

OPPOSITION PARTIES IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES: PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND PROMOTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

Abdurrashid Dalha and Isah Musa Yusuf

*Department of Political Science, Alqalam University, Katsina
Department of Political Science, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto*

Corresponding Author's email: abdurashiddalha02@gmail.com



(TETF/DESS/UNI/SOKOTO/ARJ/01)

Abstract

This study investigated the critical role of opposition political parties in emerging democracies, focusing specifically on the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nigeria following its transition to the principal opposition party in 2015. The research aimed to explore how the dynamics of opposition politics influenced the broader democratic process and how the PDP promotes accountability and good governance. Anchored in Pluralist Theory, the study examined how opposition parties represent diverse interests, foster democratic debate, and prevent the concentration of power. The findings reveal that the PDP has employed several key strategies to fulfill its watchdog role and position itself as a credible alternative to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). Despite these concerted efforts to hold the incumbent government accountable, the study identified significant challenges that undermine the PDP's effectiveness. Internal conflicts, allegations of corruption, and ad-hoc strategic planning have hampered the party's institutional resilience. The study concludes that while the PDP has successfully established mechanisms to scrutinize the ruling party and represent public grievances, it must resolve its internal discord and offer more proactive, innovative policy alternatives to fully consolidate its credibility as a government-in-waiting.

Keywords: *Opposition Parties, Accountability, Good Governance. PDP*