

The Democratisation Process and the Nigerian Theatre Artiste

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the issue of democratisation and the role of the theatre artiste in the Nigerian context. It adopts the historical and analytical methods to argue that an enhancement of the social condition is necessary for the nurturing of a true democracy, characterized by a robust political atmosphere which ultimately engenders socioeconomic and socio-cultural development of society. In doing this, it attempts to provide answers to certain posers: has there been an enabling social condition which allows the operation of a democratic system of government in Nigeria? If the social condition has existed, has there ever been a democratic system of government in Nigeria? The paper further appraises the role of the theatre artiste, as agent of one of the several segments of the Nigerian society that have contributed to the many attempts at democratisation and concludes that he/she must liberalise his/her art by taking it to the masses as a way of sensitizing them to contribute to the entrenchment of true democracy in a country which is in dire need of democratic ethos.