

members of the state or the state itself, the citizen can seek redress in court.

Democracy comes from two Greek words *Demos* and *Kratos* which mean people and rule respectively, thus the simple meaning of democracy is "rule by the people". Democracy was first practiced in Ancient Greece. The system which was used was the direct democracy system where the people were allowed to make governing decisions in assemblies, however, the system was a limited democracy system, because not every individual, for example, labourers, slaves and so on, could participate in the political affairs of the state, since they were denied citizenship. The first time that all citizens could take part in the political affairs of the state was first advocated in England, after the Great Civil War of the 17th century. Around the same time, a radical party, known as 'The Levelers' campaigned strongly against the idea that any man be ruled or governed by another without their free consent. In his *Treatises on Civil Government*, John Locke advocated for government based on consent. After their break from England as a colony, America developed democratic ideas and institutions as a way of life. These ideas became widespread in the western world by the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as the government of the people, when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizenry within a state, it is a government by the people when its ideological undercurrents is grounded in the people's culture and it is a government for the people when the power employed by the custodians of state business emanates from and resides in the collective mandate of the people. This is the root of the most popular definition of democracy which is "the government of the people, by the people and for the people". There are so many definitions of democracy, however it is deduced that they all highlight the following features: the fundamental right of the citizens is guaranteed, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, independent and impartial judiciary, periodic elections that are free and fair.

As citizens of a state individuals do not only enjoy rights, but also have duties and responsibilities to fulfil. A government of the people requires constant vigilance and support of the people to be functional.

- A citizen has the duty to vote. The backbone of democracy is in citizen participation. As citizens we must vote and chose whom our leader should or should not be.
- A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, because he/she understands that the financial gain from the taxes is used in funding the democratic government and its processes.
- A responsible citizen must obey the law. Adherence to laws of the state will reinforce order in the society and promote smooth running and development of the society.
- Citizens should always support public education, whether through payment of taxes, local volunteer efforts, etc. Public democracy is the foundation of democracy, as children, youth are made to be knowledgeable participants in democratic processes.
- A good citizens must not interfere with the rights of another member of the society, but interact peacefully and deal amicably in order to co-exist with other individuals.
- A citizen should criticise the government, but in a constructive manner, as opposed to any form of destructive criticism which could lead to or inspire unrest in the political system.

In conclusion, a citizen should conduct himself/herself in a manner that would uphold peace in their state, by performing their civic duties and exercising their civil rights and engaging in activities that are advantageous to his or her society.

A TWO - PAGED REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8: CITIZENS ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

In a true democratic system it is the people that carry the power. We choose our electoral, governmental and political systems. As Albright states. *Citizen engagement pursues economic, social, cultural and political development, including the provision of opportunity, sources, services and security.* As citizens, it is not only a right, but also responsibility to engage in the political processes in a way that benefits us.

Who is a citizen? A citizen someone who has a political relationship with the state, thus has ability to partake in the state's affairs as a social, civil and political individual. Citizenship could be acquired through **birth, marriage, naturalisation and registration**. Citizenship could be civil – refers to the right to protect individual liberty, freedom of speech, etc.; political – the right to partake in democratic activities, either as a member of the political community (an electorate) or as the elected leader by the political community; and social citizenry, where the individual has access to resources that will enable them have a civilised existence in accordance with standards prevalent in society.

Community development practitioner, *Kenny*, says that with the differentiation of active and passive participation, the contemporary constructions of citizenship are better understood. Passive citizenship is when the state has given citizens' rights and duties, and this is based on the notions of social justice. Active citizenship transcends this level, because within its premises the citizens are empowered to participate in the continual processes of shaping the society, as well as their identities. A citizen is not just one because of some legal or official documents that states so, but a citizen must show active participation in the affairs of their state of citizenship. According to *Glover 2004*, there are three dimensions of active citizenship. These dimensions are Ethical, Integrative and Educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship is about active participation in order to benefit the public as a whole. The citizen is expected to make personal sacrifices if the result is more beneficial to the public and the citizen. Integrative citizenship is about engaging oneself in the sphere that is much wider than the formal political institutions and practices. This concept stems from the idea that everyone plays a variety of roles and this form of citizenship enables the citizens to integrate their various roles and immerse themselves into the community so as to help them appreciate the collective more. The third, the educative citizenship, according to *Dagger 1997*, refers to a process that develops a *moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship*. Active participation exposes individuals to an array of belief and value systems thus forming a sense of oneness among people in the community. Glover states that this also works to form a connection between personal and public interest.

As the citizen of a state, individuals have some rights, their citizenship rights, which enable them to live and develop fully both as individuals and as a member of the state. These rights are not absolute, as they limited by the rights of other members of the state. They are also accompanied by duties and responsibilities. When these rights are expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, they are called **civil rights** e.g. the right to life, the right to association, the right to education etc. When these rights are encroached upon by other