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**CHAPTER EIGHT:CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY**

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as past of self-determination. The governmental authority derives from the will of the people in their choices of those systems and the people have a right to take part in their government. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informal about issues that can improve their lives, they must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens views thus holding those in government accountable.

**CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS**

In order to enhance their meanings as used within the context of this paper it is important to clarify a few concepts

1. Citizen/Citizenship

Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the rights to participate in decisions that affect public welfare.

1. Citizens’ Rights

Individuals rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men live and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of his/her government a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen.

1. Democracy

The concept of democracy, like many other political concepts first originated from Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had the power to make laws. In these assemblies, citizens were free to discuss state affairs, take decisions and exercise their political rights. Every citizen was expected to participate in the running of the government. There is no particular definition for democracy but from the various definitions given by scholars, some features can be deduced;

* The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed
* Independent and impartial judiciary
* Existence of the rule of law
* Freedom of press
* Periodic election that is free and fair

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

Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights, they have responsibilities. When there is democracy, there is a saying in free societies: you get the government you deserve. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive because they know that the success or failure of the government is their responsibility, and no one else’s

One of the responsibilities citizens are expected to perform is that they should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy. A democracy must provide for all of its citizens and this can be better enabled when a citizens pay taxes.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, citizens play an important role in democracy, there would probably be no democracy without the cooperation and commitment of citizens. Citizens must be aware of their rights and responsibilities as without the awareness among the citizens, a government may turn into a tyranny.