

Chapter 8

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43

Citizens Roles in a Democracy

Sovereignty resides and flows from the people in a democratic government, they have a collective right to choose the governmental, political and electoral system as part of self-determination. These concepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The capture the ~~formal~~ formulation that democratic government is of the people, by the people and for the people. Citizens engagement pursues economic, social, cultural and political development.

Citizens need to come together to ensure that their economic, social, cultural and economic needs are met so they need to come together, deliberate and make sure that they elect the right candidate for the task through different means they need to be informed in order to do all of this.

Every individual voting must be a citizen and ^{for} citizenship to be exercised the following criterions have to be met:

- 1. A person whose parents, grandparents or self was born in Nigeria ^{or after} before independence
- 2. ~~Citizenship~~ Citizenship can be broken into three categories: Civil, political & social citizenship
- 3. Citizenship is about being willing to get involved and contribute to social actions as well as political debate. ~~there~~ there are three dimensions of citizenship and they include: ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. ~~ethical~~ Ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions.

citizens need to come together. ~~citizens~~ and economic needs are met so they need to come together, deliberate and make sure that they elect the right candidate for the task through different means they need to be informed in other to do all of this. Every individual voting must be a citizen and citizenship to be attained the following criterions have to be met:

- A person whose parents, grandparents or self was born in Nigeria ^{or after} 6th of June 1960.
- ~~Citizenship~~ citizenship can be broken into three categories: civil, political & social citizenship.
- Citizenship is about being willing to get involved and contribute to social actions as well as political debate. There are three dimensions of citizenship and they include: ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions. Educative citizenship refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice the citizenship.

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 concept democracy first

Originated from Ancient Greece where citizens were free to meet in assemblies to discuss ~~make~~ make laws, discuss ~~political~~ state affairs ^{which had the power to} make laws. Every citizen was expected to participate in the running of the government. This is classified as direct democracy. This was a system that ^{involved} people exercise authority themselves. It however excluded labourers, slaves and aliens

→ from exercising political rights. The concept of democracy was first advocated in England after the great civil war of the seventeenth century. During the same period, the leaders ^{as called people} advocated that it is tyrannical for man to rule, govern over any man without his consent. The American colonies revolted against England and established political views and ideals. In the words of Mezey, the states and countries where the arrangements, constitutions and practices and the working of the government are such that the individuals and his rights, freedoms and worth are ensured and guaranteed are usually referred to as democracies. Since there is no single ~~any~~ definition of democracy however, what can be deduced from the various definitions of democracy are the following features

- i The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed
- ii Independent and impartial judiciary
- iii Existence of rule of law
- iv Freedom of press
- v Periodic election that is free and fair

While the state provides the needs of the state, the people have duties and responsibilities. The citizens realize that they have a role to play and they have to ~~su~~ responsibilities for their society. Some of their responsibilities include:

- d A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
- D A citizen should be willing ~~ness~~ to pay taxes
- E A good citizen must have duty to obey the law
- d A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must
- E be prepared to offer constructive alternative to government policies
- F A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of the other members of the society