\*The Summary Of Chapter Eight\*

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 \*CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY\*

Introduction

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, politics and electoral systems as part of self-determination.

The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in the government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modem constitutions over the World. They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is "of the people, by the people and for the people. ln essence, they mean just that governments belong to the people, governmental processes belong to the people, and elections belong to the people. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Engagement is thus both a right and a responsibility of citizen in establishing developing and sustaining democracy, Citizen engagemen Citizen engagement involveds economic, social, cultural and political development including the provision of opportunity, resources, services, and security right.

For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives.

To be informed, citizens need accurate and timely information, particularly govenmental information. Access of information is essential to an informed citizenry. That is why transparency is a necessity for democracy Citizens, including political competitors, must also be free to impart their views about governmental processes and public affairs, otherwise citizens cannot be truly informed, nor can they freely make choice

Barriers to citizens participation are multiple in every country. They are both subtle and obvious and based on Numerous factors. For full citizenship to be achieved, we must remove these barriers, whether they are based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age etc. Citizens must, therefore, understand ideas about citizenship, politics and government. They need knowledge to make decisions about policy choices and the proper use of authority, along with the skills to voice their concerns, act collectively and hold public officials accountable. There is a symbiotic relationship exists between democracy the citizens and state's development to the effect that citizen's government, made by the citizens for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the involvement or active participations of the people in governance that brings about development .

Citizenship of a state may be acquired. either by Birth or naturalisation A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. This is what informed Turner (1997:176), when he opines that citizenship is a formal legal identity the individual person inherits through a collection of legal right and obligations, controlling access to the scarce political, economics and cultural resources of society. On the other hand, the process which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship state to another state is known as naturalisation The conditions n which naturalisation are conferred vary from country to country.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, civil citizenship, political citizens and social. Civil citizenship refers to the right necessary to protect individual liberty (eg, freedom of speech, justice, the freedom to conclude valid contracts): political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power either as a member of political community (e. a veteran as an individual selected by the members of such a community.

However, as with so many other concepts, citizenship does not

have just one definition, it means different things to different people For example, Brennan et al (2006-55) argues that the concept of citizenship holds that citizenship is not solely composed of passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. Citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate, to be willing to get involved.

The personal sacrifice that are made aid some public benefit and are hence ultimately also enjoyed by the person who sacrifices Integrative citizenship need engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions. The concept involves the belief that every individual plan assortment of roles and that this form of citizenship enables the individual to integrate their various roles and to immerse themselves into the community. hence causing them to have greater appreciation of the collective. In addition, this instance holds that one needs an understanding of the personal interests of members of the wider community as well if they are to truly act as members of the public, and hence, the democratic activity that is associated with citizenship aids such an understanding as well

Educative citizenship.

 Active participation aims to expose individuals diverse "views and belief and deepen their sense of interconnectedness with their fellow community members including people unknown to them. By fostering a sense of being part of the community, citizen participation works overcome individualism and self-interest.

 \*Citizens' Rights\*

 Individual's rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to develop fully. In order to allow the citizen have a share in the ruling of his/her government.

A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative confined by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expected within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law. Important civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens in the constitution include the right to life, the right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education, right of association and right to freedom of speech, writing and publication among others.

 \*Democracy\*

It has been historically established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word demos meaning people and gratos meaning