Nigerian Government

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The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Nigeria is a republic which means that there is a collection of states in which the government is decided by the people. There are 36 states that make up Nigeria. There are three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The current constitution went into effect in 1999.

**The Executive Branch**

The executive branch of the Nigerian government is led by the President who serves as the chief of state and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Although the president chooses their vice president and cabinet, they have to be approved by the Senate. Another part of the executive branch is the Council of State which advises the president on presidential policies.

 **The Legislative Branch**

Nigerians legislative branch is called the National Assembly and they have the power to make laws. The House of Representatives has 360 members while the Senate has 109 members. A new law can be introduced into either the Senate of the House and must be passed by a two-thirds vote before entering the other house. Both houses must approve the law before it goes to the president to be signed into law. If the president signs the law it becomes law, if they do not it goes back to the houses and can be made into a law if it is passed by a two-thirds vote in both.

Pressing Enter twice at the top of each page will create an extra empty paragraph. This blank paragraph is useful if you want to insert text or graphics outside of the text boxes. You can delete the extra blank paragraph if you don't need it.

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**Presidential Elections**

When the president is elected they serve a five year term and can serve for two terms. Most of the time candidates come from a few different parties. To win, the candidate must receive at least one-fourth of the votes in at least two-thirds of the 36 states. Once the president is elected he chooses a vice president and a cabinet.

**Legislative Elections**

House members are elected from districts that are of close to equal population. Nigeria’s 36 states each elect three senators; the Federal Capital Territory elects one senator. All members are elected for four year terms.

**The Judicial Branch**

The Judicial Branch is a mixture of legal systems. One imitates British law with the law that has come from Nigeria’s judge’s rulings. Nigeria also considers customary law that has come from traditional practices and ethnic groups. There is a Shari’a law, it is the Muslim legal system. In 2000 12 Northern states adopted this law as part of their system, but it applies to Muslims only. The highest court is the Supreme Court with a chief justice and up to 21 associate justices. They are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate.

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Sidebar Title - Use this style to type first-level headings in a sidebar article.

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