

## **The Irony of Democracy in Nigeria**

**Sulaimon Adigun Muse and Sagie Narsiah**

*University of Kwazulu-Natal, College of Humanities, School of Social Sciences,  
Durban, South Africa*

**KEYWORDS** Deliberative Democracy, Nigeria, Universal Suffrage

**ABSTRACT** Democracy as a form of government means different things to different people depending on their location, situation, and circumstances. Democracy, which in the popular imaginary is a government by the people, is sustained through inclusivity and broad participation. Furthermore, it comes with many benefits - good governance, rule of law, political stability, and economic advancement. These democratic benefits are absent in Nigeria. Democracy in Nigeria has been reduced to a mere periodic ritual of elections, without any credence to the credibility, fairness, freeness and popular will of the people. The aim of this paper is to look at the challenges to democracy in Nigeria. One of the suggestions of this paper is that the will of the people must prevail. At present the will of the people is subordinate to that of the elites.