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Citizens Roles in a democracy (CHAPTER 8)

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in democracy.

The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choices of those systems and the people have a right to take part in their government including genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices .

For democracy to deliver, citizens must be informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to come together and express their views and perspectives and work to see that government responds to citizens views thus holding those in government accountable.

Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in every country. They are subtle and obvious, small and formidable and based on numerous factors.

Citizens must therefore understand ideas about citizenship, politics and government. They need knowledge to make decisions about policy choices and the proper use of authority along with the skills to voice their concerns, act collectively and hold public officials accountable. Thus, a symbiotic relationship exists between democracy, the citizens and states development to the effect that citizen’s government, made by the citizens for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the involvement of active participations of the people in governance that beings about development.

Citizen/ citizenship:

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 addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio economic change and a fundamental way to empower citizens.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization.

Citizen’s Rights

Individual’s rights and liberties are the ground work of the state since it exists to enable men to love and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of his government, a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of the other citizens in the state.

Democracy :

The word democracy is derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people and " kratos" meaning rule the concept of democracy, like many other political concepts. Democracy is a government of the people when designed to represent the common will of the citizenry within the state and that its a government by the people when it ideological undercurrent its grounded in the people's culture, also for the people when the power employed by the custodians of state business.

Features of democracy

. Freedom of press

. Independent and impartial judiciary

. Existence of rule of law

. Periodic election that is free and fair

Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy

. A citizens in a democracy should have the duty to vote.

. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes.

. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.

. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the right of other membership of the community.

Conclusion

Democracy teaches citizens more about cooperation and commitment, and citizens should participate in every event in Democracy with full enthusiasm to ensure the survival of democracy.