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GST 203: REVIEW ON CHAPTER 8 OF THE BOOK "SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S POLITICS.

It is said that sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. People in a democracy have the right to choose their government, political and electoral systems and they also the right to take part in their government through elections to determine who occupies governmental offices. These rights are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also in modern constitutions all over the world. These precepts capture the famous formulation that democracy is "of the people, by the people and for the people". There is no democracy without citizen's engagement. For democracy to take place in a society, the citizens have to be informed and the government must be transparent in all they do for it to work. It is the active involvement of the people in governance that brings about development.

Citizen/ Citizenship:

This involves a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizens have rights and responsibilities in their countries. Citizens have rights and responsibilities in their countries. The citizenship of a state may be acquired by birth or by naturalization. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. On the other hand, the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalization and the conditions for this differ from country to country.

Citizenship can be divided into 3; civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty like freedom of speech, justice etc. political citizenship is associated with the participation in the democratic exercise of political power either as a voter or a politician. 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 the society.

Citizenship may mean different things to different people due to the many concepts involved. But however one may look all of the concepts, they all imply at the end that citizenship is a privilege status conferred by a state on its people either by birth or naturalization.

Citizen's rights:

The rights and liberties of the citizens in a state are the groundwork of that state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully. A right may be defined as a privilege or a prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. And when a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. If the rights of a certain person is invaded by another person, he is entitled to redress in the court of law. These rights include: right to life, right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education, right to freedom of speech etc.

Democracy:

Etymology has established the word democracy as derived from a Greek word "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning rule, therefore meaning 'rule of the people'. Abraham Lincoln, former American president I, perceived democracy as the government for the people, by the people. According to him, government is a government for the people when it is designed to represent the common will of the citizenry within a state and that is a government by the people when it is ideological

undercurrents is grounded in the people's culture. Since there is no single definition of democracy, what can be deduced from the various definitions of democracy are the following features:

- Freedom of press
- Existence of the rule of law
- Independent and impartial judiciary
- The fundamental human rights of citizens is guaranteed
- Periodic elections is free and fair

Duties and responsibilities of citizens in democracy:

For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive because they know that the success or failure of the government is their responsibility. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in democracy:

- A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
- A good citizen must refrain from interfering with the rights of other members of the community
- He or she must support public education in every way possible through the payment of taxes or through local volunteer efforts.
- A good citizen must have the duty to obey the law
- A good citizen should have the duty to vote.

In conclusion, Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also described as a system of government by the people of the people and for the people. Democracy is considered the best government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. There would probably be no Democracy without the cooperation and commitment of citizens this is because citizens play an important role in democracy. Democracy assures basic fundamental human rights for citizens and the citizens must be aware of these rights. Beside the rights, citizens must be critical of what the government does, they should check if the institutions put in place for the wellbeing of the democracy are well working.