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2. Do a two page review of Chapter 8, Citizens Role in a Democracy, In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics

**Chapter 8**

**Citizens roles in a democracy.**

Sovereignty resides in and flows for the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their government political, 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 their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can prove their lives. They must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens views, this holding those in government accountable. To be informed citizens need accurate and timely information. Particularly government held information they need to learn for those who compete in politics how politicians intend to employ that information for the good of the population. Citizens including political competitors must also be free to impact their views about governmental processes and public affairs; otherwise citizens cannot be truly informed labor can they freely make choices. Barries to citizens participation are multiple in every country. They are both subtle and obvious small and formidable and based on numerous factors for full citizenship to be achieved, we must remove theses barriers, whether they are based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age or another status.

Citizens/citizenship

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In addition to intrinsic democratic value, participation is and instrumental driver of democratic and socio-economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens.

In Rome is was considered a privileged status to be called citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of this Rome empire. Modern states confer citizens on practically their whole residents or populations.

Citizens of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. A man can become an citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries.

**Chapter 111, section 25 :1(a) of the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria define citizenship as:**

Every person born in Nigeria before the date of 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

Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria and

Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is citizen of Nigeria

**Section 26(1) to section 32** also stipulates the conditions which any person that is trying to naturalize must fulfill before he or she can be registered as a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of or be divided into civil citizenship ,political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individuals liberty for example 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 a political community e.g a voter or as an individual elected by the meme era of such community e.g a politician and social citizenship embodies the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society.

**Citizens rights**

Individuals rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. In order to let the citizens have a share in the running of his/hers government, a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute since they are limited but the rights of other citizens in the state. Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen . A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative confer by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the stat, it becomes a civil right if civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government he is entitled to seed redress in the court of law. Important civil rights accorded Nigeria citizens in its constitution include: the right to life, the right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education, right to association and right to freedom of speech, writing and publication among others

**Democracy**

It had been etymology established that the word democracy is derived front the Greek work “demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is rule by the people”

The concept of democracy, like many other political concepts first originated form Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free for meet frequently in assemblies which had the power to make laws.in these assemblies, citizens a were free to discusss state affairs, take decisions and exercise their political rights. Every citizen was expected to participate in the running of government this is what Johnston classified as a direct democracy, a system that enables people exercise authority themselves.

Abraham Lincoln, former American president, perceived democracy as the government of the people by the people and for the people. Since there is no single definition of democracy however what can be deduce from the various definitions of democracy are the followings:

The fundamental rights of citizens is guaranteed

The independence and impartial judiciary

Existence of rule of law

Freedom of press

Periodic election that is free and fair

**Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy**

A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. There is no point in democracy in which we do not participate

A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government there would be no democracy

A good citizen must have duty to obey the law

A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to Offer constructive alternatives to government policies

A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community. Her must not interfere with the properties of other persons . He should be honest, just in his personal dealings and hard working.

(S)he must support public education in ever way possible, through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.

Conclusion

Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting it is also define as the system of government by the people of the people and for the people it is considered the best form of government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. Citizens okay an important role in democracy. There would probably be no democracy without the co operation and commitment of citizens. Citizens must be aware of their rights and responsibilities as without the awareness among citizens, a government may turn into a tyranny. Citizens must also not lose sight of the pursuit of public interest. A positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.