A REVIEW OF CHAPTER EIGHT: CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY

Etymologically, the word democracy is derived from the Greek word “demos” meaning “people” and “Kratos” meaning “rule” i.e “rule by the people.” Hence, Democracy or democratic government is of the people, by the people and for the people. There is no democracy without the engagement of the citizens.

TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

* Direct democracy
* Indirect democracy or Representative government.

FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Guaranteed fundamental rights of the citizens.
2. Independent and impartial Judiciary
3. Existence of rule of law
4. Freedom of press
5. Periodic election that is free and fair.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY

Citizenship can be defined as a formal legal identity that the individual person inherits through a collection of legal rights and obligations controlling access to the scarce political, economic and cultural resources of society. The following are the duties of a citizen are as follows:

1. Citizens in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
2. Citizens should pay taxes.
3. A good citizen must obey laws of the country.
4. A citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms.
5. A citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
6. A citizen must not interfere with the properties of other persons.
7. A citizen must be honest, just in his personal dealings and hardworking.
8. Citizens must make contributions to the advancement of the nation.
9. Citizens must not lose sight of the pursuit of public interest.
10. Citizens must maintain a positive attitude with development of the state being the priority.