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 **CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY**

Democracy can be defined as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Citizens have a collective right to chose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self determination. According to the definition, this means that government belong to the people, governmental processes and elections belong to the people. A citizens engagement on democracy is both a right and a responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy. That is why transparency is a necessity for democracy. For citizens to understand their importance, they must acquire knowledge to make decisions about policy choices and the proper use of authority.

**Conceptual clarifications**

-Citizens/citizenship;

 Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Democratic value, participation is a fundamental way to empower citizens. In Ancient Rome, being called a citizens was considered a privilege because the status was not accorded to the whole of the Roman Empire. This shows that citizens are very important because to them it’s means to enjoy certain liberties and rights as opposed to the slaves who could not enjoy them. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or naturalization. This is used to identify one as a citizen of a country.

Citizens Right

 Individuals right and liberties are important because it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. They are a few rights which are very important for a citizen to have a share in the running of his or her government. A right is defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group.

Democracy

 Etymologically, the word Democracy came from the Greek word demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is rule by the people. It first originated from Ancient Greece. Afterwards, many definitions came up. The various definitions as many features and there are;

1. The fundamental rights of citizens is guaranteed
2. Independent and impartial judiciary
3. Existence of rule of law.
4. Freedom of press.
5. Periodic election that is free and fair.

 Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. They is no point is democracy which we do not participate
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy.
3. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law. A democracy cannot exist in a lawless society and without a willingness of citizens to obey the law.
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
6. A good citizen must support public education in every way possible through payment of taxes through local volunteers efforts through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.

 In conclusion, there is no democracy without engagement of citizens.