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The political meaning of the word citizen implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizens have a set of rights and privileges, including the right to participate in the decisions that affect the public welfare.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired through birth or by naturalization. A man becomes a citizen of the 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. The process by which an individual may voluntarily change his or her citizenship from one state to another is known as naturalization. The conditions guarding naturalization processes vary from country to country.

In Nigeria, there are legitimate rules which guard they acquiring of citizenship in the state. Section 25 (1) defines citizenship while section 26 to section 32 specifies the conditions which any person who seeks to get naturalise must fulfil before he is registered as a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be divided into 3; civil citizenship (rights necessary to protect individual liberty), political citizenship (associated with participation in the democratic of political power either as a member of political community or as an individual elected by the members of such community), and social citizenship (embodies the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society).

Citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social actions as well as political debate, to be willing to get involved. However, through broader a definition of citizenship, glover was able to identify three dimensions of active citizenship. Ethical citizenship is the first. It understands active

participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship, which is the second, needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices instructions. The last, on its part, refers to the process that develops a moral, practical, and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship. Individual rights are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. A right is a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is performed within the framework of the constitution it becomes a civil right.

Etymologically democrat is derived from two words “*demos*” meaning people and “*kratos*” meaning rule that is ‘rule by the people’. Abraham Lincoln regarded democracy as a government of the people (when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizenry), of the people (when the power employed by the custodians of state business resides in the collective mandate of the people) and by the people (when the ideological undercurrents is grounded in the people’s culture). Since there is no single definition democracy however, what can we deduce a few features from the various definitions democracy and they are; guaranteed fundamental rights of citizens, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, and periodic election that is free and fair.

While the state provides rights and liberties all citizens have duties to the state. 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. 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 the success or failure of the government is their responsibility, and no one else’s. citizens are therefore expected to perform following responsibilities in a democracy; a citizen in a democracy should have a duty to vote, should be willing to pay taxes, should obey the law at all times, must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but constructive alternatives, he should also refrain from interference with the rights of the other members of the community and he or she must support public education in every way possible.

Citizens play an important role in democracy. There would probably be no democracy without the cooperation and commitment of the citizens of the state.