

STS 211
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FOR
SCIENCE LABORATORY
TECHNOLOGY (SLT) DIPLOMA 2

LECTURE NOTES
BY
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FIRST SEMESTER

I. INTRODUCTION

- Practically, Citizenship Education in Nigeria is about knowing and practicing the Nigerian Constitution. And academically it is a component of General Studies programme, which teaches the rights and obligations of citizens and government. The content of this subject is in line with NBTE curriculum and is taught in two semesters The 1st Semester will cover the following topics-
 - I. The Constitution of Nigeria
 - II. The federal system of government in Nigeria
 - III. The Constitutional rights and obligations of Nigerian citizens
 - IV. Citizenships
 - V. The fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy in Nigeria

The Goal Of Citizenship Education

- To reduce the negative effects of plurality or diversity of cultures, and clash of political interest for one Nigeriathrough effective use of schools, Mass media as an instrument for nation building by teaching the subject Citizenship Education.
- To Increase national consciousness of Nigerians so that Nigeria remains an indivisible entity where every Nigerian will consider himself a Nigerian first before seeing himself as a Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa or Muslim Christian and so on.
- To Make Nigerian citizens to be knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities.
- Encourage Citizens to become useful and active members of the society

II. THE CONSTITUTION

Definition of a Constitution

- A constitution is a foundation document which has the aim and objective to make a state to exist as one entity and is binding on all citizens of the state. It expresses the political-will, that is, the agreement by a people of a Country, State or group on how they would be governed and legally, it expresses how the courts may deal with those who break the agreement.
- A constitution is the first, primary, fundamental or tab-root of all other laws of a country which provides the bases on which the government, groups and individual citizens of a country are to relate and operate to achieve the aims and objectives of the country and its people. It is thus the supreme, symbol of the nationhood and sovereignty of a country.
- Politically, subsidiary or other laws, policies and arms /agencies of Government are defined and established on the principles and chances allowed by the Constitution.
- Legally, the Constitution contains definite rights and rules which guide the conduct of State institutions and citizens which must be complied with to achieve the purposes of having the country. Consequently, no one is to see himself as above the constitution. As such whoever disobeys the constitution must be referred to the courts of competent jurisdiction for adjudication.

Features of the Nigerian Constitution as a Document

The Nigerian Constitution:-

- Has a preamble or introduction which serves as the aims and objectives of the Constitution and of course the country.
- Explains the type of government of a Nigeria that is Presidential, not Parliamentary, or monarchical,
- It explains the levels or tiers of government, that Nigeria is a federal not a unitary Country
- States the type of Party system allowed of the Country. That it Multiparty not one, two etc party system.
- Provides for the qualification of prospective candidates and tenure of eventual elected and appointed political office holders.
- That it is in line with the theory of **separation of powers** and we the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary arms of Government. It also has complies with the **doctrine of checks and balance** to explain their functions and how they can inter relate to avoid arbitrariness, dictatorship and other abuses of power.
- It names the rights of Citizens and their obligations/duties.
- Provides the process to which the Constitution can be amended to address current and future needs. Such amendments may be through one or a combination of legislative procedure, referendum, participation by federating units (National and State Assemblies); there is also judicial amendments for written Constitution when cases are brought before the courts; or conventional and customary methods for amending unwritten Constitutions. This include change in law come by way of long usage, arbitrariness of elites or concerned citizens and coup d'états.
- Provides the revenue allocation formula between the tiers of government.
- Provides how government and citizens can seek and obtain redress when aggrieved with the misconduct of others.

Constitutionalism

- The Constitution is the body of rules contained in one document with various features,
- While the concept of constitutionalism is the perception that the Constitution is supreme as such there should be adherence to the letter and spirit of the constitution by those who govern and the citizens.
- Constitutionalism asserts that the behaviour of persons should be in line with the principle of the rule of law . As such
 - (a) every person is equal before the law,
 - (b) there should be no partiality as such due process should always be followed in handling offenders, and
 - (c) all offenders should be given fair hearing.
- The judiciary is to be seen perform its interpretive functions from legal perspective.

