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**A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 “CITIZEN ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY”**

**Introduction**

The citizen have the right to take part in their government and collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral system as part of self-determination. The right is embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions in the world over. No democracy without the engagement of citizen which include both the right and a responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy.

For effective citizen participation, barrier based on gender, race, ethnicity and religion etc. must be remove. Citizen need to be truly informed and knowledgeable to make decision about policy and use of authority.

**Conceptual clarifications.**

**Citizen/citizenship**

Citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies as certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizen means to enjoy certain liberties and rights as opposed to be a slaves who could not enjoy them.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. 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. Citizenship can be civil, political and social citizenship.

Citizenship is not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen. Active citizenship is if someone volunteers in public service provision.

sThree dimension of active citizenship: ethical, integrative and educative citizenship. Active citizenship aims to expose individual diverse views and beliefs and deepen their sense of interconnected nears with their fellow community members, including people unknown to them.

**Democracy**

Democracy etymology established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word “demo” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule that is “rule by the people”. The concept of democracy was originated from Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had the power to make laws. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

**Duties and Responsibilities of citizens in a democracy**

While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. For a democracy to succeed, citizens must be active not passive because the success or failure of the government is their responsibility and no one else’s.

**Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy.**

1. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes.
3. A citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
4. A citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to governmental policies.