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Chapter 8: Citizens Role in Democracy

Sovereignty resides in the peoplyas they have the right to choose the government. Hence the government derives power from the people's will in their choice. there is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. For Democracy to democracy citizens must be educated on timely governmental and political issues alongside the rights, duties and responsibilities in the society. They must also be free to express their opinions and intere whenever the need arises.

A citizen refers to a memebeyof a state or country that has a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired by birth( being born in that country or state) or by naturalization ( a person's voluntary choice of citizenship). The lawas guiding citizenship by naturalization differs from country to country. Citizenship can be divided into civil, political and social citizenship.

In order for a citizen to have a share in the running of his/her government, a group of rights is very essential. Rights refer to privileges conferred by law on a person or group. Civil rights are those entrenched within the constitution and if the civil rights of a citizen are tramples upon, the citizen has right to seek redress in a court of law.

Origin and Definition of Democracy

Democracy comes from two greek words that mean rule by the people. It originated in Ancient Greece, a city were people could meet in assembles to discuss the affairs of the society. Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as a government of the people, by the people and for the people. States and countries where the arrangements, constitution and practices and workings of the governmyate such that the individuals and his rights, freedoms and worth are ensured are referred to as democracies.

Features of Democracy

1. The fundamental human rights of the citizen is guaranteed

2. Independent and impartial judiciary

3. Periodic fair and free elections

4. Rule of law

5. Freedom of the press

Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens in Demou

While the state has provided rights for the citizens, the citizens also have duties and responsibilities that they must do for the state

1. A citizen must be willing to pay his or her taxes as of when due. These taxes for revenue that government will in turn use to provide a better life for the citizens, enabling them to pay even better taxes. A democratic government needs funding.

2. A good citizens must not abuse or interfere with the rights of other members of the community. He should respect other people's rights and expect to be treated same.

3. A citizenust have the duty to vote. Once ha has come of age he should ensure he votes during elections becaythe whole essence of democracy is to make sure his interests and opinions are aired.

4. A citizen must refraifrom uttering destructive criticism regarding the government or it's policies but must be ready to give constructive alternatives.

5. A good citizens has a duty to obey the law. He must perform all his activities within the restraint of the constitution and must be ready to assist law enforcement agencies in reporting breaches of the law