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COURSE: GOVERNMENT

ASSIGNMENT: DO A 2 PAGE REVIEW ON SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS CHAPTER 8.

Sovereignty resides in the flows from the people in the democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self – determination. The term CITIZEN / CITIZENSHIP simply implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a setoff rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Citizen of a state can be acquired either by birth or naturalization. The process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalization. However, as with so many other concepts, does not have just one definition, it means different things to different people. Citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate willing to get involved.

 Individual rights and liberties are the ground work of the state since it exists to enable men live and develop fully. In order to let that citizen have a share of the running of his /her government, a group of rights is very essential. Important civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens in its constitution include: the right to life, the right to work , right to freedom of religion , right to education , right to association and the right to freedom speech , writing and publication among others . **DEMOCRACY**: etymologically speaking, the word democracy is derived from a Greek word “demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule that is rule by the people. The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded laborers, slaves and aliens from exercising political rights. Abraham Lincoln, former president of America, perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Since there is no single definition of democracy, what can be deduced form various definition of democracy are the following. 1: fundamental rights of citizens are guaranteed .2: Independent and impartial judiciary. 3: Existence of rule of law .4: Freedom of press .5: periodic election that is free and fair.

 While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights, they have responsibilities. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy: the duty to vote, a citizen should be willing to pay tax, a citizen has the duty to obey the law, a good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies, a good citizens must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community etc.

 In conclusion, citizens play an important role in democracy. There would probably be no democracy without the co-operation and commitment of citizens. Democracy assures basic fundamental rights for citizens like the right to vote, right of liberty, etc. A positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.