

# **(POS414) POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NIGERIA**

## **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

The key actors in Local Governments in Nigeria are the Elected Representatives and Career Officials. These officials are by law mandated to manage the affairs of Local Governments. The functions or powers of Local Government operators in Nigeria are determined by the doctrine of separation of powers among the three organs of government either at the federal, state or local government level. The doctrine of separation of powers among the three branches of government stemmed out of the great anxiety over how powers are exercised in the hands of one person or one organ of government. The thrust of this anxiety is the susceptibility of powers to abuse when held and applied wrongly. In other words, the doctrine of separation of powers focuses on the allocation of functions among the three organs of government and to prevent one organ from totally usurping the powers/functions of the other organs, or making tyrannical concentration of power impossible.

# WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT?



Local Government is government through representative council.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- A legal entity
- A political unit with defined territory
- Enjoys certain powers over its administration
- Its council could be elected or selected

# THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



Local governments perform two key roles local government viz;

- Political and
- Socio-economic

# POLITICAL ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



- Promotion of local democracy
- Political education'
- Training ground for politicians:
  - ❖ representatives
  - ❖ political accountability
- Law and order -
  - ❖ traditional rulers

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

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- Translation of political role to physical development (SDGs)
- Health care delivery
- Basic education
- Agriculture
- Revenue generation