The guiding Principles in the Making of the Nigerian Constitution

The Nigerian constitution was produced on the bases of following:-

- **The ideal situation:** The philosophical works of scholars which stresses the ideal situation that is what ought to be as can be noted in intellectual works of Locke, Marx, Hobbes, Plato, Aristotle e.t.c.
- **Economic and Political Ideologies in practice:** system of political and economic development planning e.g. democracy, capitalism, socialism and mix economic systems and
- **The promotion of good norms and culture of the people of Nigeria:** values, habits and practices of a people which aims to provide a better life. These are contained in records of Conventions, acts of parliaments, and decrees; the outcome of constitutional conferences, international laws, as well as administrative and judicial precedents. A better life is indicated in growing justice, equality, rights and freedom to exercise such rights.

Types and Bases of Constitution

- **Written and unwritten constitution** is based on the **nature of documentation**. The written is in a book and the Unwritten is not written in a book but is gotten from memory and oral presentation.
- **Flexible and rigid constitution**. is based on the **Process of amendment of the constitution**. A flexible constitution requires simple majority but a rigid constitution is more difficult to amend. For example the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria is more difficult because it involves requires a vote from both National and State Assemblies. The approach is in Ghana, USA and Canada.
- **Monarchical constitution** This is based on the traditional **Leadership of Country**. The headship is by kings and queens through inheritance e.g Britain, morocco) and republican constitution where the head of the country is elected by the people after a specified tenure or period
- **Unitary, federal and con-federal constitutions**. This are based on the **structure or configuration of the State**. In unitary all powers vested on the central government like in Britain, Ghana and Kenya. On the other hand the federal constitution requires the central government to share power with other fairly independent or autonomous tiers of government like State and local governments. As for the con-federal constitution, the State government has more powers than the federal government. This type is not common.
- **International constitutions or agreements**. These are based on **combination of nations and they** bear different names such charter (e.g. United Nations Charter), treaty (e.g. Economic Community of West African treaty, covenant (e.g. Covenant of the league of nations) pact (e.g. Warsaw pact). The problem with some international constitutions is that it is mostly not effective because it costly (time and material investment), conflict of interest between nations breeds double standard and non interference on internal affairs stance, and is hardly enforceable because of lack of international police and armed force with powers of coerce compliance. For example while Russia was expelled from the league of nations in 1939 for aggression against Finland, but Italy was protracted and retained its membership of the same league of nations in spite of its aggression against Ethiopia between 1935-1936.

III. FEDERALISM

Concepts of Federalism

- Federalism, according to Wheare (1946), is the **division of government functions** between the center and the constituent geopolitical units such that each unit can develop at its own pace.
- **Tiers and hierarchy of Governments:** Neither the center nor the constituent units are subordinate to each other; the two are coordinate and independent. In a typical case of Nigerian we have Federalism in which the power is divided between the national government and the States and local governmental units.
- **Functions and Power relationship:** There is the **exclusive list of matters** e.g. defence and foreign policy reserved for the central Government. There is **Concurrent list of matters** e.g. Agriculture for the both the Central and State Governments to act on. However where the laws of the States contradicts that of the federal, the federal law prevails; while there is **residual powers reserved of matters** for the States.

Importance of Federalism

- **Federalism fosters unity** in diversity. Because It symbolizes decentralization of power and operates within the prism of self-respect for one another, it then provides a feeling of “*self-rule and shared rule*” (Elazar, 1987: 5–6)
- The major goal of federalism is to thwart the or federating units as well as
- **Guaranteeing collective security.** There eneasy threat to individually independent but militarily weak states. But where there is unity of many weak and strong states there is strong feeling of security.
- **It promotes and fastens development.** This is because encourages healthy competition between the component units; brings government nearer to the people; decentralization of power discourages the rise of dictators in the central government; unlike a unitary state it removes fear of domination as it gives the component units equal chance to power; guarantees wider consultation with states.
- It encourages demands for more units and decentralization of powers to federating units. Over the years in Nigeria that, the power of the federal government expanded considerably through legislation and court decisions. But much recent political debate has centred on returning power to the states, and that of state to local governments.

Types of federalism

Dual federalism

- Dual federalism looks at the federal system as a sort of "layer cake," with each layer of government performing the tasks that make the most sense for that level. It is a state with two tiers of government in which there is a constitutional division of power between the central government which is in charge of the whole territory and the constituent units in charge of a smaller territory within the Country. Given these definitions, therefore, Nigeria is a federation where an average citizen in Nigeria is subjected to at least two main levels of authority: that of the state and the national.

