NAME: Idoko Paul Chigoziem

DEPARTMENT: Law

COURSE: GST 203

MATRIC NO: 19/law01/113

CHAPTER EIGHT

CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY

The precepts embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human rights and in modern constitution the world over. They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that the democratic government is of the people, by the people and for the people. In other words government belongs to the people, governmental process belong to the people, and elections belong to the people. Therefore there is no democracy without the engagement of the people. For Democracy to deliver citizens need to 5imely and accurately informed particularly government held information. There are numerous barriers to citizen participation in every country based on various factors which must be removed to obtain full citizenship.

CITIZEN/CITIZENSHIP

Citizen has na inherent political meaning which implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization, one becomes citizen of a state of his parents are citizens or by birth. Constitution defines citizenship as

* Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by y virtue of this section if neither of his parents not any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
* Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.
* Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria .

Citizenship can be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil refers to rights necessary to protect individual liberty, political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power either as a member of political community or as an individual elected by the members of such a community while social citizenship embodies the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society. There are various definition of citizenship by many people for example Brannan argued that the concept citizenship holds that citizenship is not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. There are also other arguments by others like Glover, Dagger etc.

CITIZENS RIGHTS

A right is may be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group, these rights are not absolute as they limited to by rights if other citizens in the state when a privilege is expressed in the framework the constitution it becomes a civil right if the civil rights ok f a citizen is invaded he can seek redress in the court of law.

DEMOCRACY

The word democracy is gotten from the Greek words demos meaning people and kra5os meaning rule that is rule by the people, meaning it originated from Greece. Abraham Lincoln perceived democracy as Government of the people, by the people and for the people, according to him it a government by the people when it’s ideological undercurrents its grounded in the people’s culture.

FEAUTURES OF DEMOCRACY

* The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed
* Independent and impartial judiciary
* Existence of rule of law
* Freedom of the press
* Periodic election that is free and fair.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY

* A citizen in democracy has the duty to vote
* A citizen must pay taxes.
* A citizen has the duty to obey the laws.
* A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies
* A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
* A good citizen must support public education in every ways possible