

NAME: NEJEH AUSTIN

COURSE: GST 203

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS01/258

DEPARTMENT:MBBS

CITIZENS ROLES IN DEMOCRACY

In ancient Rome, it was a privilege to be called a citizen because some were denied of it due to racial background, social class, alien residency e.t.c.

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning and it implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship, civil citizenship is the rights necessary to protect individual liberty, political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power either as a political community or as an individual elected by the members of such a community, social citizenship 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.

However, as with so many other concepts, citizenship does not have just one definition, it means different things to different people, it means different things to different people. Citizenship is

about being willing to contribute to social action as well as political debate, to be willing to get involved.

CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Individuals' rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. Rights entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen.

A right may be defined as the privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. Important civil rights according to Nigerian citizens in its constitution include: right to life, right to work, right to education.

DEMOCRACY

It has been etymologically established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word *demos* meaning people and *cratos* meaning rule and that is the 'rule of the people'. Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also defined as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people according to Abraham Lincoln. Since there is no single definition of democracy however, what can be deduced from the various definitions of democracy are the following features:

The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, periodic election that is free and fair.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY

For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active not passive, because they know that the success or failure of the

government is their responsibility, and no one else's.
government officials understand that all citizens should be treated equally. citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy:

- Voting during elections
- Payment of taxes
- Obedience to the law
- Avoidance of destructive criticism
- Respect for others rights
- Support for public education