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 **CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY.**

There is no democracy without the participation of the citizens. For democracy to work, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. To become informed citizens need accurate and timely information especially government held information. This is why transparency is needed in democracy. Citizens have rights and responsibilities including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Citizenship can be obtained by birth or by naturalization. It is also perceived to be made up of civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty. Political citizenship is the participation in the democratic exercise of political power either as a member of a political community or as an individual elected by the members of such community. Social citizenship is the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence In accordance with the standards prevailing in society. According to Glover, there are three dimensions of active citizenship: ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions. Educative citizenship refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship.

Abraham Lincoln perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. Democracy have the following features: 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.

For democracy to succeed citizens must be active and not passive. Citizens have the following functions: a citizen should have the duty to vote, a citizen should be willing to pay taxes, a citizen should obey the law, a citizen should refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.