

CIVIC EDUCATION ASSIGNMENT JOHN SHIMFE SS 3 DIAMOND

1. Nigeria is now enjoying the dividend of democracy? Write for or against the motion.

Against the Motion: Nigeria is Not Yet Enjoying the Dividends of Democracy

The concept of "dividends of democracy" encompasses the tangible benefits that citizens should derive from a democratic system, including improved governance, accountability, transparency, rule of law, socio-economic development, and enhanced quality of life. While Nigeria has made significant strides in transitioning to democratic governance since the advent of the Fourth Republic in 1999, it is crucial to critically assess the current state of affairs to determine if Nigerians are genuinely enjoying the dividends of democracy.

1. Insecurity and Insurgency: One of the most pressing challenges facing Nigeria is the pervasive insecurity characterized by insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, ethno-religious conflicts, and other forms of criminality. Despite government efforts to address these security challenges, the persistent insecurity undermines peace, stability, and socio-economic development, thereby limiting the dividends of democracy for citizens living in affected areas and beyond.

2. Corruption and Governance Deficits: Nigeria continues to grapple with systemic corruption, inefficiency, and governance deficits that undermine public trust, erode institutional integrity, and impede socio-economic progress. Despite anti-corruption initiatives and reforms, corruption remains a significant challenge, diverting resources, hindering development, and diminishing the dividends of democracy for ordinary Nigerians.

3. Economic Challenges and Inequality: Nigeria faces economic challenges, including unemployment, poverty, inflation, fiscal deficits, and structural imbalances that exacerbate inequality, hinder inclusive growth, and limit opportunities for citizens to enjoy the dividends of democracy. Despite abundant natural resources and potential, inadequate policies, infrastructure deficits, and governance shortcomings constrain economic development and prosperity for the majority of Nigerians.

4. **Social Services and Infrastructure:** Despite efforts to improve social services and infrastructure, Nigeria continues to face significant deficits in healthcare, education, water supply, electricity, transportation, and other essential services. Inadequate investment, policy implementation gaps, corruption, and governance failures undermine access to quality services and infrastructure, limiting the dividends of democracy for citizens and communities across the country.

5. **Ethno-Religious Tensions and National Unity:** Nigeria grapples with ethno-religious tensions, regional disparities, and challenges to national unity that undermine cohesion, diversity, and inclusivity. Despite constitutional provisions, policies, and initiatives aimed at promoting unity, peace, and integration, divisive politics, marginalization, discrimination, and identity-based conflicts continue to hinder social harmony, collaboration, and the realization of the dividends of democracy for all Nigerians.

In conclusion, while Nigeria has made progress in democratic governance since the advent of the Fourth Republic, significant challenges persist that undermine the realization of the dividends of democracy for citizens. Addressing insecurity, corruption, economic challenges, governance deficits, social inequalities, and promoting national unity requires concerted efforts, reforms, and investments to foster inclusive growth, development, and prosperity for all Nigerians. Therefore, it is essential to recognize the existing gaps, prioritize reforms, and work collaboratively to build a more democratic, inclusive, and prosperous Nigeria where all citizens can genuinely enjoy the dividends of democracy.

1. State the features of the third and the fourth republic

The Third Republic and the Fourth Republic of Nigeria are significant periods in the country's political history, each characterized by distinct features, developments, and challenges. Here are some features that distinguish these two republics:

Third Republic (1993 - 1999):

1. **Emergence from June 12, 1993, Election:** The Third Republic commenced with the June 12, 1993, presidential election, which is widely regarded as one of Nigeria's freest and fairest elections. However, the election was annulled by the military regime, leading to political turmoil and a protracted transition to civil rule.

2. **Political Transition and Abacha's Regime:** Following the annulment of the June 12 election, General Sani Abacha assumed power, establishing a military

regime characterized by authoritarian rule, human rights abuses, and suppression of democratic institutions and processes.

3. Constitutional Development: Efforts to establish a democratic constitution during the Third Republic included the drafting of the 1995 Draft Constitution, which proposed a presidential system of government, separation of powers, and federal structure, among other provisions.

4. Struggle for Democracy: The Third Republic was marked by a protracted struggle for democracy, with civil society groups, pro-democracy activists, and international partners advocating for the restoration of democratic governance, respect for human rights, and rule of law.

5. Transition to Fourth Republic: The Third Republic paved the way for the Fourth Republic, with the death of General Sani Abacha in 1998, subsequent political transitions, and the establishment of democratic institutions, processes, and governance structures under the Fourth Republic.

Fourth Republic (1999 - Present):

1. Emergence from 1999 General Elections: The Fourth Republic commenced with the 1999 general elections, marking the return to civilian rule and democratic governance after years of military dictatorship and political instability.

2. Adoption of the 1999 Constitution: The Fourth Republic is governed by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which outlines the structure of government, separation of powers, fundamental rights, and principles of federalism, among other provisions.

3. Political Pluralism and Multiparty Democracy: The Fourth Republic is characterized by political pluralism, multiparty democracy, and competitive elections, with various political parties, coalitions, and candidates vying for elective positions at the federal, state, and local levels.

4. Challenges of Governance: The Fourth Republic has faced various challenges, including political instability, corruption, insecurity, economic disparities, ethno-religious tensions, and governance deficits, necessitating reforms, initiatives, and interventions to address systemic issues and promote sustainable development.

5. Continuity and Evolution: The Fourth Republic has witnessed continuity and evolution in governance, policy frameworks, institutions, and political processes, with successive administrations building on achievements, addressing challenges, and advancing the democratic aspirations, socio-economic development, and national unity of Nigeria.

In summary, the Third and Fourth Republics of Nigeria represent distinct periods in the country's political history, each characterized by unique features,

developments, challenges, and transitions. While the Third Republic was marked by political turmoil, authoritarian rule, and a struggle for democracy, the Fourth Republic signifies the return to civilian rule, democratic governance, political pluralism, and the ongoing efforts to address challenges, promote development, and realize Nigeria's potential as a united, prosperous, and democratic nation.

2. Mention five duties of the three arms of government

In a democratic system of government, the three arms - executive, legislative, and judiciary - play distinct yet interrelated roles to ensure the smooth functioning of the state, uphold the rule of law, and promote the welfare of citizens. Here are five duties for each of the three arms of government:

Executive Arm:

1. Implementation of Laws
2. Administration and Governance
3. Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
4. National Security and Defense
5. Budget and Economic Management

Legislative Arm:

1. Lawmaking
2. Representation
3. Oversight and Accountability
4. Budgetary Control
5. Constituency Services

Judiciary Arm:

1. Interpretation of Laws
2. Adjudication and Dispute Resolution
3. Protection of Rights and Liberties
4. Judicial Review
5. Enforcement of Judgments