

At the end this chapter learners should be able to:

1. Explain Types of governments?
2. Analyses Structure of a government?
3. Discuss The three branches of the government?

Introduction to Political Geography :

Political geography is a branch of human geography (The branch of geography concerned with understanding the world's culture and how it geographic space) that studies the spatial distribution of political processes and how these processes are impacted by ones geographic location. It often studies local and national elections ,international relationships and the political structure of different areas based on geography.

Structure of Government:

Government can be classified into several types some of the more common types of government are :

1. Democracy :

the democracy literally means rule by people .in democracy , the people govern.

2. Republic:

A literal democracy is impossible in political system containing more than few people. all "democracies "are really republic. In republic , the people elect representatives to make and enforce laws.

3. Monarchy:

A monarchy consist of rule king or queen. Sometimes a king is called an emperor, especially if there is a large empire such as china before 1911. There are no large monarchies today .the United kingdom , which has a queen, is really republic because the queen has virtually no political power.

4. aristocracy :

An aristocracy is rule by the aristocrats. aristocrats are typically wealthy ,educated people .many Monarchies have really been ruled by aristocrats to day , typically , the term aristocracy is used negatively to accuse a republic of being dominated by rich people such as saying ,the United states has become an aristocracy.

5. Dictatorship:

A dictatorship consists of rule by one person or a group of people.very few dictators admit they are dictators , they always claims to be leader of democracies .

The dictator may be one person, such as Castro in Cuba or Hitler in Germany , or group of people such as the communists Party in China.

6. Democratic Republic :

Usually , a democratic republic is not democratic is not republic .

A government that official call itself a democratic republic is usually a dictatorship .Communist dictatorships have been especially prone to use this term.

For example: North Vietnam was the Democratic Republic, China uses variant, the People 's Republic of China

Branches of Government :

1. The Executive
2. The Judiciary
3. Legislative

must elect a new president within thirty days of the vacancy occurring .if this does not happens , the acting president must dissolves the National Assembly and election must take place.

Acting President:

If the president is out of the country or unable to perform his/her duties , the following people , in order of priority , are require to serve as acting president:

1. The Deputy President
2. A minister designated by the president
3. A minister designated by the Cabinet
4. The speaker of the National Assembly until it elect ones of its Members of parliament

Power and Functions of the president:

The president is responsible for:

- Appointing the Cabinet
- Appointing judges after consulting with the judicial services Commission
- Appointing the public protector, the Auditor –General and members of the various commission on the recommendation of parliament
- Appointing the military command of the defense force.
- Appointing commission of inquiry
- Calling special sittings of the Houses of parliament
- Calling a national referendum
- Receiving foreign diplomats
- Declaring a state of national defense with the approval of parliament

The Deputy president:

The president appoints the deputy president from amongst the Members of the National Assembly and may also dismiss his/her. the president assigns particular powers and functions to the Deputy president who must assist the president in the running of government.

The Cabinet:

The Cabinet comprises the president , the Deputy and ministers who are appointed by the president from the National Assembly .the president assigns powers and functions to the Minister and may dismiss them.

Responsibility of Ministers:

The President allocates specific responsibilities known as a "Portfolios". to each minister to supervise there are 26 portfolios ,and these are :

1. Agriculture and land Affairs
2. Arts ,culture ,science and Technology
3. Communication
4. Correctional services
5. Defense
6. Education
7. Environmental Affaires and Tourism
8. Finance
9. Foreign Affairs
10. Justice and constitution development
11. Labour
12. Housing
13. Home affairs

- The Constitutional court
- The Supreme Court of Appeal
- The high Court
- The Magistrates Courts
- Various other Courts

The constitutional Court:

The Constitutional Court is the highest court for constitutional matters. The court guarantees the basic rights and freedoms of all persons its judgments are binding on all organs of government, including Parliament, the presidency, the police force, the army, the public service and all other courts.

It is also the only court that may decide upon disputes between organs of state in the national and provincial spheres. the disputes may concern:

- The constitutional status, power or functions of any of those organs of state.
- The constitutionality of any national
- The constitutionality amendment to the constitution,
- The possible failure of the parliament to fulfil a constitutional obligation.
- Certifying a provincial constitutional

Supreme Court of Appeal:

The Supreme court of appeal is the highest court of appeal except in constitutional matters and may hear only.

- Appeal
- Issues connected with appeals
- Other matters that may be referred to it in circumstance defined by an act of parliament.

When people are not satisfied with the decision of a high court, they may take the matter further to the supreme Court of Appeal.

High Court:

High court used to be called Supreme Courts and are primarily intended for more serious criminal and civil cases. they may hear some constitutional matters –with the exception of those matters that only the constitutional court may decide.

Magistrates Court:

they are the usually entry point for the majority of people who go to court. There are two kinds of magistrate courts Regional Court and district courts. Regional court are higher in rank which mean that they hear more serious cases than the District Magistrates Court and impose heavier sentences. Magistrates courts and other may decide on any matter determined by an act of Parliament.

Other Courts:

The small claims courts :which look at minor cases involving.

The Electoral court :which deals with electoral issues, for example when there is a dispute among political parties concerning elections.

The labour court : which deals with issues pertaining to labour relations.

The land claims courts :which deal with matters of land redistribution.

The Legislature:

The term legislature means a body of elected representatives that makes laws. The prime function of legislatures, therefore, is to formulate debate and pass legislation which is needed for the government and the country to function. the legislature also provides a forum in which the public can participate in issues and watch over the Executive arm of government.

The judiciary consists of the courts and procuracy .the judges and the members of the procures are independent when exercising their judicial functions and guided only by the law .the courts of the Republic of Somaliland consist of : Supreme Court , the Appeal Courts of the Region , the Regional Courts , the District Courts and the court of the National Armed Forces.