

# Democracy & Political Parties





**Democracy in the  
modern world is  
inconceivable without  
healthy parties and  
an effective party  
system.**

**(Westminster Foundation for Democracy)**

**A democracy needs strong and sustainable political parties with the capacity to represent citizens and provide policy choices that demonstrate their ability to govern for the public good.**

**With an increasing disconnect between citizens and their elected leaders, a decline in political activism, and a growing sophistication of anti-democratic forces, democratic political parties are continually challenged. – National Democratic Institute (NDI)**

**It is therefore important to note that strong political party constitution and institutions are necessary for strengthening democracy as well as delivering the true tenets of democracy to the Citizens.**

**This study takes a look at Political Parties and their causative effects on Democracy Index as measured by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).**

**The Democracy Index is an index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) that measures the state of democracy in 167 countries.**

**The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index is based on 60 indicators grouped in five different categories:**

- **electoral process and pluralism**
- **functioning of government**
- **civil liberties,**
- **political participation**
- **political culture**



### **Electoral process and pluralism**

The condition of having free and fair competitive elections, and satisfying related aspects of political freedom, is clearly the basic requirement of all definitions.

### **Functioning of government**

If democratically based decisions cannot or are not implemented then the concept of democracy is not very meaningful or it becomes an empty shell.

### **Political culture**

Political culture is also crucial for the legitimacy, smooth functioning and ultimately the sustainability of democracy.

### **Political participation**

Participation is also a necessary component, as apathy and abstention are inimical to democracy.

### **Civil liberties**

The principle of the protection of basic human rights is widely accepted.

# Functions of Political Parties

Political parties are central to representative democracy and to the process of democratization:

- They connect society and the state.
- They aggregate and represent interests.
- They recruit political leaders.
- They disseminate political information.
- They socialize citizens into democratic politics.
- They manage conflicts of interest.
- They can offer a forum for social and political integration, a tool for nation-building.
- They either oversee or control govt. depending on whether they are in govt. or opposition.
- They develop policies and programmes.

# Definition of terms:

Full Democracies	Flawed Democracies	Hybrid regimes	Authoritarian regimes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic political freedoms and civil liberties are respected</li> <li>▪ The functioning of government is satisfactory</li> <li>▪ Media are independent and diverse</li> <li>▪ There is an effective system of checks and balances</li> <li>▪ The judiciary is independent and judicial decisions are enforced</li> <li>▪ There are only limited problems in the functioning of democracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These countries also have free and fair elections</li> <li>▪ Basic civil liberties will be respected</li> <li>▪ Weaknesses in governance</li> <li>▪ Underdeveloped political culture and</li> <li>▪ low levels of political participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elections have substantial</li> <li>▪ Government pressure on opposition parties &amp; candidates</li> <li>▪ Serious weaknesses in political culture</li> <li>▪ Serious weaknesses in functioning of govt &amp; political participation</li> <li>▪ Widespread corruption and the rule of law is weak</li> <li>▪ Civil society is weak</li> <li>▪ Harassment of and pressure on journalists</li> <li>▪ Judiciary is not independent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political pluralism is absent or heavily circumscribed</li> <li>▪ Substantial dictatorships</li> <li>▪ Weak formal institutions of democracy</li> <li>▪ Elections, if they do occur, are not free and fair</li> <li>▪ There is disregard for abuses and infringements of civil liberties</li> <li>▪ Media are typically state-owned or controlled by groups</li> <li>▪ There is repression of criticism of the govt &amp; pervasive censorship</li> <li>▪ There is no independent judiciary</li> </ul>

**According to the EIU, Countries practice democracy as follows:**

<b>Democracy Type</b>	<b>No. of countries</b>	<b>% of countries</b>	<b>% of world population</b>
<b>Full</b>	25	15	11.3
<b>Flawed</b>	53	31.7	37.1
<b>Hybrid</b>	37	22.2	14
<b>Authoritarian</b>	52	31.1	37.6

Democracy index, 2011, by regime type

- 1. Full democracies—scores of 8 to 10.**
- 2. Flawed democracies—scores of 6 to 7.9.**
- 3. Hybrid regimes—scores of 4 to 5.9.**
- 4. Authoritarian regimes—scores below 4.**



## Group Average for each Democracy Type:

Democracy	Rank	Overall Score	I	II	III	IV	V
Full	13.00	8.67	9.63	8.60	7.18	8.38	9.55
Flawed	51.91	6.86	8.76	6.31	5.43	5.62	8.21
Hybrid	96.92	5.06	5.94	4.05	4.58	4.94	5.79
Authoritarian	141.35	2.87	1.39	2.51	2.92	4.52	3.03

**Note:** I - Electoral process and pluralism. II - Functioning of government.  
III - Political participation. IV - Political culture. V - Civil liberties.

