

NAME: BABAODEH JULIAN

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/047

DEPARTMENT: LAW

COURSE: GST 203

Chapter 8

The chapter seeks to emphasize and enlighten on the roles of the citizens under a democracy. This is because the system of democracy is on made for the people; according to Abraham Lincoln, it a government of the people, by the people and for the people. In essence it means that the government belongs to the people as well as the elections. It is a system which can only be effective and successful if backed up with the participation of the citizens actively in political matters. The chapter wants to explain that citizens must be informed about the issues affecting them as a people to be able to actively participate, and it also brings to light the multiple barriers which can hinder a successful democracy. It centers on education also which would give birth to informed citizens which would in turn act as checks on the government. It is focused on the symbiotic relationship between democracy, the citizens, and the state's development to the effect that citizen's government, made by the citizens for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the involvement or active participations of the people in governance that brings about development. In ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called citizen, because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Slaves, serfs and alien residents were depraved of the title for racial, political, and social reasons. But over time, modern states and cities have conferred the title of being a citizen on practically their entire population, giving them rights, duties, and responsibilities to fulfill their potential. The chapter states that the definition of citizenship is subjective, meaning it means different things to different people. The chapter highlights two definitions by Turner and Brannan. Citizenship of a state may be acquired by any of four ways; birth, naturalization, honorary means and by dual citizenship. But the chapter focuses on the first two; birth and naturalization. Birth means to be born within the territory of the state. This is a fundamental aspect of being a citizen in most countries or states. On the other hand the process of voluntarily changing one's citizenship to that of another country is called naturalization. The condition under which naturalization is conferred varies from country to country. In Nigeria, *Chapter 111, section 25:1(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* holds the definition of citizenship while *Section 26(1) to Section 32* stipulates condition for which a person a person trying to naturalize might fulfill before he/she can be registered as a citizen of Nigeria.

There are three parts of citizenship which are: civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. The civil refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty; the political is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community, or as individual elected

by the members of such a community; and the social 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 chapter holds that citizenship is about willing to contribute to social action as well as political debate. It is argued that the involvement must speak of public-mindedness and have a purpose beyond that of a small group of people. On this note Glover posits that there are three dimensions to active citizenship and they are ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. The chapter also educates on citizen's rights. It defines a right as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. Rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state but are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. A privilege which is expressed within a constitution is known as a civil right and crimes against the civil rights of an individual or more are entitled redress in the court of law. Examples of civil rights in Nigeria are right to life, right to work, right to freedom of religion amongst Others. Then word democracy was derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning rule i.e. rule by the people. It originated from Ancient Greece as did many other political concepts. Here every citizen was expected to participate in the running of the government and this was called a direct democracy. The Greek democracy was limited because laborers, slaves and aliens were not allowed to participate as they were not entitled. The idea that every man should be allowed to participate the running of his /her state was first propounded in the 17th century after the Great Civil War in England. Following that, there were a number of advocates of the concept for government based consent, then the ideas of representative government or indirect governments associated with ways of determining who shall govern and to what ends he/she shall rule. Abraham Lincoln was a big advocate for the concept of democracy. According to him it was designed to represent the common will of the citizenry; sovereignty. The chapter also highlighted features of democracy such as freedom of the press, existence of rule of law, independent and impartial judiciary amongst others. Citizens in a democracy not only have rights given and provided for by the state but they also have responsibilities and duties which they perform in turn for the state. A government of the people requires 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 their government is their responsibility and no one else's. In turn government officials understand that all citizens must be treated equally. Some responsibilities citizens are expected to perform are as follows; the duty to vote; must be willing to pay taxes; duty to obey the law; refrain from uttering destructive criticisms, but should instead offer constructive alternatives of government policies; must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community; and must support public education in any way possible for it is the foundation of democracy.