**NAME: EKARIKA EDIOMOABASI NICHOLAS**

**COURSE: GST203(GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS)**

**DEPARTMENT: ACCOUNTING**

**MATRIC NO: 19/SMS02/019**

**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8(CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY)**

 Sovereignty reside in and flows from the people in a democracy, as they have a collective rights to choose their government, political and electoral systems as part of self determination. This precept are captured by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives, must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government is accountable to their views. For citizens to be informed, they must be accurate, timely government- held information. There are many barriers to citizen participation in every country which are subtle, obvious, small and formidable and for full citizenship to be achieved, we have to remove these barriers(whether based on gender, race, ethnicity, age and religion and if not, equal and universal suffrage has been denied and the credibility of government is undermined. Citizen must understand ideas about citizenship, politics, the proper use of authority, skills to voice their concerns, act collectively and hold public officials accountable. This creates a symbolic relationship exists between democracy, the citizens and state development.

 Here there are different concept involved which are citizen which has a political meaning that implies a type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Citizens participation are instrumental drivers of democratic and socio-economic change and help to empower citizens. In ancients Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called a citizen because the status was not given to inhabitant of the Roman Empire, because slaves, serfs and alien residents were deprived this benefits. In modern states give the benefit of being a citizen to almost all their populations which gives them rights and liberties to enables them develop their potentials. The essence of a state is to provide opportunities for citizens to have a good life. Citizenship can be acquired either by birth or by naturalism, citizenship by birth is a fundamental in the laws of most countries. In the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, chapter111, section25 defines citizenship as: (a) Every person born in Nigeria before independence whose parents or grandparents belong to any indigenous community in Nigeria and any otherwise, the person cannot be a citizen. (b) Every person born in Nigeria after independence whose parents are citizens is a citizens of Nigeria. (c) Every person born outside Nigeria whose parents are citizens is a citizen of Nigeria. Citizenship is perceived to be made up of civil citizenship(this refers to rights necessary to protect individual liberty like freedom of speech and justice ), political citizenship(this is associated with participation in democratic exercise of political power, either as a voter or as a politician ) and social citizenship(this involves the claim that citizens ought to have access to resources that allows them live in a civilized way in according to the society's standards).

 Some scholars defined citizenship like according to Glover, who argues that citizenship involves three dimensions which are Ethical citizenship(this involves active participation in a collective strive towards public good), integrative citizenship(this involves engagement in a wide sphere of participation in which is beyond formal political practice and institutions and enables individuals to integrate their roles for a greater community) and educative citizenship(according to Dagger in 1997, this refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice citizenship and this active participation aims to expose individuals to different views and believes and deepen their sense of interconnectedness with their fellow community members including strangers).

 Citizen' rights are the groundwork of the state, since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. Rights are defined as a privilege made by law to a person or a group. The privilege is expressed by the constitution of the nation (becomes a civil rights) and when a citizen's rights are invaded by another citizens or government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court. This rights are rights to life, work freedom of religion, education and freedom of speech .

 Democracy, etymology is derived from a Greek words" demos" meaning people," kratos" meaning rule, which is "rule by the people". Democracy was originated in Ancients Greece, where in the city states, citizens were free to meet a lot in assemblies to make laws but it excluded laborers and slaves and aliens. In England, all citizens(high and lows) with the state. During the same period, the Levelers(a radical party) said that it is unnatural and tyrannical for any man to rule without any consent. John Locks in his Treaties on Civil Government for a government based on consent. The American Colonies, having revolted against England took on the democratic ideas and institution s as a way of life and these ideas spread across the western countries. Abraham Lincoln, former American President state that democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Since there are so many definition for democracy, we can easily deduce it into these features which are the fundamental rights of the citizens are guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law. freedom of press and periodic free and fair elections.

 Citizens play an important role democracy, as there would not be any democracy without co-operation and commitment from citizens. States provides rights and liberties , all democratic citizens have duties to the state as a government of the people always demands constant vigilance and support from its people. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active because they know that success or failure of the government is their responsibility and no one else's, so they should check how institutions like investigating agencies, lawmaking agencies and civil servants are put in place for the well-being of the democracy and if they are working. The citizens are expected to perform some responsibilities which are the duty to vote to bring about good goverance,duty of willingly paying tax to help the government get funds for democracy, a duty to obey the law, a duty to refrain from uttering destructive criticisms and must be prepare to offer constructive alternatives to the government policies, a duty to refrain from interferencewith the rights of other member of the state and a duty to support public education in all the ways like payment of taxes, local volunteers efforts and giving it a respect. While being critical, a citizen must also not lose sight of the pursuits of public interest. In conclusion, a positive attitude should be maintained with the development of the state being the priority.