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DEPT: LAW

COURSE: POL 102

100 LEVEL

QUESTION 1:

How can a Lebanese retain or lose his or her newly acquired Nigerian Citizenship?

What do we understand by Citizenship?

 Citizenship is the status or position of being a citizen. A citizen is a legal member of a given country. If you have citizenship in a country, you have the right to live there, work, vote and pay taxes. Citizenship comes from the latin word “for city”. Citizenship is more than merely living somewhere. If you have citizenship, you have a whole set of rights that non-citizens might not have.

 Citizenship is also the status of a person recognized under the custom or law as being a legal member of a sovereign state or belonging to a nation. The idea of citizenship has been defined as the capacity of individuals to defend their rights in front of the governmental authority. A person may have multiple citizenships. A person who does not have citizenship of any state is said to be stateless, while one who lives on state borders whose territorial status is uncertain is a border-lander.

 Nigerian Citizenship is mainly of three types namely:

. Citizenship by birth

. Citizenship by registration

. Citizenship by naturalization

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BY BIRTH

 According to the provisions of S. 25 of the 1999 Constitution. The following people are regarded as citizens of Nigeria by birth:

1. For those born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of their parent or grandparents must belong/belonged to an indigenous Nigerian community. What is meant by indigenous community is that such person’s parent/grandparent belonged to a native tribe like Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Efik and so on.
2. For those born after the date of Nigerian independence, either of their parents or grandparents are/were citizens of Nigeria.
3. For those born outside Nigeria, either of his parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BY REGISTRATION

 For a person who is not a citizen of Nigeria by birth, such person can become a citizen of Nigeria by registration. According to the provisions of S. 26 (1) such person must satisfy the president that:

. He is of good character

. Has demonstrated a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria

. He has subscribed the oath of allegiance as provided for in the seventh schedule of the constitution.

 According to the provisions of S. 26 (2) only two categories of people can apply for citizenship by registration:

. Any woman who is or has been married to a Nigerian citizen

. Any person of full age and capacity born outside Nigeria and has any of his grandparents as a Nigerian citizen

NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALISATION

 A person who isn’t qualified to be a citizen of Nigeria by birth or by registration can still apply to be naturalized as a Nigerian citizen. To do this, such person can apply to the president for a certificate of naturalization. However, according to the provisions of S. 27 (2). Such person must satisfy the president that;

1. He is of full age and capacity
2. He is of good character
3. He has demonstrated a clear intention to be domiciled in Nigeria
4. He is a person who made or is capable of contributing to the progress and development of Nigeria
5. He has subscribed to the oath of allegiance as contained in the seventh schedule of the constitution
6. He has lived in Nigeria for a period not less than 15 years immediately preceding the date of his application to be naturalized or he has resided in Nigeria continuously for a period of 12 months preceding the application and has in the past 20 years preceding the 12 months resided for an aggregate period that is not less than 15years.

 It should be noted that according to the provision of S. 307 of the 1999 Constitution, a citizen by naturalization or registration cannot hold an elective or appointive post till a period of ten years have elapsed after acquiring his citizenship.

 HOW CAN A LEBANESE LOSE HIS NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP?

 Loss of citizenship, also referred to as loss of nationality, is the event of ceasing to be a citizen of a country under the nationality law of that country.

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