

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 7

TOPIC: REPUBLICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

DEFINITION OF REPUBLICANISM

A republican government is the form of government in which the people are governed by their elected representatives and not by hereditary rulers. A republican government is a sovereign state headed by an elected president for a fixed term of office. Examples of republican government are presidential and parliamentary systems. In 1963, Nigeria became a republic with an elected Head of State called President. Other republican states include USA, USSR, France, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal etc. The term republicanism is derived from the term republic. A republic is a country that is governed by elected representatives of the people and led by a president who takes charge of the affairs of a country for a stipulated period. Nigeria's Republican system was practised thus:

1st Republic 1963 – 1966

2nd Republic 1979 – 1983

3rd Republic 1992- 1993

4th Republic 1999 – till date.

FEATURES OF A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT

The following are the features of a republican government:

1. In a republic, political offices are competed for in elections. They are not obtained through hereditary.
2. The president or prime minister can be removed by the electorate or their representatives.
3. It is usually characterized by a multiparty system.
4. A republican constitution is entirely home-made.
5. There exist political and legal equalities in a republic
6. Political power is exercised within the limits of the constitution
7. A republic is sovereign, that is, it is not subject to another power or state.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPUBLICANISM AND MONARCHY

Republicanism and monarchy are different in the following ways:

1. The leader in a republic is elected, while the monarch assumes power through hereditary succession
2. The principle of the rule of law is strictly adhered to in a republican government, while in monarchy the rule of law is absent.
3. In a republic, the head of state is known as the president, while in a monarchy, the head of state is known as a monarch.
4. All members of the legislature are elected in a republic; while in a monarchy, some legislators are appointed while others inherit membership of the legislature.

5. In a republic, political sovereignty resides with the people, while in monarchy the right to rule rest with the monarch

6. In a republic, the constitution is entirely home-made while in a monarchy the constitution may have some alien influence.

7. Election is held periodically in republican government while in a monarchy, especially absolute monarchy, elections are not held.

8. The principles of constitution are adhered to in a republic, while the monarch is not mandated to observe the concept of constitutionalism.

ASSIGNMENT

State all the Presidents or Prime ministers that led Nigeria during it republicanism.