**NAME: MONDAY-JERUMEH IBUEBUE**

**MATRIC NO: 19/MHS01/246**

**COLLEGE: MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**DEPT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY (MBBS)**

**GST 203 ASSIGNMENT**

**CHAPTER 8: CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY**

There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Engagement is thus a right and responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy.

***Citizen/Citizenship***

Citizenship is the privilege status conferred by states on its people either by birth or by naturalisation, i.e. voluntary change of citizenship from one state to another.

***Citizens’ Rights***

A right is a privilege or prerogative conferred by the law upon a person or group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of a state, it becomes a civil right. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by any other citizen or the government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law.

***Democracy***

Democracy originated from ancient Greece. It is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people. This implies that democracy is a government of the people when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizenry within a state, democracy is a government by the people when its ideological undercurrents is grounded in the people’s culture, and it is a government for the people when the power employed by the custodians of state business emanates from, and resides in the collective mandate of the people.

The following are features of democracy:

1. The fundamental human rights of citizens are guaranteed.
2. Independent and impartial judiciary.
3. Existence of rule of law.
4. Freedom of press.
5. Periodic election that is free and fair.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens in a Democracy**

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote at established time for elections.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes to fund the democratic government.
3. A citizen must have a duty to obey the law. They must also be ready to assist the law enforcement officers by reporting breaches of the law and by giving them any useful information they may have.
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms which may lead to chaos but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies. A positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights if other members of the community and their properties. Citizens must make contribution to the advancement of the nation, appear before court as a witness when called upon to do so and serve in the army when military service is compulsory and defend the country when it is at war.
6. A citizen must support public education in every way possible, through payment of taxes and local volunteer effort because education strengthens citizens and makes them knowledgeable participants in the democratic process and government policies.