

CIVIC EDUCATION

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is the legal right of someone to belong to a particular country. It means the state of being a citizen.

Who is a citizen? A citizen is a person who is entitled by law to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a country. A citizen therefore, is a person that has full rights as a member of a country, either because of the circumstance of his birth or because, he is granted such right.

Types Citizenship

There are different types of citizenship here in Nigeria, and there are three main ways of becoming a citizen in Nigeria: by birth, by registration and by nationalization.

Process of becoming a Citizen of Nigeria.

According to the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, there are three main

Ways of acquiring Nigeria citizenship, these are:

- 1) **Citizenship by birth:** this is the commonest way of acquiring citizenship. A person born by parents, who are natives of a country is automatically a citizen of that country. For instance, a person whose parents are Nigerians, whether he or she is outside Nigeria, is a Nigerian. Some countries like America accords citizenship status to any child born in that country even if the parents of such a child are not citizens of America.

- 2) **Citizenship by nationalization:** this is a situation whereby the rights and privileges given to somebody, who has stayed for a very long period of time in a particular place for a long period of time and whose application for citizenship has been granted. The person is *expected to:*
 - a) Take an oath of allegiance; the oath is to ensure that the person will be loyal and obedient as a citizen of the state or country.
 - b) He is a person of full age and capacity.
 - c) He is a person of good character.
 - d) He has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in a country.
 - e) He is a person, who has made or is capable of making useful contribution to the advancement, progress and well-being of the country.

f) He must have been living in Nigeria for a period of fifteen years.

h) He pays his taxes regularly as at when due.

3) **Citizenship by registration:** a non-citizen can apply and be registered as a citizen of a country if he fulfils the following conditions:

a) He is a person of good character.

b) He has shown clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in the

country. c) He has taken oath of allegiance to the constitution of the country.

Difference between a citizen and non-citizen

- 1) a citizen is a legal member of a country.
- 2) Enjoys political, legal, economic and social rights.
- 3) Owes allegiance to the country.
- 4) Cannot be deported.
- 5) Has right to contest for political posts.
- 6) Is a state holder in the affairs of the country.
- 7) Can occupy certain political positions.

Non-citizen

- 1) he is an alien or a foreigner.
- 2) May not enjoy all the rights.
- 3) Does not owe allegiance.
- 4) Can be deported when there is need for it.
- 5) Has no such rights.
- 6) Is not a stakeholder.
- 7) Cannot occupy some posts for security reasons.

Qualities of a Good Citizen

- 1) A good citizen pays his taxes as at when due.
- 2) A good citizen should respect all democratic process and practices.
- 3) A good citizen who is qualified to vote must do so.
- 4) A good citizen must obey all the laws, rules and regulations made by the government of his country.
- 5) A good citizen must show respect and loyalty to the state.
- 6) A good citizen must be ready to defend his country whenever he is called upon to do so.
- 7) A good citizen should show due respect for the national pledge and anthem of his country.
- 8) A good citizen should respect the rights of other people and must not interfere with such rights.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A CITIZEN

Rights are those privileges or those benefits which citizens of a country or state has or have to enjoy.

Meaning of duties: they are those obligations the individual citizen of the state or country is expected to carry out or perform.

In Nigeria, the rights of citizens are referred to as the fundamental human rights.

The rights of Nigerian citizen include:

- 1) **Right to life:** this means that nobody has the right to kill a citizen of Nigeria, except when the citizen is found guilty of murder.
- 2) **Right to personal liberty:** this means that any Nigerian arrested must be made to understand why he was arrested within 24hrs also, must be prosecuted without delay. He/she must not stay beyond 24hrs in detention.
- 3) **Right to private and family life:** the constitution provided that private and personal letters, telephone conversation and family issues are protected.
- 4) **Right to human dignity:** Nigerian citizen should not be subjected to any form of inhuman treatment, forced labour or torture, except when the assignment demands immediate and emergency cases.
- 5) **Right to freedom of expression:** Nigerians are encouraged by the constitution, to speak up and express their opinions without being afraid of victimization.
- 6) **Right to freedom of movement:** as a Nigerian citizen, you are free to move to any place and even reside there as long as you are within the country's territory.
- 7) **Right to freedom of religion:** you are free as a Nigerian to believe and worship in any religion of your choice.
- 8) **Right to own property and be adequately compensated if that property is acquired by the government, group or individual.**
- 9) **Right to peaceful assembly and association:** a citizen has the right to belong to any group or association.
- 10) **Right to freedom from discrimination:** non-citizen of Nigeria should not be discriminated against by any reason of his ethnic origin or tribe, sex, religion or political opinions.

NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND IDENTITY

National consciousness: this is love and feeling one has for his country. One who loves his country will do everything possible to promote the good image of his country.

National identity: national identity is the feeling of love and pride a person has for his or her country. When a citizen is proud of his country and can sacrifice personal interest for the good of the country, such a citizen can be said to have a strong national identity.

The Nigerian national flag

The Nigerian national flag is a symbol of authority. It has two colours, green and white.

The significance of the colours are:

Green – represent agricultural land while white represents peace and unity. Michael Taiwo Akinwumi designed our national flag in 1959. Nigeria started using this flag on October 1st, 1960 (at independence). Self-consciousness is the state of an individual's

awareness of his worth, character, appearances and consequences of his actions. Group consciousness is the awareness members of a group possess, which make them work together to achieve group objective. Community consciousness is the awareness of a community that makes them elevate community interest above personal interest.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF NIGERIA

The Hausa, the Igbo and the Yoruba, unifying factors/tiers. Nigeria is a country known to have over 250 ethnic groups. The major ethnic group we have in Nigeria are the Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba's. Nigeria is also known to have different religions which includes Christian, Islamic and traditional religions. Nigeria is divided into six geopolitical zones namely; the South-East South-West, the North-East, South-South, the North-West and the North-Central.

The Major Ethnic Groups in Nigeria Are:

(1) The **Igbos** are located or found in the south eastern part of the country. It is made up of states like Anambra, Enugu, Imo, Abia, Ebonyi. Their traditional ruler are called Eze, Obi or Igwe. The Igbos practice extended family system very much. The common dress for the Igbo man is a lion cloth with wrapper tied round the waist while their women wear buba and tie wrapper. The Igbo love farming and they produce palm oil, yam, cassava, vegetables, cocoyam etc. The Igbos are mostly Christians.

(2) **The Hausas:** the Hausa are found in the northern part of the country.

It is made up of states like Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, Zaria etc. A traditional ruler in Hausa land is called Emir. Their main religion is Islam. The Hausas grow crops like yam, rice, groundnut, maize, etc. The typical dress for the Hausa man is a long overflowing gown known as Agbada over baggy trousers while their women wear buba over wrapper. The Hausa do a lot of cattle rearing and leather works.

(3) **The Yoruba:** The Yoruba is located in the south-western part of the country. It is made up of states like Lagos, Ogun, Oyo and Osun States. A traditional ruler in Yoruba land is called, Kabiesi or Oni. The traditional dress for the Yoruba man is Agbada and danshiki over a long trousers with caps to match the dress. Their women wear buba. The Yorubas love celebration, festivals and party. They produce crops like cocoa, rubber, kolanut in large quantities. The Yorubas are very respectful. They greet their elders by prostrating.

PROMOTION OF NATIONAL UNITY

National identity: national identity means those characteristics, feelings and beliefs that unite a country as a nation and which also distinguish them from other countries. Those essential elements with which a country is known or identified are called national identities.

National Symbol: A symbol is a thing, a person, an event or a sign used to represent something or an event in the general lives of a people or group of people.

- (1) National coat of arms.
- (2) The national flag.
- (3) The National Pledge
- (4) The National Currency.

- (5) National Passport.
 - (6) National Identity Card.
 - (7) National lamp.
 - (8) Driving license.
 - (9) National Anthem.
 - (10) The Nigeria constitution.
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