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QUESTION- DO A TWO PAGED REVIEWED OF CHAPTER 8, CITIZENS ROLE IN DEMOCRACY, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS

CHAPTER 8 ( CITIZENS ROLES IN DEMOCRACY)

Sovereignty resides and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part in their governmet likewise derieve from the will of the people in their choice and system, and the people have the right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

The term citizen has an inherent political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the government and the people . Citizens have their rights and responsibilites, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Citizenship of a state may be acquired eithe by birth or by naturalisation. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents or if he is born within the territory of that state. Chapter 111, section 25 of the federal republic of Nigeria defined citizenship as

1. 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
2. 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
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

Educative citizenship, according to Dagger (1997) refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship. Kenny , a community development practitioner, argues that contemporary constructions of citizenship can be understood by differentiating passive from active citizenship.

CITIZENS’ RIGHTS

Individuals rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. A right may be defined as a prviledge or prerogative conferred by law upon person or a group. Important civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens in its constitution include the right to life, right to freedom of religion, right to education, right to association and right to freedom of speech, writing and publication.

DEMOCRACY

Ethmologically, the word democracy is derieved from the greek word *demos* meaning people and *kratos* meaning rule, that is rule by the people. The concept of democracy first originated from Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemble which had the power to make laws. In these assembles, citizens were free to discuss state affairs, take decisons and exercise their political rights. Every citizen was expected to participate in the running of the government. This is what is classified as direct democracy, a system that enables people exercise authority themselves. Abrham 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 citizenry within a state and that it is a government by the people when its ideological undercurrents is grounded in the people’s culture, also it is a government which is for the people when the power employed by the custodians of the state business emanates from and resides in the collective mandate of the people. The various definition of democracy are from the following features;

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.

A citizen’s responsibilities in democracy includes

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote
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 consstructive alternatives to government policies
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community
6. (S)he must support public education in every possible way, through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts, through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.