

# **NIGERIA'S GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**

## Federal Republic

The government structure of Nigeria is very close to that of the United States. There are three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative branch is bicameral and the judiciary is appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. A minor organizational difference would be the election of both houses is every four years, not every two and six as in the US. The President is also elected by popular vote, with no tie to an Electoral College.

Although structural differences are minor, there are extreme operational problems in Nigeria, which has led to continual troubles. Nigeria proves that just copying America's Constitution is no guarantee of success. It actually shows what a risk the founding fathers took. There is corruption and chaos in Nigeria, and solving problems through democratically based elections has seemed futile. For example, in its most recent presidential election, the people put back into power a person who ran Nigeria from 1983 -1985 via a Military coup, Muhammadu Buhari. The outgoing President was Good Luck Jonathan (but not much luck did Nigeria have under him). Unlike Iran which places Sharia law within its Constitution, Nigeria's is not theocratic, but still faces religious conflicts because of a sizeable Muslim population which tries to enforce some discriminatory practices despite what laws might say against it. Nigeria could be called "a democracy run amok." The chart below outlines some of the problems this country's government is facing.

