EFFIONG BLESSING EDET

19/LAW01/074

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTION

COLLEGE OF LAW

GST 203

200 LEVEL

**Assignment:**

Write a 2 page review of chapter 8 on the book salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics.

**ANSWER:**

The term Citizenship or a citizen implies a relationship between the people and the government. Citizens have sets of rights and duties or responsibilities which they exercise in the society are legal citizens of a particular society. The status of being a citizen in the particular society is known as citizenship, where qualities are displayed. In the ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called a citizen as it wasn’t awarded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Individuals like slaves, serfs and immigrants were deprived from acquiring the citizenship. Citizenship is acquired through birth, naturalization, marriage and so on. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. Citizenship by naturalization is defined as the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his or her citizenship of a state to another state. Citizenship by marriage is defined as the process where a citizen of another state gets married to an individual of another state he or she automatically becomes a citizens of that particular state. The Chapter 111, section 25: 1(a) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria defined citizenship as

1. every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
2. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

In addition, section 26(1) to section 32 also stipulates the conditions which any individual who is trying to naturalize must fill before he or she can become a citizen of Nigeria. Citizenship is divided into civil, political and social citizenship all with the motive of protecting all aspects of human rights.

There are many definitions and concepts of citizenship given by different scholars and people **Brannan** defined citizenship as not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. It is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate and to be willing to get involved. **Glover** argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship; ethical, educative and integrative citizenship. Ethical citizenship deals solely with the active participation in a collective strive towards the good of the public as an essential feature of citizenship such that personal sacrifices are made to help the society at large. Integrative citizenship believes that every individual plays an assortment of roles and this helps the individual to integrate their various roles and to immerse themselves into the community, enabling a greater appreciation of the collective. Educative citizenship deals with the process of developing the moral, practical and intellectual aspect of an individual while practicing their citizenship. By exposing citizens to the connection between their public and private interest, it develops important capacities.

**Citizens’ rights**

The groundwork of the state is the individual’s rights as it enables men to live and develop fully in the society. These rights consist of duties and responsibilities every citizen of the society is meant to carry out. The rights are seen are privileges which are expressed through the constitution of the society. Any citizens whose rights are being invaded by another citizen or the government, is entitled to consult the court of law. Examples of these civil rights includes: right to life, freedom of speech, right to education, right to work, right to associate and so on.

**Democracy**

The word democracy is derived from the Greek words ‘‘demos’’ and ‘‘kratos’’ meaning people and rule respectively. Johnston described direct democracy as the citizens of the society coming together to make laws and decisions concerning the society, though the Greek democracy excluded slaves, serfs and aliens from practicing political rights. Abraham Lincoln, a former American president saw democracy as ***the government of the people, by the people and for the people.*** According to him, democracy is designed to represent the common will of the citizens within the society. Maxey described democracy as the states, countries where the arrangements, constitutions and practices and the workings of the government such that the individual’s and his rights, freedom and worth are ensured and guaranteed. The following could be deduced from the various definitions of democracy

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

**Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy**

In a system of democracy, it recognizes that citizens do not only have right but also responsibilities. It recognizes that democracy requires investment of time and hard work, vigilance and support by its citizens. For democracy to be successful, the citizens must be active and cooperative in all operation on the society. Citizens perform certain responsibilities like:

* Participation in political activities such as voting during election and express their political views
* Citizens should be willing to pay taxes
* A good citizen must obey the laws and refrain from destruction of public properties
* A citizen should be able to support public education in all possible ways.

In conclusion, citizens play important roles in a democratic society. With the cooperation and active participation of the citizens, it helps in developing the system of government.