

EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATURE CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC

¹Kunle Sehinde Benson; ²Emmanuel Temitope Olaniyi ; and ³Kazeem Oyedele Lamidi

¹Department of Public Administration, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

²Faculty of Management Sciences, Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke, Osun-State,
Nigeria

³Department of Local Government Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's email: akandekande@gmail.com



Abstract

The doctrine of separation of powers, an essential prerequisite of a presidential democracy, provides for a division of powers of government into three distinct arms; the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The importance of this division cannot be over emphasized for it is only by separating the function of execution from that of law-making, by insisting that every executive action must have the authority of some law, and by prescribing different procedures for law-making, can be arbitrariness of executive action be effectively checked. Primary and Secondary data were gathered for this study using a sample size of 100 respondents representing 10% sample fraction of the study population approximately 1000. Secondary data were also sourced from books, journals, government publications, magazines, newspapers and Internet materials. This paper found that arbitrariness and domineering attitude of the executive over the legislature fuelled executive-legislature conflict, thus weakening the ability of the legislature to effectively perform their fundamental role of citizens' representation through legislation and oversight functions. Also, there is a systematic and gradual paradigm shift from the culture of overbearing executive influence to legislature omnipotence, hence indicating the conflictual base of their interactions. In addition, the analysis of the impact of the executive legislature conflict showed that negative impact outweighs the positive impact on the development of Nigeria during the fourth Republic. This paper concluded that that Nigeria has not enjoyed democratic order and political stability due to constant executive-legislature conflict.

Keywords: Executive, Legislature, Development, and Nigeria's Fourth Republic