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**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS01/432**

**DEPARTMENT: MBBS**

**Chapter 8**

Citizens roles in a Democracy

In democracy, sovereignty resides in and flows from the people. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination and they also have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that improve their lives particularly government held-information. Therefore, barriers to citizen participation in government must be reduced and eradicated for the effect flow of democracy.

**Meaning of Citizen/Citizenship**

The term 'citizen' has an inalienably political implying that suggests a particular sort of connection between the individuals and government. Citizens have a bunch of rights and duties, including the option to partake in choices that influence public government assistance.

Citizenship of a state might be procured either by birth or by naturalization. A man turns into a citizen of a specific state if his folks are citizens of that condition of on the off chance that he is a conceived inside the area of the state. Then again, the cycle by which an individual may willfully change his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalization.

Part 111, segment 25: 1(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria characterize citizenship as:

A) Every individual brought into the world in Nigeria before the date of freedom, both of whose guardians or any of whose grandparents has a place or had a place with a local area native to Nigeria: given that an individual will not turn into a citizen of Nigeria by goodness of this part if neither of his folks nor any of his grandparents was brought into the world in Nigeria.

B) Every individual brought into the world in Nigeria after the date of freedom both of whose guardians or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and

C) Every individual brought into the world external Nigeria both of whose guardians is a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be seen to be partitioned into common citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Common citizenship alludes to the rights important to secure individual freedom; Political citizenship is related with support in the vote based exercise of political force, either as an individual from a political local area or as an individual chosen by the individuals from such a local area; and Social citizenship typifies the case that citizens should approach those assets that permit them to live an edified presence as per the principles winning in the public arena.

**Popular government**

It has been etymologically settled that the word 'popular government' is gotten from the Greek word "demos" which means individuals and "kratos" which means rule, that is "rule of the individuals." Abraham Lincoln, previous American citizen, seen majority rules system as the public authority of the individuals, by the individuals, and for the individuals. As per him, majority rules system is an administration of the individuals intended to speak to the basic will of the populace inside a state and that it is an administration by the individuals when its philosophical inclinations is grounded in the individuals' way of life, likewise, it is an administration for the individuals when the force utilized by the overseers of state business exudes from, and lives in the aggregate order of the individuals. In the expressions of Maxey, the states and nations where the game plans, constitutions and rehearses and the functions of the public authority are with the end goal that the people and his privileges, opportunities and worth are guaranteed a lot are normally alluded to as majority rule governments. Since there is no single meaning of majority rule government in any case, what we can find from the different meanings of vote based system are few of the accompanying highlights:

* The central privileges of the citizens are ensured
* Independent and fair-minded legal executive
* Periodic political race that is free and reasonable

**Obligations and Responsibilities of Citizens in a Democracy**

There is a maxim in free social orders: "you get the public authority you merit". For vote based system to succeed, citizens should be dynamic, not detached, on the grounds that they realize that the achievement or disappointment of the public authority is their duty, and nobody else's. Citizens are accordingly expected to play out the accompanying obligations in a majority rule government:

* A citizen in a vote based system ought to have the obligation to cast a ballot.
* A productive member of society should have an obligation to submit to the law.
* A productive member of society should avoid expressing damaging reactions however should be set up to offer valuable options in contrast to government strategies.
* A productive member of society should cease from impedance with the privileges of different individuals from the local area.
* A productive member of society should uphold government funded schooling inside and out, through installment of charges, through neighborhood volunteer endeavors, through concurring this framework the