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REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8

CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY

For democracy to work well citizens have to be actively involved,to be informed citizens need accurate and timely information,particularly government-held information.

Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in every country,they are both subtle and obvious ,small and formidable and based on numerous factors.

**Conceptual clarification:**

**Citizen/Citizenship:**implies a certian type of relationship between the people and government,citizens have rights and responsibilities;citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation ,but on the other hand the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalisation;broadder definitions of citizenship by Glover who says there are 3 dimensions of citizens:ethical,integrative and educative citizenship.

**Citizens Rights:**

In other to make sure citizens have a part in running the government,the rights of citizens are also stated in the constitution of the country,such as:right to work,right to life,right to education and so on.

**Democracy:**

Is derived from a greek word”demos” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule,it should be noted that the greek democracy was alimited institution.

Abaraham Lincoln the former American president ,perceived democracy as the government of the people,by the people and for the people;there isnt a standard definition for democracy but some of the features are mentioned below:

- Freedom of press
- Independent and impartial judiciary
- Free and fair periodic elections
- Fundamental rights of citizens are granted

## Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens in a democracy:

- A citizen is to obey the law of the land.
- It is the duty of a citizen to vote during elections.
- A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
- A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
- A good citizen is to pay his/her tax.

In conclusion, democracy is a system of government where the citizen directly elect the government by voting, citizens have a very important role in democracy because democracy wouldnt exist without the cooperation and commitment of the citizens.