**Let's take a look at Countries in each category and the number of Political Parties operating in the country.**

## Democracy Index & Political Parties:

Democracy	No. of countries	Number of Political Party		
		Average	Min	Max
Full	25	8	4	20
Flawed	53	12	3	41
Hybrid	37	13	2	39
Authoritarian	52	10	1	56

Nigeria is categorized as one of the countries with Authoritarian Democracy, ranked 119<sup>th</sup> of 167 countries with a score of 3.83.

# Nigeria Democracy Index

A comparative analysis of Nigeria Democracy Index and the Authoritarian Democracy Index Group

Country	Rank	Overall Score	Electoral process & pluralism	Functioning of govt	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties
Nigeria	119	3.83	5.67	3.21	3.33	3.13	3.82
Group Average	141	2.87	1.39	2.51	2.92	4.52	3.03

Except Political Culture, Nigeria performed above average in all other Indexes of the Authoritarian group. Coincidentally, Political Culture index is the least of all other indexes.

# Nigeria & Africa

## Nigeria Democracy Index and other African Nations

	Authoritarian	Flawed	Full	Hybrid	Grand Total
Countries	26	9	1	13	49
%	53.06%	18.37%	2.04%	26.53%	

- The country with the best Democracy in Africa is Mauritius, 24<sup>th</sup> of 167
- Chad has the worst with 166<sup>th</sup> of 167
- **Flawed democracies** – Cape Verde, South Africa, Botswana, Mali, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Benin, Ghana
- **Hybrid Regimes** – Malawi, Tanzania, Tunisia, Senegal, Uganda, Liberia, Mozambique, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Niger, Burundi, Egypt
- **Authoritarian Regimes** – Madagascar, Nigeria, Morocco Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Libya, Gabon, Togo, Algeria, Cameroon, Gambia, Angola, Swaziland, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, Djibouti, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Chad

# Nigeria & Africa

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Country	Rank	Overall Score	Electoral process & pluralism	Functioning of govt	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties
Nigeria	119	3.83	5.67	3.21	3.33	3.13	3.82
Africa Average	111	4.27	3.99	3.49	3.97	5.13	4.78

- Nigeria is place 25<sup>th</sup> in Africa and 119<sup>th</sup> in the World
- Nigeria Electoral Process and Pluralism ranks higher above the Africa average

# Political Parties (PP) Among Best Performing Nations in Africa

	Authoritarian	Flawed	Full	Hybrid	Grand Total
Countries	26	23			49
%	53.06%	46.94%			
Political Party (Avg)	13	11			
PP Min	3	3			
PP Max	56	25			

