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CHAPTER 8; Citizens, Roles in a Democracy

 Firstly, a Citizen is a person who belongs to a certain country or nation through either birth or naturalization. He/she has a set of rights and responsibilities in their country.

 The power of the government resides in the hands of the people in democracy. The citizens have a collective right to choose their government, political and electoral system. These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions of the world. They hold up the modern definition and foundation of democracy and the democratic government is “of the people, by the people and for the people”.

 Citizens engagement is necessary for democracy to be uphold. Citizens of a nation have the right to informed about issues that effects their lives, they also have the freedom to gather and express their views and to see that the government responds to the citizens’ views, therefore holding the government accountable. There are barriers that prevent citizen participation in every country. Such barriers are based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age or social status.

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

Chapter 3, section 25:1(a) of the constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria define citizenship as; Every person born in Nigeria before and after the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria And Every person born outside Nigeria of whose parent is a citizen of Nigeria.

Duties and Responsibilities of Citizen in A Democracy

 While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy; A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote; A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to find a democratic government, there would be no democracy; A good citizen must have a duty to city the law; A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies. He should not stir up racial, or class division within the strict which may lead to bloodshed or chaos.