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QUESTION: DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8, “CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY” IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIAS POLITICS.

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 the government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices as well as the fact that sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy as they have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions all over the world.

For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They have the freedom to express their ideas, opinions, criticisms and even their complaints about what the government does and the government is liable to respond to citizens' views and this holds the government accountable. Unfortunately, there are barriers to citizen participation and they include gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, etc.

CITIZEN/CITIZENSHIP

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Citizenship of a state can be acquired either by birth or naturalization.

CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Individual's 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 or her

government, a group of rights is very essential. Rights entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen.

DEMOCRACY

The word democracy is derived from the Greek word “demos”, meaning people and “Kratos” meaning rule that is “rule by 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 the power to make laws. In these assemblies, citizens were free to discuss state affairs, take decisions and exercise their political rights.

The various definitions of democracy feature the following since there is no exact definition:

The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed.

1. Independent and impartial judiciary
2. Existence of rule of law
3. Freedom of press
4. Periodic election that is free and fair

Citizens of a country have duties and responsibilities and they are expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy:

1. A citizen in democracy should have a duty to vote
2. A citizen in democracy should have the willingness to pay taxes
3. A citizen in democracy should have a duty to obey the law
4. A citizen in democracy should refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but rather criticize constructively
5. A citizen in democracy should refrain from interfering with the rights of other members of the community. .

Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. Citizens play an important role in democracy. There would be no democracy without the cooperation and commitment of citizens. Citizens also have a duty to check that their rights are being protected and preserved by the government.