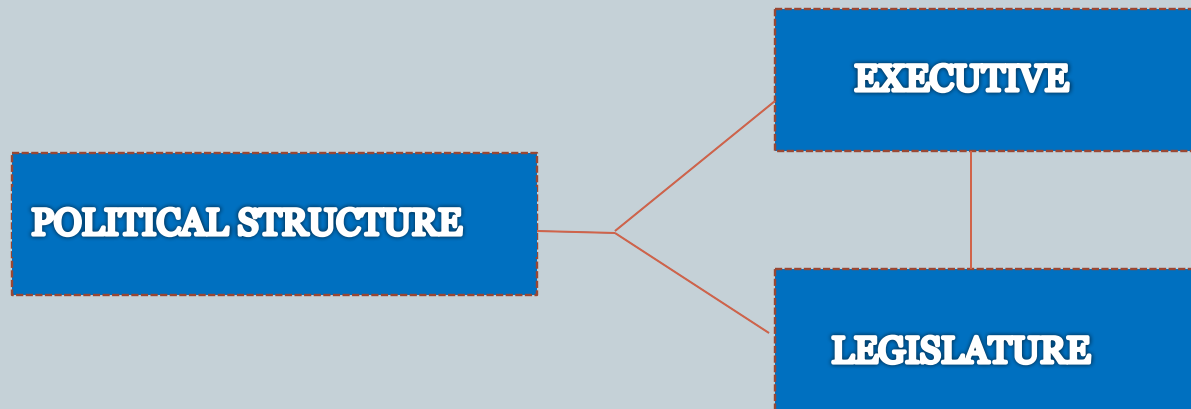


- **FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

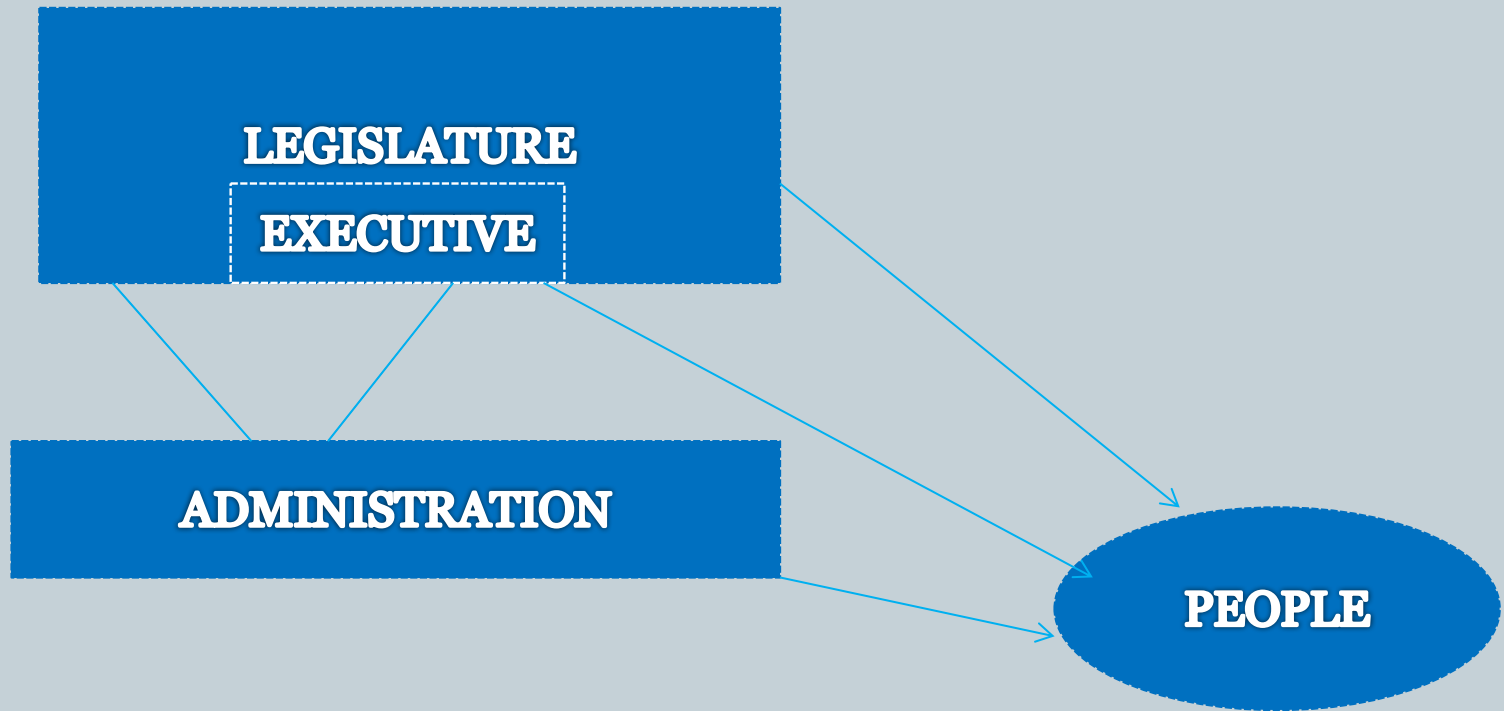
Broadly speaking, there are 2 functions;

