

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 9 (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION

CLASS: JSS2

TOPIC: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT

In the Nigerian federal system, there are three tiers of government which are the local, state and the federal government. These different levels of government work interdependently but concurrently. They cooperate to ensure the smooth and effective administration of the country.

Each tier has legislative power on issues within its jurisdiction. The functions of the three tiers of government and their legislative powers are stated in the federal constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the legislative lists. There are three legislative lists which are the exclusive, concurrent and residual legislative lists.

The powers and functions under each list are as follows:

A. Exclusive list: This contains items or areas only the federal government can legislate on. The powers of the federal government are derived from this list. These include military, defence, currency and monetary policies, external affairs, arms, aviation and pensions

B. Concurrent list: Both the federal and the state government have legislative powers over the items in this list. These include education, health, road maintenance, revenue generation,

C. Residual list: This contains functions and items not included in the exclusive or concurrent lists. Items of this list are legislated by the local and state governments. The areas covered by the state government include post-primary and technical education, electricity, collection of tax, science and technology, agricultural projects etc. The local government has power over areas like naming of roads and streets, numbering of houses, registration of births, deaths and marriages, primary and adult education etc.

The three tiers of government are related in the following ways:

1. The federal constitution of Nigeria shares powers among the three arms.
2. The constitution duplicates government structures and departments at the three levels of government.
3. The state governments have the authority to create local governments and even audit their accounts while the federal government has the power to reform the local government system.
4. The federal and state executive arms meet periodically to strengthen both internal and external security in the country, as well as to discuss issues relating to the national economy and foreign affairs.
5. The federal government also assists the state and local governments in areas of community development like rural integrated power supply, basic education, ecology and desertification and during emergency matters.

Differences between the three tiers of government

The three tiers of government differ in the following areas:

1. Executive structure
2. Legislative structure
3. Judiciary
4. Power sharing

HOMEWORK

1. State the powers and functions found in the following:
 - A. The exclusive legislative list
 - B. The concurrent legislative list
 - C. The residual legislative list

2. Give two ways in the three tiers of government are related in a federal system of government.