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CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY.

The people in a democracy have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

These precepts are embodied in the universal declaration of human rights and in modern constitutions the world over. They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic governments is of the people, by the people and for the people. In essence, they mean just that: governments belong to the people, governmental processes belong to the people and the elections belong to the people.

Citizen engagement is not an abstraction, it takes tangible forms and serves particular purposes to improve people’s lives. Citizen engagement pursues economic, social, cultural and political development, including the provision of opportunity, resources, services, and security.

While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognise that they not only have rights, they have responsibilities. They recognise that democracy requires an investment of time and hard work. A government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. Democratic citizens know that they must bear the burden of responsibility of their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights.

It is important for the citizens of Nigeria to support the democratic system.