



# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## DEMOCRACY MUST BE ALLOWED TO THRIVE

**I**t is no gain saying that Nigeria's democracy is under coordinated and escalating attack—not from external forces, but from within the political system itself. Across the country, a disturbing pattern is emerging—one that combines the hijack of party structures, the imposition of candidates, executive overreach, weakening institutions, and growing insecurity—all converging to threaten the very foundation of democratic governance. At the centre of this crisis is the unrestrained power grab by state governors, who are aggressively consolidating control over party machinery at ward, local government, and state levels. This control is now being weaponized to determine who emerges as candidates in the 2027 elections. This is not democracy. This is political colonization: If allowed to stand, the Nigerian electorate will be reduced to mere spectators, while a handful of political actors decide the future of over 200 million citizens behind closed doors.

What is at stake is not just party politics—but the survival of representative governance itself: At the same time, we are witnessing a dangerous erosion of institutional independence. Electoral processes are increasingly mired in controversy, public confidence in democratic institutions is declining, and political actors are openly undermining the rule of law when it does not serve their interests. This growing atmosphere of distrust is further compounded by deepening insecurity across large parts of the country, where terrorists and armed groups have not only displaced communities but, in some cases, assumed de facto control—imposing illegal taxes, terrorizing farmers, and rendering entire regions ungoverned. It is unacceptable that while citizens suffer violence, displacement, and economic hardship, political elites are consumed with power struggles, succession battles, and control of party tickets. Nigeria is gradually drifting toward a system where elections are predetermined through manipulation of party structures and Public offices are allocated through loyalty rather than competence. Citizens are abandoned to insecurity while leaders negotiate power while Institutions are weakened to serve political convenience.

This is the pathway to authoritarianism masked as democracy. The Nigerian Constitution guarantees participation, representation, and accountability—not political imposition. If governors are allowed to handpick successors and dictate legislative representation, the result will be a generation of subservient leaders, compromised lawmakers, and a collapsed system of checks and balances. Democracy will exist only in name. This is what informed our June edition to give our readers an insight of the democratic storms gathering ahead 2027 with a caption. 'ELECTION 2027 The gathering storm in Nigeria s political theatre as NDC Surge rattles APC.

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