THE POLITICS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES OF CREATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Local government is a third tier level of government in Nigeria, purposely created to bring grassroots development and opportunity for political participation of the local people. The 774 local government councils entrenched in the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria were arbitrarily and disproportionately created by the military administrations. This paper critically examines the political and constitutional challenges that pose difficulty to efforts at creating additional local government councils, particularly to correct the imbalance in the distribution of local councils in the country. The interpretive method of data collection and analysis is used. The study reveals that political and economic interests and entrenchment of local government councils in the federal constitution are the major obstacles to the creation of local government areas in Nigeria. The paper recommends stoppage of federal funding and removal of local government from the federal constitution or equitable redistribution of local councils as a solution to the problem.

Keywords: Local Government, Constitutions, Ruling Class, Representation.