Cooperative federalism

- The theory of cooperative federalism emphasizes that there are many areas in which the responsibilities of States and federal government **overlap**. And for practical purposes there are basically two legislative lists – the exclusive and concurrent lists. From this the federal government dominates by holding unto exclusive and also sharing with the States, the concurrent list. Thus the State is a subordinate tier to the centre.

The differences between Federalism and other types of Government

- A federal State is a country where the central authority share powers to legislate with other tiers of government.
- While in a unitary State the central authority holds all the power to legislate over every matter and tier of Government . This was practiced in 1966 when Agui Ironsi was Nigeria's military Head of State.
- A Federal State also is in contrast with **con-federal state**, where component states are clearly dominant. Here states have more powers to legislate on most matters than the Federal government .
(<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/ Concepts of Federalism>)

Origin of Federalism in Nigeria

- Before the 1884 scramble and partition of Africa by Europeans, there was nothing like Nigeria. What we had were several independent nations with different cultures: languages groups like the Urhobo, Ijaw, Hausa, Fulani, Nupe, Kanuri, Itsekiri, Ogoja, Opobo, Tiv, Calabari, etc.
- After 1884, it was the British colonial regime that brought the language groups together to form what is today known as Nigeria. (Odisu TA (2015) Nigeria, then began to operate a unitary state system, The Colonial Government at the centre held power and controlled the country.
- By 1953 and 1954 there were two major constitutional conferences that led to the establishment of federalism in Nigeria through the Lyttleton constitution of 1954. The two constitutional conferences that led to the promulgation of the constitution were: (1) The London Constitutional Conference of 1953 and (2) The Lagos Conference of 1954.
- The major federating units which shared power with the central government were called regions namely Northern, Western and Eastern Regions. The dominant ethnic groups in the regions were the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo respectively. The constituent units enjoyed substantial political and economic powers. But the financial relationship between the central and regional governments was that the regions paid tax to the centre from the revenue generated from their resources. Also autonomy was granted to the Southern Cameroons but the area still remain part of Nigerian Federation as a quasi- federal territory with its legislature.

Reasons For The Adoption Of Federalism In Nigeria

- To reduce the fear of one ethnic group dominating others by protecting the interest of minority groups.
- The large population and wide geographical areas of Nigeria required division of the land to ease administration. Other geopolitical territories and capitals brings government officials and offices nearer to the people within the regions/States of Nigeria. That way it reduces the burden travelling and make the art of governance less energy sapping, time saving, less fatiguing and make government more effective.
- To ensure rapid and even development of all parts of Nigeria.
- To expand the local markets regional and State capitals
- To form a common and stronger government to secure the sovereignty of Nigeria by way of giving more and equal representations of regions/states in the national Assembly and Federal Executive Council
- To give a feeling of local independence or autonomy of every ethnic group in Nigeria.

IV. CITIZENSHIPS

Meaning of Citizenship

- Citizenship means the legal process for acquiring membership of a State to become a citizen of the country.
- A citizen thus is a legal member of a country. As a citizen he possess full constitutional legal or natural rights in the part of the country he or she lives and is as well loyal to authorities of the community. It means a person who has citizenship status of a country is a productive. caring and active member of the country.
- To acquire citizenship of Nigeria according to Section 25 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. persons can become citizens of Nigeria under the following conditions :-

How To Become a Citizen of Nigeria

(1) Citizenship by birth.

- These are persons born in Nigeria before 1 st October, 1960 if either the mother or father or any of their grandparents was from a Nigerian indigenous community. But one of the parents or grandparent must have been born in Nigeria. Persons born in Nigeria after 1st October, 1960 whose mother or father or any of the grandparents is a Nigerian.

(2) Citizenship by Registration

- According to Section 26 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria a mature person born outside Nigeria who is a grandchild of a Nigerian or a foreign woman married to a Nigerian can be registered as a Nigerian if the person:-
 - (a) Is of good character;
 - (b) Intends to live in Nigeria; and
 - (c) Has sworn to the Oath of Allegiance.

(3) Citizenship by Naturalization

- According to Section 27 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria a foreigner may become a Nigerian upon application to the President if the person:-
 - (a) is 18 years and above and of good character;
 - (b) intends to live in Nigeria;
 - (c) satisfies the Governor of the state where he or she plans to live that the community accepts him or her;
 - (d) Contribute to the progress of Nigeria;
 - (e) Sworn to the Oath of Allegiance; and
 - (f) lived in Nigeria continuously for 15 years.

