

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 9

TOPIC : PARIMENTARY, MONARCH, AND CON-FEDERATION.

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

Cabinet or parliamentary system of government may be defined as one in which the Head of State is different from the Head of Government and where there is no strict separation of powers between the executive and the legislature. The main executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. The other part of the executive power is ceremonial and it is exercised by a President or Monarch (King or Queen) which is the head of state. Britain is a very good example of a cabinet system of government. Nigeria practiced the system between 1960 and 1966.

Parliamentary filibuster refers to a delay method of prolonging debates in parliament. The prime minister and his cabinet can be removed from office through a vote of no confidence by members of the parliament

MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

1. The head of state is different from the head of government.
2. There is no strict separation of powers.
3. The prime minister is the head of government while the Queen or the King or the President is the head of state.
4. The prime minister exercise real executive powers.
5. The Head of State performs ceremonial functions..
6. The Prime Minister has the power to dismiss any minister in his cabinet.
7. A vote of 'no confidence' by the parliament can force the Prime Minister and his cabinet minister to resign.

DEMERITS OR DISADVANTAGES OF PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

- 1. Fusion of Power:** This does not encourage specialization in the art of governance thereby leading to inefficiency and ineffectiveness in administration.
- 2. No Personal Accountability:** Collective responsibility make ministers behave anyhow since they cannot be judged individually.
- 3. It is less Democratic:** The Prime Minister who rules the country is not elected directly by the electorate and therefore is not responsible to the people.
- 4. Encouragement of Dictatorship:** The system encourages the Prime Minister to become a dictator because of the enormous power vested in him.
- 5. Arbitrary Dismissal:** The uncontrollable powers of the Prime Minister in dismissing any minister he wishes to dismiss can lead to arbitrary dismissal of ministers Differences between Presidential and Parliamentary Systems of Government.

PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

- 1 Ministers are not members of parliament **WHILE** All ministers are members of parliament.
- 2 The principle of individual responsibility is applicable **WHILE** the principle of collective responsibility is applicable.
- 3 The principle of separation of power is upheld **WHILE** The principle of fusion of powers is upheld.
- 4 The head of government is elected by the electorates. **WHILE** The prime minister is appointed from the parliament in a cabinet system.
- 5 Supremacy of the constitution is upheld. **WHILE** Supremacy of the parliament holds
- 6 We have majority party and minority party **WHILE** We have ruling party and opposition party.
- 7 Appointment of party members as ministers by president is not **WHILE** Appointment of ministers from the ruling party is compulsory.

CONFEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

A Confederal system is the form of government in which sovereign states come together as autonomous bodies to form a loose political union, in which the central government is sub-ordinate to the component governments. A government is said to be con-federal when the constitutional arrangements allocate much power to the components at the expense of the central government. It is also defined as a loose federation. Example is Senegambia which was a confederation made of sovereign Senegal and Gambia.

MAIN FEATURES AND MERITS OF CONFEDERATION

1. The component sovereign states are more powerful than the central government.
2. It is a union of sovereign or autonomous states.
3. It has weak central government.
4. The constitution makes the component states very powerful..
5. Confederation has a flexible constitution.
6. The component states have constitutional rights to secede.

DEMERITS OF CONFEDERATION

1. Confederation is not popular because it has a weak central government.
2. Citizens obey their component governments while the central government is not recognized in the system.
4. The making and implementation of decisions are unnecessarily. This is because members of the union need to agree before decisions are reached.
5. The right of secession is a source of disunity which may lead to the quick disintegration of a confederation.
6. Confederation is not popular because of the fact that component states retain their sovereignty and identity instead of losing them to the common union.

7. Confederation does not allow for even development of the component state.

MEANING OF MONARCHY

Monarchy is a form of government headed by a king, queen or emperor known as monarch. Monarchy is a hereditary system of rule where power is transferred within the family from one generation to the other. Sovereignty is vested in an individual called the monarch. In modern times, some countries operate monarchical form of government in which the monarch has limited power and performs ceremonial functions. Examples of countries where the system is practiced are Britain, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

FORMS OF MONARCHY

There are two forms or types of monarchy:

1. Absolute monarchy
2. Limited or constitutional monarchy

Absolute monarchy This is the type of monarchy in which the monarch has unlimited powers. The monarch does not derive his powers from the constitution but rules by divine right. Absolute monarchy is associated with hereditary leadership. Only members of the royal families are qualified to lead or rule. Examples of former absolute monarchs are Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and Nicholas II, the Czar of Russia. Today, ruling absolute monarchs are very few. Examples are King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Abdulla Bin Abdul-aziz al-saud of Saudi Arabia. Limited or

Constitutional Monarchy In this form of monarchy, the monarch has limited powers because he or she derives his or her powers from the constitution. The monarch is only a ceremonial or a figure head of state and a symbol of the nation. The actual power of governing is rested in the elected representative. Examples of countries that adopt constitutional monarchical system of government include Britain, Sweden, Arabia, Australia, Holland, etc.

ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Discuss fusion of power in parliamentary system of government.
- 2) Write a short about Haile Selassie.