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Chapter 8: citizens role in a democracy.

 Sovereignty raises in and flows from the people in a democracy. We have a right to choose our governmental, political, and electoral system. Universal declaration of Human rights and in modern constititions the world over to capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is “of the people, for the people and by the people”. For democracy to be delivered, citizens must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens' views. Citizens need accurate and timely information particularly government-held information.

 Citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decision that affect public welfare. Participation is and instrumental driver of democratic and socio- economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens. To be a citizen means to enjoy certain liberties and right as opposed to the slaves in ancient Rome.

 Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. According to Turner 1997, citizenship is a formal legal identity that the individual inherits through collection of legal rights and obligations controling acces to scarce political, economic, and cultural resources of the society. Naturalisation is the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his or her citizenship of a state to another state.

 The Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria define citizenship as

* Every person born in n Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of the grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents or any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
* Every person born in Nigeria after the independent date of independence either of whose parents of any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.
* Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty eg. Freedom of speech and justice. Political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power, either as a member of a political community e.g. As a voter. Social citizenship embodies the Claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allows them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standard prevailing the society.

 Citizen’ s right

 Individuals' rights and liberties are the ground work of the state since it exist to enable men to live and develop fully. Rights entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizens. A right can be defined as a privilege or prepogative conferred by law upon a person or group of people. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right.

 Democracy.

 Every citizen is expected to participate in the running of the government. Direct democracy is a system that enables people exercise authority themselves. Indirect democracy is also associated with the free discussion of political views, the right to differ concerning them and the settlement of differences by counting of votes. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government of the people when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizenry within the state and that it is a government by the people when it’s ideological undercurrent is grounded in the people culture.

 Features of the definition of democracy

* Fundamental rights of the citizen 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

* A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
* A citizen should be willing to pay taxes
* A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law
* A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism
* A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community