Dual Citizenship

According to Section 28 only citizens of Nigeria by birth can be citizens of another country and still keep their Nigerian citizenship.

How to withdraw Citizenship of the Country

Self Withdrawal of Citizenship

- According to Section 29 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, any Nigerian who is up to 18 years can withdraw his or her citizenship by saying he/she is no longer a Nigerian): The President may refuse the renunciation if Nigeria is at war or if it is against public policy.

Withdrawal of Citizenship by Government

- According to Section 30 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria the President may withdraw the citizenship of a person who is not a citizen by birth:
 - (i) if within seven years of becoming a Nigerian the person has been jailed for a term not less than 3 years:
 - (ii) If the person has by act or speech been disloyal to the country: and
 - (iii) The Person does any business harmful to Nigeria, with a country at war With Nigeria or assists the country against Nigeria in any way.

The Constitutional rights and obligations of Nigerian citizens

Constitutional Rights

- Rights are the basic entitlements which every citizen of Nigeria is to enjoy it is popularly called *fundamental human rights*. The rights are fundamental to all human beings and are contained in Chapter 4 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- Right to life.
- Right to dignity of human persons.
- Right to personal liberty.
- Right to fair hearing.
- Right to privacy.
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- Right to freedom of expression.
- Right to freedom of movement.
- Right to freedom from discrimination.
- Right to property ownership.

Obligations/Duties of Citizens

Obligations are duties, and responsibilities which a citizen is expected to carry out for the development of the country. This is contained in chapter II section 24 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the responsibilities of the citizens are:-

- Respect for the ideals of the constitution/institutions.
- Respect for National Flag; National Pledge and Legitimate Authority.
- Enhance the power, prestige and good name of Nigeria.
- Respect the dignity of other citizens and their rights.
- Promote the spirit of common brotherhood and good neighbourliness.
- Make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress and wellbeing of community of residence.
- Render assistance to appropriate agencies in the maintenance of law and order. i.e reporting of criminal elements in the society.

V. THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY IN NIGERIA

Government has principle which serves as guidelines for good governance. The principles are as follows

1. *Principles of Governance*

- Section 14 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria The government shall be based on the principles of participation b) all and equality of all persons. Power belongs to the people or Nigeria. Government gets its powers from the people through this Constitution. Security and welfare of the people are the most important business of government. Government must make appointments in such a way that all areas of the country are represented to promote national unity.

2. **Motto and Political Guidelines**

- Section 15 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria The motto of Nigeria is unity and faith, peace and progress. Discrimination based on origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic group or language is not allowed. Government has a duty to promote national unity. Every citizen can reside anywhere he or she choose. Corruption and abuse of power must be abolished.

- **3. Economic Guidelines**

- Section 16 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria The resources of Nigeria shall be used to promote national prosperity, welfare, freedom and happiness of all. Both Government and individuals can participate in all areas of the economy. Putting the wealth of Nigeria in the hands of a few is not allowed. Government must provide the following:-

- (a) adequate shelter;
- (b) suitable and adequate food;
- (c) reasonable national minimum living wage;
- (d) old age care and pension;
- (e) unemployment, and sick benefits; and
- (f) welfare for the disabled

- **4. Social Guidelines**

- Section 17 of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria Life in Nigeria is based on freedom, equality and justice. Government must be humane. Government must be kind and respect:-

- (a) Equality of rights ;
- (b) The Environment ;
- (c) Independence of the courts and easy access to them;
- (d) Equal opportunity to secure jobs;
- (e) Just and good conditions of work;
- (f) Health, safety and welfare of persons; and
- (g) Protection of children, young persons and the old people from cheating and neglect.

● **5. Educational Guidelines**

- Section 18 Government should create equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. Government shall promote science and technology. Government should try to wipe out illiteracy.

● **6. Foreign Policy Guidelines**

- Section 19 Government shall promote the interests of Nigeria in dealing with other countries, African unity and respect for international law and legal agreements. Government policy shall ensure the following:
 - Promotion of Nigeria's interest and African unity.
 - Settlement of dispute by negotiation (discussion).
 - Respect international law and treaties
 - Promote just world economic order.