

The Impact of Military Rule on Democracy in Nigeria

Etim O. Frank* and Wilfred I. Ukpere**

**Department of Political Science, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
E-mail: frankokonet@yahoo.com*

***Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management, Faculty of Management,
University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
E-mail: wlukpere@uj.ac.za*

KEYWORDS Negotiation. Consensus. Political Culture. Values. Good-Governance. Dramatis-Personae

ABSTRACT The paper seeks to explain the rationale of the militarize dispositions of politicians in the current democracy. It adopts descriptive and case history perspective, asserting that the behavioral trend is an outcome of the long years of military governance. The military rulership affects the executive, legislature, the judiciary and the civil society. The values and norms imbibe manifests in the practice of the current democracy. This explicates the use of force rather than dialogue in the suppression of dissent in 'Odi', and 'Zaki-biam', disobedience of the court orders, closure of media houses, the arrest of journalists and militancy as in the Niger-Delta. Democracy should be based on its values; the actors should learn these from the Center for Democracy, to replace the military ethos, which they display with recklessness in the democratic environment. It is instructive to note that the era of military rule can only end with good governance.