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QUESTION: Do a two page review of chapter 8, citizens role in a democracy, in salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics.

ANSWERS.

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Citizen engagement is not an abstraction, it takes tangible forms and serves particular purposes to improve peoples' lives.

For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives.

Conceptual clarifications

Citizen/citizenship: the word citizen 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 the public welfare.

Citizenship of a state maybe acquired either by birth or by nationalization. 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.

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria define citizenship as:

- Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or grandparents belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria; provided that the person shall not become a citizen by virtue of Nigeria by virtue of neither his parents or grandparents was born in Nigeria.
- Every Nigerian person born in Nigeria after the date of independence

either of whose parents or grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.



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either of whose parents or grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.

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

Citizens' rights: individual rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizens. A Right can be defined as a privilege conferred by law upon a person or group. Civil rights is when a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state. Important civil right according to Nigerian citizens in its constitution include; the right to life, work, freedom of religion, education, association, and freedom of speech.

Democracy: this is derived from a greek word 'demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is rule by people'. The concept of democracy was 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. Since there is no single definition of democracy however, what can be deduce from the various definition of democracy are the following features:

- ▶ Freedom of press
- ▶ Existence of rule of law
- ▶ Periodic election that is free and fair
- ▶ Independent and impartial judiciary
- ▶ The fundamental rights of the citizen is guaranteed.

Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

1. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy.
3. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
4. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of the other members of the community.
6. He/she must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes, local volunteer efforts, according to this system the respect to which it must be entitled.