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ASSIGNMENT

DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW ON

CHAPTER 7, "POLITICAL

PARTIES IN NIGERIA," IN

SALIENT ISSUES IN

GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S

POLITICS.

DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF

CHAPTER 8, CITIZENS ROLE IN

A DEMOCRACY, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S POLITICS

CHAPTER 8: CITIZENS ROLE IN DEMOCRACY.

Sovereignty works in hand with democracy; government of the people by the people and for the people. With this comes with the inalienable human rights; right to vote and be voted for. All these are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is no democracy without the engagements of citizens. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about

issues that can improve their lives.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Citizen/Citizenship

This basically means a 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. 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.

For instance, in Rome, not everyone was classified as citizens; in the Roman empire some were known as slaves, serfs and some aliens' residents because of their racial, political and religious reasons. To qualify as a citizen one must be able to

enjoy some liberties and rights in which slaves wouldn't enjoy.

Citizenship on the other hand may be acquired in four ways either by birth, naturalization, marriage, registration. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state.

According to Turner, citizenship is a formal legal identity that the individual person inherits through a collection of legal rights and obligations, controlling access to the scarce political, economic, and cultural resources of society.

CHAPTER 111, SECTION 25(1)(a) of THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA DEFINES CITIZENSHIP AS:

a) Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or

belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria;

b) Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and

c) Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

FEATURES OF THE DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY

I. The fundamental rights of the citizens are guaranteed.

II. Independent and impartial judiciary,

III. Freedom of press.

III. Periodic election that is free

and fair.

V. Existence of rule of law.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy.
3. A citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
6. (S)he must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts, through according this system

the respect to which it should be entitled.

