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***ASSIGNMENT: A TWO PAGE REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8 “CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY”.***

This chapter focuses on the importance of citizen’s involvement in democracy and government as a whole. The citizens of a country have a right to choose and take part in the government. The term government is “of the people, by the people and for the people” means that the government and everything that has to do with the government belongs to the people. Citizens need to be informed in order for democracy to be delivered and this can be done by providing accurate information especially those held by the government. They also need to learn from those who compete in politics. Transparency is a very important factor in democracy.

Citizen is a term used in defining the relationship between the people and the government. As a citizen you have a set of rights and responsibilities. In ancient Rome, to be called a citizen was considered a privilege which means you are able to enjoy certain liberties and rights unlike those who were considered as slaves. On the other hand, citizenship can be obtained either by birth or by naturalization. That means, you can only be a citizen of a particular state if your parents are citizens of that state or if you are given birth to in that state and also if an individual willingly changed his or her citizenship of a state to another state. This process is known as naturalization.

Citizenship was defined by the Constitution Of Federal Republic Of Nigeria in section 25 as; a.) a person can only become a citizen of Nigeria only if his parents or any of his grandparent was born in Nigeria.

b) every person born after independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.

c.) every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria. citizenship is divided into three; civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the right necessary to protect citizen’s liberty. For example, freedom of speech justice and so on while political citizenship is associated with participation of democratic exercise of political power either as a member of political community or as an individual elected by members of such community and social citizenship believes that citizens have to have access to resources that will allow them to live a civilized life according to the standards known in that society.

Citizenship has so many definitions and means so many different things to different people. According to Brannan et al, citizenship is not solely about passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. Glover went ahead to give us three dimensions of citizenship which are; ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship understands that active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship while integrative citizenship has to do with the belief that every individual plays different role and this citizenship enables them integrate those roles causing them to appreciate the collective. It also holds that you need to understand the interest of members of a community in order for you to act on it and finally educative citizenship refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship. Active participation helps to expose di verse views and beliefs and to deepen interconnectedness among the members in a community. Passive citizenship refers to the rights and duties given to the citizens from above. Kenny argued that for citizenship to be understood we need to know the difference between passive and active citizenship.

Rights and liberties of citizens serves as the groundwork in a state. A right can be defined as privilege or prerogative conferred by law on a person or a group. If it is expressed within the constitution of a state it becomes a civil right. Important civil rights include; right to work, right to life, right to freedom of speech, right to freedom of religion and so on.

Democracy is gotten from the Latin word demos which means people and kratos which means rule.

Direct democracy is a system that allows people exercise power themselves. Democracy was said to originate from ancient Greek but was a limited institution in the sense that it didn’t allow slaves, aliens and labourers exercise their political right but the idea that all citizens, high or low could exercise their political rights started in England and also during this period the levelers believed that it was unnatural for any man to rule or govern any sort of men without their consent.

Abraham Lincoln believed that democracy was of the people, by the people and for the people. There was various definition of democracy but there were few features that can be deduced from those definitions and they are; the fundamental right of the citizen is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press and periodic election that is free and fair.

As a citizen, in as much as you have right, you also have a duty to fulfill to your state. Some of these duties include;

a.) a citizen must have a duty to vote.

b.) a citizen must be willing to pay taxes since without these taxes the government might not . C.) a citizen must have a duty to obey the

d.) a good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but rather offer constructive alternatives to the government.

e.) a citizen must refrain from interfering in the rights of other members of community.

F.) a citizen must support public education by paying his or her taxes as education is the foundation of democracy and the power in democracy.

In conclusion, citizens must be aware of their rights and must be actively involved in the government because without that there will be nothing like democracy. They must be ready to hold their accountable if their rights are not respected. They must also be ready to do their duties of ensuring that their rights are reserved.