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**CHAPTER EIGHT**

**CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY**

Sovereignty resides in and Through the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral system as a part of self determination. There is no democracy without the engagement of the citizens. For democracy to deliver, Citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to come together to express their views and preferences on work to see that government response citizens views, Thus holding government accountable. There are also barriers to citizen participation in every country.

**Conceptual clarifications and terms**

**Citizen** 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.There are many ways to become a citizen of a country, such as birth naturalization marriage etc

**Citizens rights** Individuals rights and liberties the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of their government, a group of rights are very essential. A Right therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conference by law upon a person or a group.

**democracy** The word democracy is derived from the Greek word “demos” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule that is “Rule by the people”.This is a system that enables people exercise authority themselves. Since there is no single definition of democracy. They have notice to be some features in the various definitions given. 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 the democracy**

Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights they have responsibilities. They recognized the Democratic requires an investment of time and hard work. A government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. Democratic citizens know that they must bear the burden of responsibilities for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive, because they know that success or fail of the government is their responsibility, and no one else is. in turn, government officials understand that all citizens should be treated equally. citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy; A citizen in democracy should have the duty to vote, citizen should be willing to pay taxes since without taxes to fund a Democratic government there would be no democracy, A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law, a good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies, a good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community citizen must support public education in every way possible through the payment of taxes through local volunteer efforts through according to the system the respect to which it should be entitled and so on.

**Conclusion**

Democrats see the 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 it is considered as the best form of government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. It is a plus for citizens if they are born in a Democratic country and that is why citizens must do everything to save democracy at all cost. This is play an important role in democracy. There will probably be no Democratic without the cooperation and commitment of citizens. At the same time, while being critical, citizens must also not lose sight of the pursuit of public interest. positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.