ABSTRACT

Democratization is a concept distinct from democracy, and it connotes the process of bringing about democracy. It is the ways and means of developing democracy, and entrenching democratic institutions, values and practices over time. It is, additionally, the process by which government is constitutionally driven, in order to lead to democratic consolidation. This study demonstrates a reversal in the practice of the foregoing variables in the twelve and half years of democratic practice in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. This is obviously facilitated by the flawed character of the State, the nature of politics that does not emphasize service but wealth acquisition and the distribution of patronage in Nigeria. The consequence of course is the development and consolidation of underdevelopment at the grassroots level of governance. To escape from this political quagmire, the study emphasizes the need for the creation of a better enabling political environment for the promotion and protection of democracy and transparency as well as accountability of institutions geared towards desirable grassroots development in the Andoni Local Government Area.

Keywords: Political Environment, Democratization, Andoni, Nigeria.