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CHAPTER EIGHT: CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMORACY

 Sovereingnty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. For democracy to deleiver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to come together to espress their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens’ views, thus holding those in government accountable.

 The term citizen has an inherently political meaning tht implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the rights to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. The chapterIII, section 25: 1(a) of the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria define citizenship as:

1. Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparent belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria;
2. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either pf whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

 Citizenship can be divided into civil, political, social, citizenship.

Democracy is derived from the greek word “demos” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule, that is “rule by the people”. Abraham Lincoln perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Ther is no single definition of democracy. Democracy means freedom of press, existence of rule of law, periodic election that is free and fair etc.

 A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote, should be willing to pay taxes, must have a duty to obeybthe law, he or she must support public educaton in every way possible, through paying of taxes etc. education is power in a democracy because it strengthens citizens to be better informed and situated to interrogate government policies.S