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CHAPTER 8

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 the will of the people in their choice of these systems, and people have a right to take part in their choice of these systems and the people gave right to take part in their government including through genuine elections to determine who 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 ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called citizen because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. A man becomes a citizen of a particular place if his parents are citizens.

Citizens Rights

Individual rights and liberties are the ground work of the state since they exist to enable men to live and develop fully. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens and state. Rights entail some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizen. A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When privilege

is expressed within the frame work of a constitution and a state, it becomes a civil right. Important civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law.

Democracy

Abraham Lincoln perceived it as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. In my own understanding, democracy is a system of government where the majority rule, where the citizens are allowed to elect their representatives.

Since there is no single definition of democracy, however, what can be deduced from various definitions of democracy are the following features

1. the fundamental rights of the citizens are guaranteed
2. independent and impartial judiciary
3. existence of rule of law
4. freedom of press
5. periodic election that is free and fair

Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy

There is a saying in free societies, you get the government you deserve. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive, because they know that success or failure of the government is their responsibility, and no one else's.

1. A citizen in democracy should have to vote
2. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes
3. A good citizen must obey the law
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
5. A good citizen must refrain from interference with rights of other members of the community
6. Citizens must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes through local volunteer efforts.

In conclusion democracy is a 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 .

Citizens play an important role in democracy. There would be no democracy without co operation and commitment of citizens .