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Government and Politics

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CHAPTER 8: Citizens roles in democracy.

Introduction -

There is no democracy without the participation of citizens. In order for democracy to deliver citizens must become aware of issues that can improve their lives and bring about development; Hence a democratic government is of the people, by the people and for the people as defined by Abraham Lincoln, a former American president. Barriers to citizenship engagement are numerous but to attain full citizenship they need to be stewed out.

Citizen / Citizenship

A Citizen is a legal member of a particular place who is entitled to a set of rights and responsibilities.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by:

Birth - Chapter III, section 25:1 (a) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria defines citizenship

as: a) Every person born in Nigeria before the date of Independence, ^{or} whose ~~babaxya~~ parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenious to Nigeria provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents or any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.

b) Every person born in Nigeria after the date of Independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and

citizen of Nigeria.

Naturalisation: conditions under naturalisation vary from country to country; and Nigeria has its conditions stipulated in chapter III section 26(1) to section 32 of the Nigerian Constitution.

Citizenship is divided into civil, political and social citizenship. According to Glover citizenship has three dimensions of active citizenship: ethical, integrative and educative citizenship.

Citizen's Right

In order to let citizen partake in their government, a group of rights which entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen is very essential. When this privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right; some of which include right to life, right to work, right to freedom of speech writing and publication among others.

Democracy

Democracy is derived from the Greek words demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, "rule by the people". With varied definition but all of which define democracy to have some common features which include fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, Existence of rule of law, freedom of press and periodic elections that are free and fair.

Citizens of a democratic state have duties and responsibilities also which they must perform for the success of the state.

Citizens responsibilities include voting during elections and running for electoral posts, paying taxes, Obeying the laws of the state and so on.