

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 9: CITIZENSHIP ROLLS IN A DEMOCRACY

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that involves certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. The process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalisation.

Chapter III: Section 25: (1a) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria define citizenship as

- a. 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 born in Nigeria.
- b. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and
- i. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of three be divided into Civil Citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty; political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community or as an individual elected by the members of such a community; and social citizenship embraces 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.

Democracy or representative government is associated with the free discussion of political issues, the right to differ concerning them and the

Settlement of differences by counting votes.

Features of Democracy

1. The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed.
2. Independent and impartial judiciary.
3. Existence of rule of law.
4. Freedom of press.
5. Periodic election that is free and fair.

Duties of Citizens in a Democracy

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes.
3. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
4. A good citizen must refrain from vitriolic, 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. ~~She~~ He must support public education in every way possible.

- Citizens play an important role in democracy. There would probably be no democracy without the co-operation and commitment of citizens. Citizens must be aware of their rights and responsibilities as without the awareness among the citizens a government may turn into a tyranny.