

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
WEEK: 7
TERM: SECOND

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2. Reasons of the Creation of Local Government
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Meaning of Local Government

Local government is government at a local level and established by an act of parliament or statute, decree or edict, charged with administrative and executive duties on matters concerning the inhabitants of a particular district, and given the power to make by-laws for their purpose.

It can also be defined as government at the local level established by law to perform specific functions within defined areas.

Reasons of the Creation of Local Government

Local governments are created for the following reasons:

1. **Participatory Democracy:** Local government provides an opportunity for the citizens to practice the democratic form of government in their community.
2. **Bringing Government closer to the citizens:** Local governments are created to enable them to fashion out good policies and programmes which the local communities require.

3. **Equitable socio-economic development:** They are created to serve as a means of distributing the resources of the country equitably for the socio-economic development of the localities.
4. **Choice of Leadership:** Local governments give people the opportunity to elect their own people as their representatives in the local government council.
5. **The link between the people and the government:** Local governments act as a link between the rulers and ruled.
6. **Experimentation of Government Policies:** The local government are often used as experimental grounds for testing the policies and programmes of the government.
7. **To provide employment opportunity to the people.**
8. **To encourage the development of leadership potentials of the people at the grass root level.**

Functions of Local Government

The functions of local government include the following:

1. **Maintenance of law and order:** local government maintains law and order through the bylaws which they enact to ensure orderly conduct and safeguard laws and property within their jurisdiction.
2. **Provision of motor parks and markets:** They provide and maintain motor parks and markets for their people in their localities.
3. **Collection of Rates, Fees and Rents:** local government collects rates, fees and rents for the development of their areas. These include tenement rates, fees on market stalls, motor parks, bicycle, motor-cycle, licensing, radio and television fees.
4. **Construction of feeder roads and drainages:** they construct and maintain feeder roads, drainages, culverts, urban streets, etc.
5. **Provision of recreation facilities:** they provide recreation facilities such as swimming pools, amusement park, football pitches, and other recreation grounds where people can relax or engage in sporting activities.
6. **Provision of health facilities:** they provide and maintain health facilities such as health centres, maternity homes, as well as refuse dumps for waste

disposal. They also provide inspection services and maintain public conveniences like cemeteries, toilets, abattoirs, etc.

7. **Registration of Birth, Death and Marriages:** they provide centres for the registration of births, deaths and marriages that occurred within their areas of authority.
8. **Naming of streets:** roads and streets names, number of houses in urban and rural areas are given by local government.
9. **Provision of educational facilities:** the local government provides and maintains schools, libraries and adult education facilities. They fund public primary schools by paying teachers' salaries and maintaining school buildings.
10. **Provision of social amenities:** local governments provide social amenities such as water, rural electrification and television viewing centres.

Sources of Local Government Finance

1. **Federal Government Grants:** the major source of local government fund is grants from federal government.
2. **Grants from state Government:** in Nigeria the constitution requires each state government to allocate a certain proportion of its revenue to the local government in its state.
3. **Loans:** local government authorities raise money by obtaining loans from financial institutions and organizations. These loans assist the councils to carry out some specific projects.
4. **Taxes:** local government authorities raise a lot of revenue by collecting income tax from non-salary earners residing within their areas of jurisdiction.
5. **Local Rates:** Local Government collect rates within their localities such as water, market stall, motor parks, rates etc.
6. **License Fees:** License fees such as bicycle, dogs, radio, television, canoe, etc. are also sources of revenue to local government.
7. **Tenement Rate:** Local Governments are expected to levy rates on privately owned houses
8. **Court Fees:** fines imposed on offenders in customary courts generate revenue to local governments.
9. **Investments:** they sometimes invest in business schemes like transport services or buying shares from which dividends accrue to them.

Problems facing Local Government

1. Inadequate funds for numerous projects.
2. Embezzlement and misappropriation of fund.
3. Shortage of trained personnel.
4. Partisan politics engaged by officials.
5. Frequent political interference in the appointment.
6. Lack of infrastructures in the local areas.
7. Illiteracy among councillors and chairmen.
8. Rampant cases of bribery and corruption.
9. Constant interference by traditional rulers.
10. Large size of the local government.
11. Nepotism, tribalism and favouritism.
12. Poor method of collecting taxes.
13. Poor communication system.
14. Lack of political education.

ASSIGNMENT

What is the difference between 'Chief in council' and 'chief and council?'