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## **CHAPTER 8**

This topic talks about the roles of the citizens in democracy. Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. As in they have the right to choose their government, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. The authority of the government derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems and the people have the right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

The UDHR capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is “of the people, by the people and for the people”. This means that governments belong to the people, governmental processes belong to the people and elections belong to the people.

Citizenship describes the type of relationship between the people and the government. They have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public affair. Citizenship of a state could be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty (e.g., freedom of speech, justice, the freedom to conclude valid contracts); political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community (e.g., a voter) or as an individual elected by the members of such a community (e.g., a politician) and 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.

Citizenship does not have just one definition; it means different things to different people. Citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate, to be willing to get involved.



Citizen's right is privileges or prerogative conferred by law upon a person that belongs to a state. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law

Democracy is derived from a Greek word "demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is 'rule by the people". Since there are no single definitions of democracy however, what can be deduce from various definitions of democracy are the following features;

The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed

Independent and impartial judiciary

Existence of rule of law

Freedom of press

Periodic election that is free and fair

Duties and Responsibilities of citizens in a democracy

For a 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 one else's.

- a. A citizen must have the duty to vote
- b. A citizen must be willing to pay tax
- c. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law
- d. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies
- e. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community
- f. (she)he must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts.

