NAME; Ariole Jennifer Kesiena

DEPARTMENT; Optometry

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REVIEW OF CHAPTER EIGHT (CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY)

This chapter tells us all about citizenship i.e. what it entails to be a citizen of a particular country using Nigeria as a major example. It also tells us about democracy and how it relates to citizenship. Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have the right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. These precepts are embodied in Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions the world over. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Engagement is both a right and responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy.

**CITIZENSHIP &CITIZENS**

Now what is citizenship and who is a citizen? A citizen refers to the people that have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare while citizenship is the process or state of being a citizen and exercising being a citizen although it does not just have definition as the definition given above is from my own perspective so does it have different meaning to different people. Citizenship of a state can be acquired either by birth or by naturalization but this totally depends on the state because the conditions vary from country to country. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Now these citizens do have some rights which are very essential. These rights are not absolute but are limited by the right of other citizens in the state. If the civil right of a citizen is invaded by another citizen or government, he is entitled to seek redress in a court of law.

**DEMOCRACY**

The word democracy is derived from the Greek word *‘’demos’’* which means people and *‘’kratos’’* which means rule, that is rule by the people. Abraham Lincoln, former president, perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Since democracy does not have a single definition what can be deduced from the various definition is the feature of democracy which is the freedom of press, existence of rule of law, periodic election that is free and fair, independent and impartial judiciary and fundamental rights of citizen is guaranteed.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY**

**F**or democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive, because they know that the success or failure of the government is their responsibility, no one else’s. A good citizen must be obedient to the law and also pay their taxes. They must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms .they must also support public education in every possible way. A positive attitude should be maintained with the development of the state being the priority. Thus, when citizens play their roles in democracy it will yield a very successful state that will always be developed.