



Government and Public
Policy Institute



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Women in Political Leadership

“Session 2a: Understanding Public Policy”

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Educational Foundations, Faculty of Social & Educational Studies

Date: Tuesday, 31st August 2021

Understanding Public Policy: Learning Outcomes

By the end of this discussion you should be able to:

- Define public policy
- Discuss the Importance of public policy
- Define the Role of Government in formulating public policy
- Outline the structure of the Bahamian Political System



What is Public Policy?

- ***Public policy can be generally defined as a system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives*** (Dean G. Kilpatrick, in Definitions of Public Policy and the Law, at <https://mainweb-v.musc.edu/vawprevention/policy/definition.shtml>)
- ***Policy making is an activity intended to achieve the purposes of elected politicians in government*** (Policy Profession – Skills and Knowledge Framework, UK Civil Service Learning, at https://civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/policy_profession_skills_and_knowledge_framework_jan2013web.pdf)



The Nature of Public Policy

- Public Policy
 - Laws, regulations, actions
- Characteristics of public policy
 - The policy impetus
 - Values
 - Advocacy
- The distinction between policy and public policy

<https://youtu.be/2AZWk9DCaho>



The Importance of Public Policy

Through public policies, governments shape the lives of their citizens





The Parliament of The Bahamas

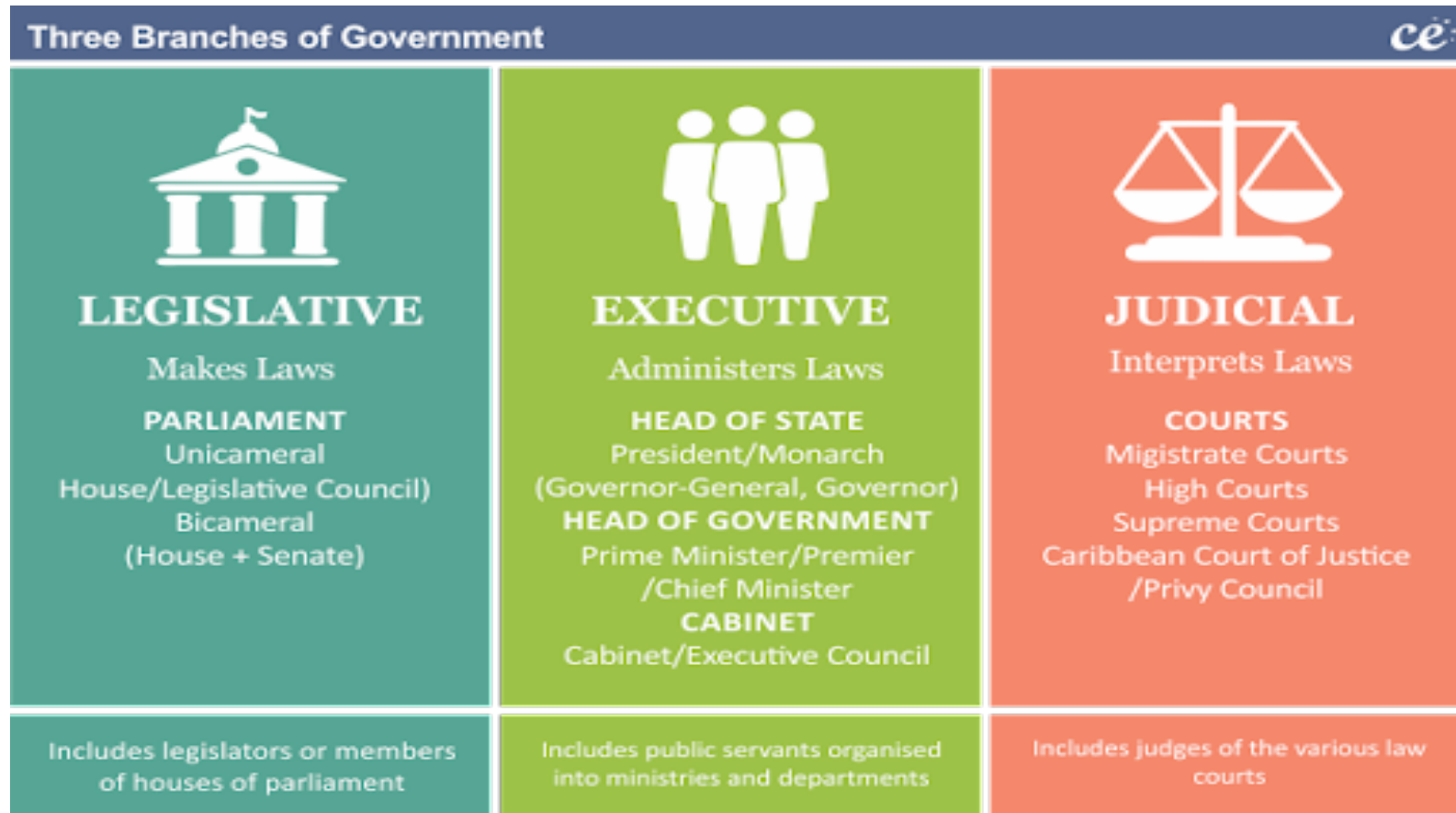
In order to understand the policy process it is necessary to understand the structure of the Government.