**Nigeria has 56\* political parties**

\*The electoral body recently deregistered 31

## **In conclusion:**

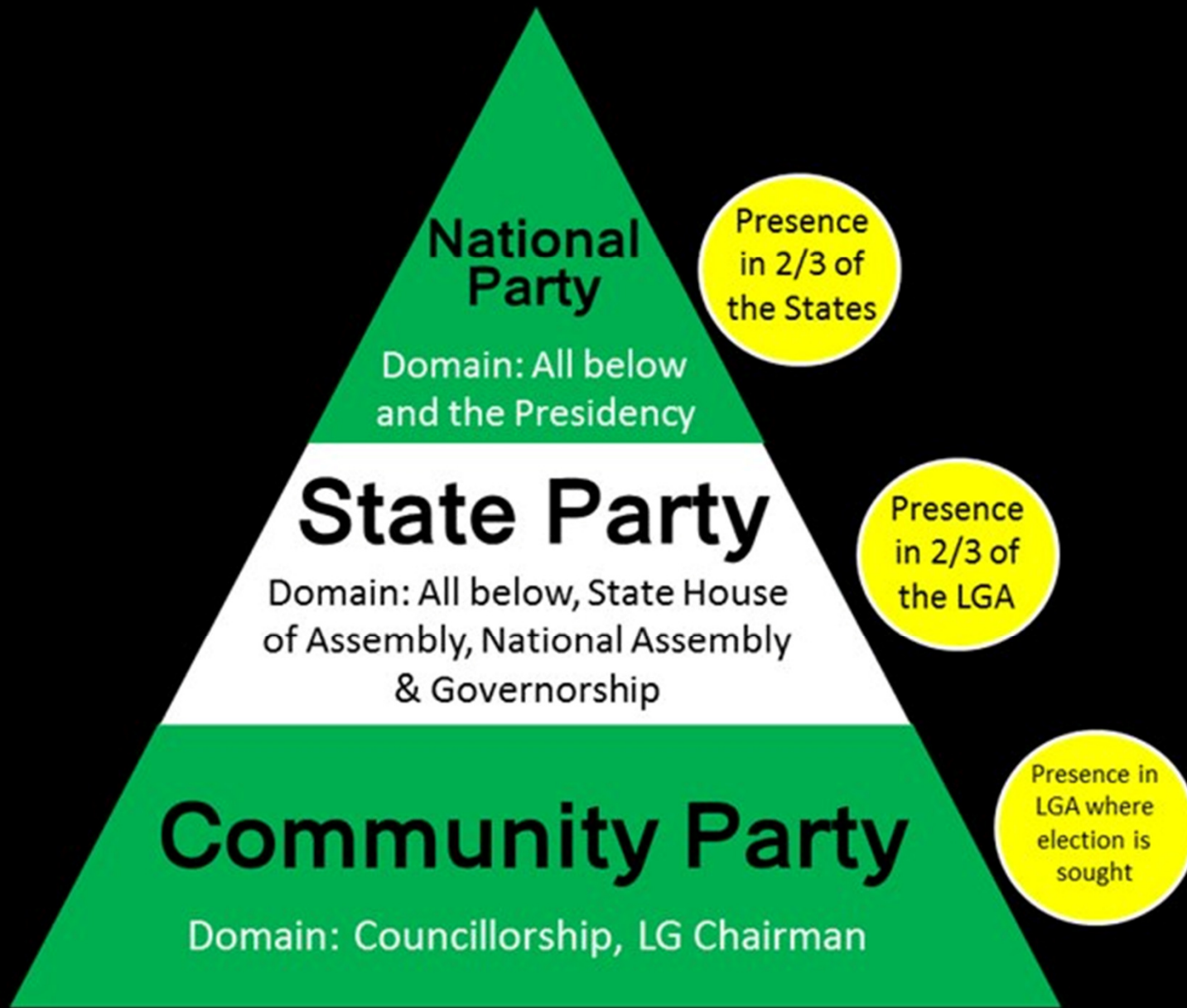
- If the strength and count of Political parties in democracy are important, Nigeria poor rankings can easily be inferred from a weak political party structure
- Nigeria is weakest in Political culture, a carry over from weak political party culture
- Civil Liberty are suppressed and this hampers free and fair electioneering process
- Government functionality is weak/low
- Political participation is weak
- Proliferation of political parties without structures and internal democracy

# Recommendation:

- Freedom of expression for the Civil liberty to be used as checks & balance for the government
- Delivering the dividend of democracy to be used as encouragement for participation – your vote count!
- Restructuring of Parties into 3 kinds – National, State and Community parties – to allow for stronger opposition and provide viable alternatives for the people
- Independence of the Judiciary as well as the Election umpires



# 3 Kinds of Party Nigeria Needs

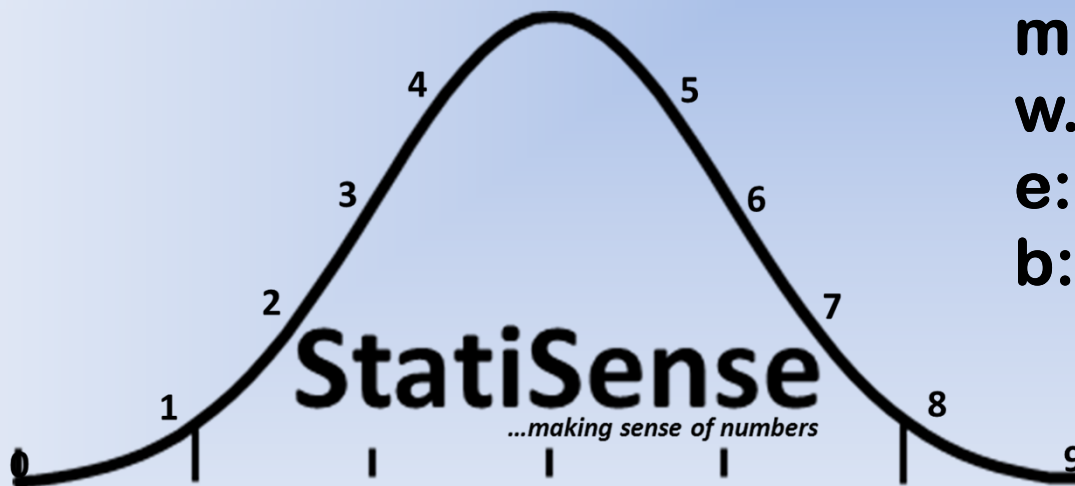


## Data source:

- The Economist Intelligence Unit
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (Building Better Democracies)
- Factbook
- Wikipedia

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Analysis by: Wale Micaiah  
m: 08078001800  
w. [www.statisense.info](http://www.statisense.info)  
e: [walegate@yahoo.com](mailto:walegate@yahoo.com)  
b: [walemicaiah.blog.com](http://walemicaiah.blog.com)



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