- mandatory and concurrent functions

# STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

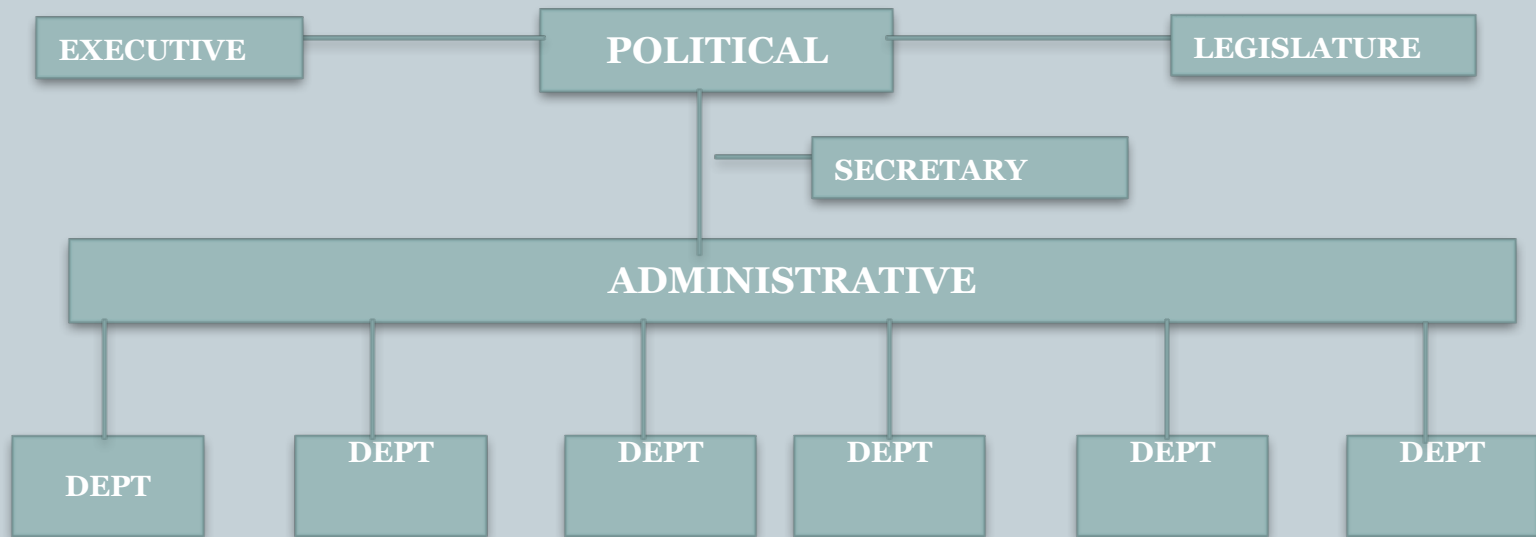


# POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM





# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE





**SECRETARY**

**HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**DEPT  
Personnel**

**DEPT  
Finance**

**DEPT  
Agric**

**DEPT  
Health**

**DEPT  
Social**

**DEPT  
Works**

# COMMITTEE SYSTEM



- Statutory committee is mandatory for local governments
- Finance and general purposes committee; O Cabinet or executive council O Financial policy
- Education committee (primary and adult education)
- Junior staff management committee O Matters of Grade levels 1- 6
- Peace and security committee
- Community interests
- Religious leaders
- Business community
- Police – Divisional Police Officer

# **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ELECTED OR POLITICAL ACTORS**



- Political actors are; Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Supervisor, Secretary who constitute the Executive arm of government
- Councillors – Legislative arms

## **THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

- Formulation of policies
- Management of finances of Local Government
- Consideration of annual budget submitted by all departures through treasurers
- Supervision of project implementation
- Collecting all monies due to Local Government

# **COUNCILORS**

- Attendance of meetings of the council
- Serving as members of sub-committees
- Liaising between Local Government council and their wards
- Robust debate

# **THE CHAIRMAN**

- The chief executive and accounting officer
- Observe and comply with financial regulations
- Receipts and disbursements of public fund
- Direct the affairs of the Local Government

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL (ELECTED) AND CAREER STAFF



## A. General Administration

- ✓ The Chairman is the overall head of Local Government (both political and administrative structures)
- ✓ Supervisory Councillors are eyes and ears of the Chairman.
- ✓ Chairman monitors departments through supervisors who are the political head of departments
- ✓ Chairman does not sign cheques, but can monitor payments
- ✓ Career staff matters – are left to the head of Local Government administration



## **B. Financial Matters**

- Chairman is the accounting officer
- Before any expenditure – there must be provision in the annual Local Government budget
- The executive arm prepares the budget
- Legislative approval is mandatory
- Legislative monitoring of projects
- Award of contract is prerogative of the executive
- Head of personnel and Head of Local Government administration are signatories to cheques
- Before payment, voucher must be raised

# **SOURCES OF LOCAL GOVERNANMENT FINANCES**

- Funds from Federation Account 20.6% of accruable resources
- 10% of States Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)
- Value added Tax (VAT)
- Grants – Primary Education, Primary Health Care etc



# EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNANMENT



## A) Federal Government – reforms

- Poverty Eradication
- The National Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission
- Fixes salaries and allowances

## B) State Government

- Demands accountability from Local Government
- Dissolution of Local Government
- Adjust boundaries

## c) The State House of Assembly

- Makes law

## d) Ministry of Local Government

- The State executive and House of Assembly work through them
- Directive on allowances, conditions of services etc
- Political directives – generally

## E) Local Government Service Commission

- Responsible for personnel matters
- Discipline, promotion, transfer etc
- In charge of GL 07 and above
- In most cases, the commission must be informed before recruitment of GL 01- 06 is made

## F) State Auditor General

- Audits all accounts
- Report infractions to Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of House of Assembly through the Speaker

## G) Local Government State Staff Pension Board

- Payment of retirement benefits (Pension and gratuities)

## H) State Ministry of Justice

- Are involved in bye-laws

# THE NON-FORMAL EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- The communities
- Local citizens
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Gender Advocacy
- Traditional Rulers
- Women groups
- Youths
- Market Associations
- Farmers
- Religious bodies
- Physically challenged persons
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Contractors
- Students