Our Government Since Independence

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OBJECTIVES

At the end of this PowerPoint lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define the term democracy.
2. State who Members of Parliament.
3. Discuss how Members of Parliament, the Government and Opposition and the Prime Minister are elected and organized.
4. Discuss how members of the Senate are appointed and organized into Government and Opposition.
5. Discuss the position of the Governor-General and how he is appointed.
6. Evaluate the importance of laws and those who enforce them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Before Independence

The Bahamas had a Parliament since 1729. For centuries, The Bahamas was a British colony, and although the House of Assembly could suggest how the country should be run, all laws had to be approved by Britain.

After Independence

The Bahamas finally became independent on 10th July, 1973. Now, as an independent nation, the people of The Bahamas make their own laws.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

After Independence

Today everyone in The Bahamas over the age of 18 has the right to vote. We vote to elect people who will represent us in the House of Assembly.

Before Independence

Unfortunately, before our independence, voters had to:

- Own property
- Be the age at least 21
- Male

Women did not win the right to vote until 1962, after a long, hard struggle for equality with the men.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

After Independence

Although The Bahamas is an independent country, Queen Elizabeth II is still our Head of State.

After Independence

Her representative in The Bahamas is called the Governor-General. The Queen no longer has the power to make laws in The Bahamas, but she or the Governor-General still signs every law that is passed in our Parliament.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Members of Parliament

There are two houses or chambers of parliament. Currently, 38 members of the House of Assembly are the Members of Parliament (MPs), elected by the people in a general election held every five years.

Senate/Senators

The other chamber of Parliament is the Senate. The members of the Senate-Senators are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ELECTION

A general election is held every five years. In an election, people choose their representatives from different political parties. Each party has its own ideas about how the country should be run.

ELECTION

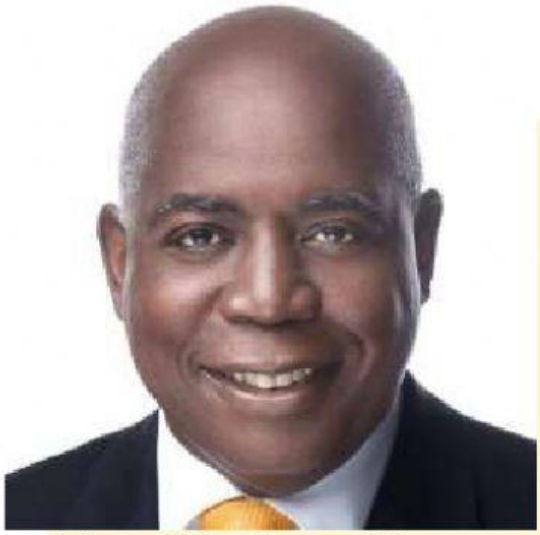
The party that wins the most seats in the House of Assembly forms the Government. The leader of the winning party becomes the Prime Minister.

Dr. The Hon. Hubert Alexander Minnis

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ELECTION

The party with fewer seats is the Opposition Party, headed by the leader of the Opposition.



Hon. Philip 'Brave' Davis

GOVERNMENT

This form of government is called a democracy. The way our country is to run is set out in a special document called the Constitution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What Is the purpose of government?

The main purpose of government is to pass laws so that the country can function well. The wording of any law is discussed first in the House of Assembly and then the Senate.

What Is the purpose of government?

Each law is looked at in detail by two sets of people. This ensures that the law is as flawless as it can be and that it is stated as clearly as possible.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What Is the purpose of government?

Only when both chambers have discussed and agreed on the new law, and the Governor-General has signed it, does it comes into effect.

Law Enforcement

It is through the laws of the land that the rights of all citizens are protected. Our laws are enforced by the police and the law courts.

LIVEWORKSHEETS