**CHAPTER 8**

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**CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY**

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. The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of 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 people are embodied in the universal declaration of human right and in modern constitution the world over. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Citizens engagement is not an abstraction. It takes tangible forms and serves particular purposes to improve people lives. Citizen engagement purses economic, social, cultural and political development including the provision of opportunity and security. A symbiotic relationship exists between democracy, the citizen and the state development to the effect that citizen government made by the citizen for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the involvement or active participations of the people in the governance that brings about development.

**CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS**

In order to enhance their meanings as used within the context of this paper, it is important to clarify a few concepts.

Citizen or citizenship

The term citizenship has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. citizens of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of or to be divided into civil citizenships and political citizenship.

**DEMOCRACY**

It has been etymology established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is rule by the people.the Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded labourers slaves and aliens from exercising political rights. Since there is no single definition of democracy however, what can be deduce from the various definitions of democracy are the following features.

Freedom of press

Periodic election that is free and fair

Existence of rule of law

The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed

Independent and impartial judiciary

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

A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote

A citizen should be willing to pay taxes

A good citizen must have duty to obey the law

A good citizen must support public education in every way possible

Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also defined as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people. it is considered as the best form of government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. It is a plus for the citizens if they are born in a democratic country and that is why citizens must do everything to save democracy at all cost. Citizens should check how institutions like lawmaking agencies are put in place for the well being of the democracy are working. At the same time while being critical citizens must not lose sight of the pursuit of public interest. A positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.