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**Do a two page review of chapter 8, Citizens Roes in A Democracy, in salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics**.

The introduction of this chapter resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. The citizens have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

These are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions around the world. They capture the foundation of democracy which is; ‘of the people, by the people and for the people.’ There is no democracy without the people. Barriers to citizens’ participation are multiple in every country, they can be subtle and obvious. For full citizenship to be acquired all barriers must be removed irrespective of ender, ethnic groups, colour etc. Thus, a symbolic relationship exists between democracy, the citizens and state’s development to the effects that citizen’s government made by the citizens for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the active participation of the people in governance that brings development.

Moreover, democracy has various concepts that need to be clarified to avoid certain misunderstandings as we progress. The terms include, Citizens/Citizenship, citizen’s rights, democracy.

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have se of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In n addition, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio-economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens.

While citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth, marriage or naturalisation. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of the state or he is born within the territory of that state. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. This is what informed Turner that the individual person inherits through a collection of legal rights and cultural resources of society. Chapter 111(25)(1) also has a definition of citizenship. Citizenship can be divided into civil citizenship, social citizenship, and political citizenship.

Citizens’ rights, individual rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. In order to let the citizens have a share in the running of his/her government, a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of citizens in a state. When privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right.

Democracy, it has being etymologically established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word ‘demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule that is rule of the people.’ The concept of democracy, like many other political concepts first originated from ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had power to make laws. The major features of democracy include;

1. The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed
2. Independent and impartial judiciary
3. Existence of rule of law
4. Freedom of press
5. Periodic election that is free and fair

However, there are duties and responsibilities of citizens in a country. While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens must recognise that they don’t only have duties but responsibilities. They should also recognise that democracy requires an investment of time and hard work. A government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. Democratic citizens should know that they must bear the burden of responsibility for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights.

1. A citizen should be allowed to vote and be voted for.
2. They should be willing to pay taxes without pressure
3. Citizens must obey the law
4. A good citizen must refrain from using destructive criticisms
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community