

NAME: EMMANUEL URUGBA DESTINY

DEPARTMENT: LAW

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/090

LEVEL: 200

COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTION

COURSE CODE: GST 203

ASSIGNMENT: CHAPTER 8

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. These precepts are embodied in the universal declaration of human rights and in modern constitutions the world over. The term citizen has inherently political meaning that implies certain type of relationship between the people and the government. In addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio-economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens. In ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Slaves, serfs, and alien residents were deprived of citizenship for racial, political and religious reasons. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. Citizenship determined by place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. 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 naturalization. Chapter 111, section 25:1(a) 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; there are three dimensions of active citizenship :ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship involves the belief that every individual plays an assortment of roles, and that this enables the individual to

integrate their various roles, and to immerse themselves into the community causing them to have a greater appreciation of the collective.

Individual's rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen. A right may be defined as a privilege conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the frame work of the constitution of a state, it becomes a civil right. Important civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens in its constitution include: right to life, right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education.

The word DEMOCRACY has been etymologically established is derived from the Greek word "demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is 'rule by the people'" The concept of democracy originated from Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had power to make laws. Citizens play an important role in democracy. The idea that all citizens, high or low, within the state are entitled to take part in the running of the affairs of their state was advocated in England after the great civil war of the 17th century.

Abraham 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. There are no single definitions of democracy however; there are various features of democracy: freedom of press, periodic election that is free and fair, existence of rule of law, independence and impartial judiciary. The state provides rights and liberties; all citizens have duties to the state. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive, because they know that the success or failure of government is their responsibility, and no one else's. Citizens should participate in every event in democracy with full enthusiasm to ensure the survival of democracy. Citizens should be treated equally and perform their responsibilities: A citizen in a democracy should have a duty to vote. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law. Citizens must make their contributions to the advancement of the nation.

