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ASSIGNMENT: DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8," CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY" IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S POLITICS

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. The authority of government likewise derives from will of the people in their choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

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. 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.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. 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. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries.

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 of 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 of 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.

Section 26(1) to Section 32 also stipulates the conditions which any person that is trying to naturalize must fulfil before he or she can be registered as a citizen of Nigeria.

However, as with so many other concepts, citizenship does not have just one definition, it means different things to different people. For example, Brannan ET. al. (2006:55) argue that

the concept of citizenship hold that citizenship is not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity, but that not being active is an essential of being a citizen. However, there are broader definitions and perceptions of citizenship as well, as shown by Glover (2004:18), who argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship: ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship, and educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective stride towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. The personal sacrifices that are made aid some public benefit and are hence ultimately also enjoyed by the person who sacrifices.

Integrative citizenship needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions. The concept involves the belief that every individual plays an assortment of roles, and that this form of citizenship enables the individual to integrate their various roles, and to immerse themselves into the community, hence causing them to have a greater appreciation of the collective. Educative citizenship, on its part, according to Dagger (1997) refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship.

Individual's rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men are live and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of his/her government, a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizens.

A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon or a group. It has been etymology established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning rule that is "rule by the people". The concept of democracy, like many others political concepts first originated from Ancient Greece where in the city state, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had the power to make laws. In these assemblies, citizens were free to discuss state affairs, take decisions and exercise their political rights. Every citizens was expected to participate in the running of government. The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded laborers, slaves and aliens from exercising political rights. The idea that all citizens, high or low, within the state are entitled to take part in the running of the affairs of the state was first advocated in England after the great Civil War of the seventeen century. Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights, they have responsibilities. They recognize that democracy requires an investment of time and work. A government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. Democratic citizens know that they must bear the burden of responsibility for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights.

A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. There is no point in democracy in which we do not participate. People who are unhappy with their leaders are free to organize and peacefully make the case for change or try to vote those leaders out of the office at established times for elections. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law. A democracy cannot exist in a lawless society, and without the willingness of citizens to obey

the law, which is really a social contract, no government has the wherewithal to police a nation of lawbreakers, and anarchy results.