## The Flow of Power in a Democracy:

# From Constitution to Citizens

"In every true democracy, it is the people who hold ultimate power. This chain of authority guarantees that all governance originates from and is accountable to the people." - Anonymous



## **HOW POLITICAL POWER FLOWS**



#### THE CONSTITUTION

- Supreme legal authority that recognizes people's sovereignty.
- Nigeria's 1999 Constitution: "sovereignty belongs to the people."



## **CITIZENS (THE PEOPLE)**

- Ultimate source of democratic power transfer authority through elections.
- Can reclaim power through activism, petitions, and recall processes.



#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- President, Governors, Lawmakers, Chairpersons receive power directly from people.
- Separation of powers ensures checks and balances: **Executive, Legislature, Judiciary.**



#### **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

- Ministers, Commissioners, Special Advisers, Ambassadors, etc receive delegated authority.
- Must operate within limits of given authority.

## **HOW CITIZENS EXERCISE THEIR POWER**



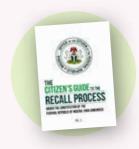
#### Vote

Participate in all elections (local, state, federal)



#### **Run for Office**

Seek elective positions



#### Recall

Remove non-performing representatives



#### **Petitions & FOI**

Demand transparency and accountability



#### **Peaceful Protest**

Influence policy and public opinion



## **Community Organising**

Mobilise groups for local issues



#### **Engage Lawmakers**

Attend town halls, public hearings, etc.



#### **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**

Challenge unconstitutional actions



### ACTIVE CITIZENS!

The "Office of the Citizen" is the highest office in the land. **OCCUPY YOUR OFFICE TODAY!**  **Contact your elected** representatives today. www.shineyoureye.org









Source: EiE Research as of August 2025