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Chapter 8

Sovereignty stays in and flows from the people in democracy. the authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice if these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices. These things are embodied in the universal declaration of human rights and in modern constitutions the world over. For democracy to do its job, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in all countries. They can sometimes be subtle or obvious and based on many factors. A symbolic relationship exists between democracy, the citizens and states development to the effect that citizen’s government, made by the citizens for the citizenry called democracy and it’s the involvement or active participation of people in governance that brings about development. To know citizen roles we must first know about things like; citizenship/citizen: it means a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. In Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. Chapter 111, section 25; 1(a) of the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria define 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 virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was Nigeria. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. However, as with so many other concepts, citizenship does not just one definition. There are broader definitions and perceptions of citizenship as well, as shown by glover (2004; 18), who argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. Citizenship rights: individual rights and liberties are the ground work for the state since it exists to enable men o live and develop fully. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by rights of other citizens of the state. A right can be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. Democracy: democracy is gotten from the Greek word which as two parts; the first one which is demos means people while the second kratos means rule when they both come together it means rule by the people. The concept of democracy, like many other political concepts was originated from ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to move frequently during assemblies which had the power to make laws. The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded laborers’, slaves and aliens from exercising political rights. Abraham Lincoln, former American president, perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people, according to him, democracy is a government of the people when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizens within a state and that it is government by the people when its ideological undercurrents in grounded in the peoples culture also it is a government which is for the people when the power employed by the custodians of state business emanates from and resides in the mandate of the people. There’s no single definition of democracy, but what has been gotten from several definitions is that the fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, periodic election that is free and fair. Democratic citizens recognize that not only have rights, they have responsibilities. They are expected to perform the following responsibilities as citizens in democracy; he citizens in a democratic system have the duty to vote, a citizen should be willing to pay taxes, a good citizen has the duty to obey the law, a good citizen must refrain from interference with rights of other members of the community and many more. Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is important to note that citizens play an important role in democracy.