

WEEK NINE (9)

TOPIC: CITIZENSHIP

A citizen is someone who enjoys full political rights in a state and in return performs certain duties to the state. A citizen therefore is a legal member of a state.

TYPE OF CITIZENSHIP

- 1. Citizenship by birth:** this is the situation whereby the parents of the person are natives in the country or a person born by citizens of a country. For example, a child born by Nigerian parents automatically becomes a Nigerian by birth.
- 2. Citizenship by registration or marriage:** this occurs when Nigerian male marries for example a Briton (a British) woman. The woman automatically becomes a citizen of Nigerian through registration of marriage.
- 3. Citizenship by naturalization:** this happens when an alien or a foreigner becomes a citizen of another country having fulfilled and satisfied the countries conditions to acquire the citizen of that country as laid down by the constitution of that country. It is a process by which an individual voluntarily changes his/her citizenship of a state to that of another in which he or she resides. Some of the conditions that an alien of another country must fulfil are: as follow;
 - * Applicant must be an adult acceptable in the community.
 - * Applicant must be of good character
 - * Applicant must swear an oath of allegiance
 - * Applicant must be able and have been contributing to community and national development and growth.
 - * Applicant must have been residing in a particular community in that country for specific period of time.
- 4. Honorary citizenship:** from time to time the government of a country have been honouring distinguished or important person or eminent person with citizenship of that country. For example such icon figures in Nigeria like: Sir Ahmadu Bello, Nnamdi Azikwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo have been honoured with citizenship of other countries of the world.

PROCESS OF BECOMING A CITIZENSHIP OF A COUNTRY

Apart from the means of acquiring citizenship of a country explained above, there are also processes one needs to undertake before becoming a citizen of a country. This process involves conditions that one must satisfy before one can be granted citizenship. Below are the processes involved in acquiring the citizenship of a country.

1. A person seeking the citizenship of a country must have attained the statutory age specified in the constitution.
2. The person must show willingness to live or stay in the country.
3. The person must have resided in the country for a number of years specified in the constitution.
4. The person must have made useful contributions to the social, economic and cultural growth and development of the country.
5. The person must be of good character.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Who is a citizen?
2. Highlight two (2) types of citizenship.