NAME: EMERENINI ABIGAIL CHISOM

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ANSWER,

Sovereignty resides in the flow from the people in a democracy as the authority of government derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems. The UDHR and modern constitution capture the famous formation that democracy is “of the people, by the people and for the people” which means government belongs to the people, there is no democracy without citizen engagement and for democracy to deliver the views of the citizens must be heard and responded to. Barriers to citizens participation are multiple in every country, for full citizenship to be achieved we must remove these barriers, citizens must therefore, understand ideas about citizenship, politics and government.

However, the term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. In ancient Rome it is a privileged to be called a citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. To be a citizen means to enjoy certain liberty and rights as opposed to the slaves who could not enjoy them. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibility, including participating in decisions that affect public welfare. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth as it is a fundamental law of most countries or by naturalization which is a process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another**. Section 25(1) a** of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria defines citizenship as: every citizen born in Nigeria before independence, either of whose parents or any grandparents belongs 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 or grandparents was born in Nigeria. **Section 26 and 32** stipulates the conditions which a person that is trying to naturalize must fulfil before he can be a citizen. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of **civil citizenship** which refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty like; freedom of speech and so on**. Political citizenship** which is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of political community or an individual elected by the members of the political community. And **social citizenship** embodies the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live civilized existences in accordance with the standards prevailing in society. As much as they are people aspiring to define citizenship, Brannan *et al* argues that citizenship is not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. Glover argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship such as: **ethical citizenship** which involves collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature. **Integrative citizenship** involves the belief that every individual plays an assortment of roles. **Educative citizenship** refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals. Kenny a community development practioner argues that contemporary construction of citizenship can be understood by differentiating the passive from active citizenship.

Individual’s rights and liberties are the groundwork of the states 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. Rights as a term in this context entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen, it is also a privilege conferred by law upon a person or a group. If the civil rights of a citizen is invaded by another citizen or a government he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law. The rights of a citizen include right to life, right to freedom of speech, right to work, right to freedom of religion and so on.

It has been etymologically established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word *demos* meaning *people* and *kratos* meaning *rule* that is **rule by the people.** The concept originated from ancient Greece where citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had powers to make laws as they (citizens) discuss state affairs. The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded slave, laborers and aliens from exercising political rights. The American colonies revolted against the England direct democracy; in today democracy we practice indirect democracy.

Features of democracy

* The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed
* Independent and impartial judiciary
* Existence of rule of law
* Freedom of press. And so on

While the states provide rights and liberties, citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognize that they don’t only have rights, they also have responsibilities, and they know that they must bear the burden of responsibility for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive, because they know that the success or failure of the government is their responsibility. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following;

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes
3. A good citizen must have a duty to obey law
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with rights of other members of the community.
6. He/she must support public education in every way possible through payment of taxes, local voucher and so on.

In conclusion, democracy is a government where the citizens directly elect their government by voting. It is considered the best form of government in modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights. Citizens also play important role in democracy; there would probably be no democracy without the co-operation and commitment of the citizens. Citizens are obliged to perform their duties and obligations at all times.