5. POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT ARE TOO MUCH. THIS MAKES SOME PRESIDENTS TO ABUSE THE OFFICE AND DISREGARD THE POWERS OF THE OTHER ORGANS.**
- 6. THE RECOGNITION OF THE SHARIA COURTS CONTRAVENES THE DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY AS BEING SECULAR, THAT IS LIKE HAVING TWO CONTRADICTORY CONSTITUTIONS.**