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The Concepts of Democracy and Governance: A Theoretical and Empirical X-ray of their Linkage and Practical Application within the Nigerian Political Landscape

S.T. Akindele

Department of Political Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-ife, Osun State, Nigeria

KEY WORDS Monocracy; rule-ruler-ruled relation-ship; path dependency; premature centra-lization, authoritarian tutelage, ethnic/religious separatism; accoun-tability/transparency.

ABSTRACT This paper analyses the concepts of democracy and governance. It concretely articulates the central thesis of democracy as a form of political organization on which the multidimensional systemic existence of all political animals within the universe anchored. On the same token, governance as a concept that weaves economic, political and social aspects of any given political community was highlighted in addition to the elucidation of it's three dimensions-(nature of political regime; the exercise of authority in the management of social and economic resources and; the capacity of government to design and implement policy in the discharge of its functions). While identifying their respective elements, prominence was given to the historical or evolutionary trends of both concepts. We also theoretically and empirically attempted the affinity between them from the perspectives of the Nigerian citizenry. Consequent on these efforts, it was discovered that, the affinity of the two concepts as theoretically and empirically determined notwithstanding, Nigerians, irrespective of geo-political location or sex, felt that, there is need for improvement in the country (Nigeria), if the social movement for democracy is to be positively beneficial to all.