

Rule of Law

Introduction

Rule of law is an important characteristic of democracy. There cannot be democracy without rule of law; and there cannot be rule of law without democracy. In a constitutional democracy, all people are regarded equal before the law. There is nobody above the law, and there is no partiality.

Objectives

At the end of this chapter, the students should be able to do the following:

- i. explain the meaning and importance of rule of law.
- ii. state the processes of rule of law.
- iii. identify and explain the problems of rule of law.

Meaning of Rule of Law

The rule of law is the supremacy of regular power as opposed to arbitrary power. It implies that every citizen is subject to the law. It is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities public

accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

It could also be seen as the underlying framework of rules and rights that make prosperous and fair societies possible. It is a system in which no one, including government is above the law; where laws protect fundamental rights and where justice is accessible to all.

