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**Do a two page review of chapter 8 “Citizens roles in democracy” in Salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics.**

**CHAPTER 8 REVIEW**

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral system as part of self-determination. The authority of the government like-wise derives from will of the people in their choice of these system, and the people have right to take part in their government, including through genuine election to determine who will legitimately occupy government offices.

These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions the world over. They capture the famous formation that democratic government is “of the people, by the people and for the people”. There is no democracy without the engagement of the citizens. Engagement of the citizen is the right and responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing, and sustaining democracy.

**Conceptual Clarifications**

**Citizens/ Citizenships**

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or naturalisation. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries, on the other hand the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state is known as naturalization. The conditions of naturalism are conferred vary from one country to the other.

Chapter 11, section 25: 1(a) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria define citizenship as;

1. Every person born into Nigeria before the date of independence either of whose parents or grandparents belong 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.
2. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be divided into;

* Civil Citizenship; refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty
* Political Citizenship; refers to the participation in democratic exercise of political power.
* Social Citizenship; which embodies the claim that citizen ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilised existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society.

**Democracy**

Etymologically, democracy is derived as from the Greek word “demos” meaning “people” and “kratos” meaning “rule i.e. rule by the people”. There is no single definition of democracy, however from the various definition of democracy we can deduce that there is;

* Freedom of press
* Periodic election that free and fair
* Existence of the rule of law
* Independent and impartial judiciary
* Guaranteed fundamental rights of the citizen

**Duties and responsibilities of citizens in democracy**

While the states provides rights and liberties, all citizen have duties to the states. There is a saying in free societies: you get the government you deserve. For democracy to succeed, democratic citizens must be active, not passive because they know that the success or failure of the government and no one else.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion citizens play an important role in democracy. There would probably be no democracy without the co-operation and commitment of citizen. Citizens must be aware of their rights and duties as without awareness among the citizens, a government may turn into a tyranny.