- Structure: The Westminster Model
- Nature: Bicameral Legislature
- Three entities: Sovereign, Senate, House of Assembly.
- Composition of the House of Assembly
- Composition of the Senate
- Appointment of Senators



The Branches of Government

Not unlike many countries in the western world, there are 3 branches of Government



The Branches of Government

- Executive – Cabinet and the Public Service
 - Appointment of Cabinet Members
 - Authority and responsibility of Cabinet Ministers
 - Senators as Members of Cabinet
- Legislative – Lower House and Upper House
 - Lower House – elected
 - Upper House – appointed
- Judicial – Magistrates, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal





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“Session 2b: Understanding Public Administration”

Facilitator: Pandora Johnson

Date: Tuesday, 31st August 2021

Understanding Public Administration: Learning Outcomes

By the end of this discussion you should be able to:

- Define public administration;
- Understand the role of the Civil/Public Service in the implementation of public policy;
- Describe the Function of The Public Service Commission;
- Explain the Function of the Judicial and Legal Commission;
- Explain the Function of the Police Commission.





18th NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK CELEBRATIONS
27th October, 2018 to 4th November, 2018

27th to 28th October, 2018 Release of the Newspaper Supplement	Saturday, 27th October, 2018 8:00 a.m. For Post, Walk 10:00 a.m. Youth Screening Fair	Sunday, 28th October, 2018 11:00 a.m. Church Service The Digital Clock, East and Stoney Streets
Monday, 29th October, 2018 10:00 a.m. Mock Parliament Training Ministry of the Public Service and National Insurance	Tuesday, 30th October, 2018 10:00 a.m. Parliament Session House of Assembly	Wednesday, 31st October, 2018 12:00 p.m. Cookies Call on the Governor General by Public Officer of the Year Nominees
Thursday, 1st November, 2018 11:00 a.m. Ribbon Reception Ceremony and Presentation of Award of Excellence Government House Lower Grounds	Friday, 2nd November, 2018 10:00 a.m. Food Parade and National T-Shirt Day 8:00 p.m. Volleyball Tournament J.M. Davis Gymnasium	Saturday, 3rd November, 2018 10:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament J.M. Davis Gymnasium
Sunday, 4th November, 2018 2:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon and Appointment of the 2018/2019 National Public Service Officer of the Year Imperial Ballroom Atlantis, Paradise Island		

"The Public Service... Igniting a Positive Change for Future Generations"



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Definitions of Public Administration

- Administration is determined action taken in pursuit of a conscious purpose. It is the systematic ordering of affairs and the calculated use of resources aimed at making those actions happen which one wants to happen (F.M. Marx Elements of Public Administration).
- Organizing and maintaining human and fiscal resources to attain a group's goals (Frederic K. Lane, Current Issues in Public Administration).
- public administration consists of all those operations having for their purpose the fulfillment or enforcement of public policy.'(L. D. White, Introduction to the Study of Public Administration)



The Public Service

*A civil servant/public officer is one of a body of persons who are directly employed in the administration of the internal affairs of the state and **whose role and status are not political, ministerial, military, or constabulary** (Edward C Page)*

- Composition of the Public Service
 - Permanent and Pensionable - establishment
- Structure of the Public Service
 - Administrative vs technical
 - Ministry vs Department
- Role of the Public Service in the formulation and implementation of public policy
- Civil servants as advisers



The Public Service Commission

Power to make appointments to public offices and to remove and to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices is vested in the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Public Service Commission (Constitution of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas)

- Composition
- Appointment of Commissioners
- Duration of Appointment
- Qualification for appointment
- Authority and Responsibility



The Judicial and Legal Service Commission

- Composition
- Qualification of Commissioners
- Appointment of Commissioners
 - Role of Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition
- Authority and Responsibility



The Police Service Commission

- Composition
- Qualification for Appointment
- Appointment of Commissioners
 - Role of Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition
- Authority and Responsibility





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“Session 2c: The Legislative Process in The Bahamas”

Facilitator: Pandora Johnson

Date: Tuesday, 31st August 2021

The Legislative Process: Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session you should be able to:

- Understand how laws are made
- Describe the Legislative Process
- Discuss the role of Parliament in the Legislative Process





The Role of Parliament in The Legislative Process

Parliament is empowered by Article 52(1) of the Constitution to make laws for the peace, order and good government of The Bahamas. The Constitution empowers Parliament to:

- determine the privileges, immunities, powers, and procedures of both the Senate and the House of Assembly;
 - alter or amend any of the provisions of the Constitution;
 - prescribe the officers who are to constitute the personal staff of the Governor-General;
 - prescribe the number of Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal; and
 - approve the Government's budget.
- Parliament maintains oversight of the Government's finances through the Public Accounts Committee. (The Constitution of The Bahamas)



The Legislative Procedure

- Role of the Speaker
- Definition of a bill
- Who introduces the bill?
- Stages through which a bill passes and what happens at each stage
- Classification of bills
- Parts of a bill



The Legislative Procedure: The Role of the Governor General

- Role of the House of Assembly
 - Authority and Responsibility
- Role of the Senate
 - Authority and Responsibility
- Role of the Governor General
 - Authority and Responsibility
- The Gazette
- The Speech from the Throne

