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ASSIGNMENT.

Do a two page review of chapter 8 'CITIZENS ROLES IN DEMOCRACY' In salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics.

ANSWER.

The term citizen is a type of relationship that exist between the people and government.

Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio-economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship.

Civil citizenship: this refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty. For example; freedom of speech, justice e.t.c.

Political citizenship: this is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community. For example; voting.

Social citizenship: this embodies 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.

Individual's rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exist to enable men to live and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of his or her government, a group of rights are very essential. Rights entails the duties and responsibilities of a citizen in the state. Right is a privilege or pejorative conferred by law by another person or a group, when a privilege is expressed around the framework of the constitution then its a civil right. When the right of a citizen is invaded or tempered with the citizen can seek for a redress in the law court.

Before talking about the roles of citizens in democracy we have to know the meaning g of democracy.

Democracy can be defined as a system of government where citizens directly elect the government b y voting. It is also known as a representative system of government. It is also the government of the people, by the people, and for the people as defined by Abraham Lincoln. It is also known as the

best system of government for this modern age. It gives citizens the ability to express some of their rights and contributing to the political or government decision.

The roles citizens play in democracy are as follows;

1. Citizens must actively participate in every political event with full enthusiasm. For example; Voting (it is the right of a citizen to vote in all elections).
2. Citizens must pay their taxes in order to promote the smooth running of the country and democracy.
3. Citizens must obey the law of the country because democracy cannot function in a lawless country and citizens should also look out for those that breach the law of the land.
4. Citizens must stop or refrain from uttering destructive criticisms which might tarnish the image of the country.
5. Citizens must be aware of their rights and responsibilities because without the awareness among the citizens, a government might end up in tyranny.
6. Citizens are expected to make contributions to the advancement of the nation.

These are the roles of a citizen in democracy, and if all this work well in country then democracy in a country will work smoothly.