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Electoral Democracy and Democratic Development: Relevance of the Post 2019 General Election for National Development in Nigeria

Mahmudat Olawunmi Muhibbu-Din

*Department of Political Science, University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria
Telephone: 08054317471, E-mail: ajoocurrent@yahoo.com*

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ABSTRACT Multiparty elections and periodic voting are not in themselves the ultimate end of democracy. As important elements of liberal democracy, they are inadequate in generating democratic development or fostering a developmental state in Nigeria. Hence, this paper examines the relevance of multiparty elections and voting for engendering democratic development; the implications of liberal democracy for policy ownership and developmental state that prioritise people's empowerment. The method of data collection is secondary and the analytical technique is comparative. The findings show that structural reforms that do not respond to the logic of international financial agencies and the vested local elites interests; and that fully democratise power for national transformation are genuine requirements for democratic development that people long for as dividends of democracy and essential for democratic consolidation. Thus, the paper recommends human empowerment, liberation from injustice, inequality, and marginalisation will be the dividends of democratic development to the masses and peasants.