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**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/073**

**DEPARTMENT: LAW**

**COURSE: GST 203**

**DATE: 24/01/2021**

**QUESTION: WRITE A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER SEVEN (7) AND EIGHT (8) OF “SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT”.**

**CHAPTER EIGHT**

A saying goes so, “variety is the spice of life”. Not everyone can be the same; there’s tall and short and thin and big. In the same way everyone has different roles in a society. The government plays a different role from the citizens and the citizens from public officials; chapter eight of the text however helps to explain the roles of citizens in a society - specifically a democratic one.

Conceptual analysis of the word “democracy” shows it is entirely different from a regular society. In a democracy, sovereignty resides in and flows from the people. The authority of government derives from the will of the people. What then is democracy? Democracy is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. Citizenship however is a formal legal identity that the individual person inherits through a collection of legal rights and obligations, controlling access to the scarce political, economic and cultural resources of society.

It can be inferred therefore, that just as the government has obligations and duties to fulfill to the society, so do the citizens of that society. It’s important to know the means by which a person can acquire citizenship of a country before examining anything else. According to chapter eight, citizenship of a state can be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. A person born to parents of a particular state or within the locality of said state can classified as a citizen of such state by birth. On the other hand, the process by which a person voluntarily changes his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as citizenship by naturalization. ***Section 26(1) to Section 32 of the Constitution*** stipulates the conditions which a person trying to naturalize must fulfil before he or she can be registered as a Nigerian citizen.

Citizenship is divided into three. One of the three is civil citizenship; It refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty. Political citizenship which is associated with participation in democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community or as an individual elected by the members of such a community is the second. Lastly, there is social citizenship, 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.

The type of citizenship can be likened to societal classes, each person under the different citizen types has a different role to play from the other. He/she can either be a head citizen or a lower citizen or even an average citizen. One thing however that the chapter did not fail to mention is that citizenship is about being willing to contribute to the social action as well as debate, to be willing to get involved. A citizen generally differs from an active citizen. A citizen is a person belonging to a particular society while an active citizen is person belonging to a society who gets involved with the activities of the society.

Before we examine a citizen’s rights it’s important to know what rights mean. According to **Vincent Esan and Olayinka Olabimpe Ojo** a right may be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. The definition goes further to say that when a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. Some examples of civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens include: right to life, right to work, right to education etc. however these are different from the duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

The state provides rights and liberties for the citizens who in turn have responsibilities and duties to the state. Democracy requires an investment of time and hard work; the government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. 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 else’s. They have the duty to vote. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes. Speaking of participation, a government needs funds to run properly and the taxes of citizens contributes to the governmental funds. That being said, a citizen that pays his/her taxes sets a great example to others.

It is also the duty of a democratic citizen to obey the law. Law are rules and regulations that guide the running of an organization. They are therefore put in place for the good of all the citizens and the society as well. A good citizen must refrain from using destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies. It is known that correction through love is the best form of correction, it is expected of citizens to apply this method when serving public opinions and criticizing government.

 Lastly, a good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community. A citizen that can uphold of his duties to the society can be said to be a true democratic citizen. My favorite thing about this chapter is that unlike most books it does nit only emphasize on what the government has to do but also what the important duties of citizens are. It can therefore be inferred that the successful running of a democratic system is like a two-way coin, all hands must be on deck.