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ASSIGNMENT:REVIEW CHAPTER EIGHT[8-CITIZENS ROLES IN A SOCIETY] ON SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S POLITICS

This chapter started with introduction which explains that Sovereignty 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. These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions the world over. They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." For democracy to deliver, citizens must be informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens views, thus holding those in government accountable. To be informed, citizens need timely and accurate information, particularly government-held information.

#### CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

##### CITIZEN/CITIZENSHIP

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain 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.

Citizenship of a state may either be acquired by birth or by naturalization. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Citizenship is about willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate, to be willing to get involved. While involvement in local clubs and societies is seen as valuable, they argue that the involvement must speak of public-mindedness and have a purpose beyond that of a small group of people.

**CITIZENS' RIGHTS:**A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a Civil Right. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government, he or she is entitled to seek redress in the court of law. Important Civil Rights accorded

Nigerian citizens in its constitution include: the right to life, the right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education, right of association and right to freedom of speech, writing publication among others.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. There is no point in democracy in which we do not participate.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy.
3. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
6. A good citizen must support public education in every way possible through payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts, through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.