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## **ELECTIONS AND THE CRISIS OF LEGITIMACY IN NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

Genuine elections are an essential step in the acceptability of a government. The historical trajectories of electoral politics in Nigeria, however, show the pervasive struggle by the elite to distort or manipulate the electoral system to ensure “imposition” of their choice candidates on the people. Consequently, Nigeria’s political history, since its independence in 1960, has been characterized largely by the lack of political legitimacy and public accountability of virtually all the governments that have been in power since the departure of British colonial administration (Fafowara, 2001:206).

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