Effecting Checks and Balances of Powers in the Local Government System in Nigeria: A Critical Discourse on the Experience and the Implications for Good Governance

The existence of the doctrine of separation of powers is very much aspired for in contemporary democratic governance. Desired even more is the operation of its corollary principle of checks and balances of powers. In Nigeria, there exists separation of powers among the three arms of government. However, the critical concern is on the extent to which the principle of checks and balances is achieved in reality. Against this background, the study generally discussed the need and requirements of the doctrine of separation of powers, critically and specifically examined the practical operation of checks and balances with special focus on the local government system and particularly as it should obtain between the...
Introduction Local government administration in Nigeria has come of age, not so much because of its efficiency and effectiveness, but primarily because of its longevity and resilience of its relevance in the administration of the country (Akhakpe, Fatile and Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2012). Our central concern and venue of study in this discourse is local government. An eclectic definition by Venkatarangaiye and Pattabhirann see local government as all projects in the local government system require monitoring and periodic evaluation to ascertain their conformity with specified standard. To achieve the goals of a project therefore, it is important that close supervision and control during and after project execution, is carried out. Key measures recommended to enhance effective checks on the executive powers include strengthening the capacity of the legislators for legislative duties through trainings and workshops, ensuring free and fair election into the legislative and executive political offices and the legislative arm ensuring that it maintains its independence from the executive arm with the latter too being less disinclined to control the former. The study in its method of data collection relied mainly on secondary sources of information and consequently anchored its analysis, findings and conclusion on content analysis technique.

Issues

History