Democracy, Citizenship And Conflict In Nigeria: Towards Making Governance Work For The People

Preamble
This policy brief is a synthesis of findings and citizens perceptions and expectations of Nigeria's democratic experiment and how it has been perceived and experienced. It is informed by a year-long research project on Deepening Democracy in Nigeria and Violence, Participation and Citizenship conducted by the Theatre for Development Research and the Center for Deepening Democracy in Nigeria, in partnership with the Department of Produce, Ogun State. The team in Nigeria also had the opportunity to discuss the preliminary findings of the research with a group of Nigerian citizens at an event held in Lagos.

Key Issues and Questions from our Research
There is a need to understand the nature and extent of conflict in Nigeria, and the role of citizens in addressing it.

Introduction
The country known today as Nigeria is a result of the amalgamation of the territories of the former British colonies of Nigeria (1901-1960) and the former British protectorate of Nigeria (1960). The Nigerian Constitution of 1960 provided for a federal system of government, and the country was a member of the British Commonwealth until it gained political independence in 1960. Since then, Nigeria has had a turbulent history of political instability and constant military coups. The country has experienced a number of political crises and conflicts, including the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), the Biafran War, and the recent Boko Haram insurgency. These conflicts have had a significant impact on the country's political, social, and economic development.

The Constitution
The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was promulgated by the military. It is generally acknowledged that it did not derive from the express wishes and mandates of the people, and its implementation has not been fully realized. The Constitution is a product of the political circumstances of its time and its provisions do not reflect the will of the people. Despite the complexities and challenges, however, the Constitution remains the fundamental law of the land and the foundational document of the Nigerian state. It sets out the framework for the political, economic, and social organization of the country, and it is the supreme law of the land.

The Electoral Act
Electoral law in Nigeria is the central body of law that regulates elections and democratic governance in the country. It is a key component of the governance system and plays a crucial role in ensuring democratic decision-making. The Electoral Act is a fundamental law that governs the conduct of elections, including the registration of voters, nomination of candidates, and the rules for the conduct of polling stations.

The Electoral Code
The Electoral Code is a set of rules and regulations that govern the conduct of elections in Nigeria. It is designed to ensure a fair and transparent process of elections, and it sets out the procedures and requirements for the conduct of elections. The Electoral Code is an important component of the electoral system, and it is designed to ensure that elections are conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

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