

CLASS: SS3

SUBJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION

TOPIC: CIVIL SOCIETY

WEEK: 4

TERM: FIRST

MEANING OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society refers to institutions and group of people with common Interest, purposes and value which they pursue to make the society good. Civil society organizations are not organs of government and are not set up by the government, but are independent of the state.

TYPES AND CLASSIFICATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Professional associations, example is Nigerian Bar Association (NBA).
2. Human rights groups, example is committee for the defense of human rights
3. Pro-democracy groups, example is Campaign for Democracy (CD).
4. Labour group, example is the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC).
5. Students group, example is National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS).
6. Business group, example is Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
7. Gender based groups; example is National Council of Women's Societies (NCWS). Other types are: faith based organizations, community foundations, cultural groups, cooperative clubs etc.

FUNCTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Civil society organizations check the excesses of political leaders and state officials.
2. Civil society organizations encourage popular participation in politics where there is political apathy.
3. They pursue the enforcement of the fundamental human rights of the citizens.
4. They help to develop the values of society such as tolerance, hard work, respect for other people etc.
5. They make demand for social justice and fight against injustice
6. They inform the public on important national issues
7. They promote democracy by jointly monitoring elections and calling for peaceful, transparent and fair elections

PROBLEMS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Sometimes civil society groups are extreme and push themselves against the government.
2. Some of them compete for funding from various institutions.
3. Some members need to increase their own awareness of that cause which they claim to stand for.
4. Some of the groups that fight the cause of the poor have not made provisions for those poor people to be adequately represented in their leadership.
5. Those in leadership positions embezzle the money raised that is meant for the organization, believing that their membership is a source of making extra income.
6. Some groups do not respect other groups which do not share their opinion

ASSIGNMENT

1. Identify the qualities of civil society organizations.