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Chapter 8

## CITIZENS ROLE IN A RELATIONSHIP

The authority of government 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. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. Barriers to citizens participation are multiple in every country. Citizens have a sets of rights and responsibilities including the rights to participate in decisions that affect public welfare.

Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. The process by which an individual voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another

state is known as Naturalization.

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria defines citizenship as:

Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria etc.

However, there are broader definitions and perceptions of citizenship by glover who argued that there are three dimensions of active citizenship which are Ethical, Integrative and educative citizenship. Citizens rights is when a privilege is expressed in framework of the constitution of the state. It includes right to life, work, education, religion etc.

Abraham Lincoln perceived democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people. The features of democracy are freedom of press, existence of rule of law and periodic election that is free and fair. The duties and responsibilities of citizens in a

democracy are;

- A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
- A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
- A good citizen must refrain from destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.

Citizens have duty in a democracy of ensuring that their rights are preserved by challenging government when it errs.