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REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8

Do a two page review of chapter 8, citizens role in a democracy, in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics

Democracy is a system of government where people directly choose the government to represent them by voting. It is also defines as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people. Democracy is seen as the best form of government in the modern era as it allows people to exercise their fundamental human rights and also gives the responsibilities.

Citizens play a very necessary role in democracy. There would probably be nothing called democracy without the commitment of the people. Citizens must be aware of their fundamental human rights and duties.

Democracy assures basic fundamental rights for the citizens like the right to vote, right to practice and religion, right to liberty etc. As a citizen, he/she should be able to participate in every activity in democracy with full enthusiasm to ensure the survival of democracy. A way of this such is by the people ensure rulers are accountable. Citizens also have a role in a democracy of making sure that their fundamental human rights are not trampled on by challenging when necessary but by peaceful protest.

Aside fundamental human rights, citizens must be critical of what the government is doing and they should also check how institutions like investigating agencies, civil servants and also law making agencies that are kept in place for the well-being of the democracy.

For democracy to deliver, citizens have to become informed about the issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to join together to express views and decisions to see that government responds to citizen view, thus holding those in government accountable. To be informed, citizens need accurate and timely information, particularly government-held information. Citizens need to learn from those who compete in politics how politicians intend to employ that information for the betterment of the population.

Issues to citizens participation are many in every country. They both subtle and obvious, small and formidable, based on numerous factors. For the full citizenship to be gotten, we must remove those issues and terminate them, either based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, age or another status. Failure to do so, universal and equal suffrage is essentially denied, and governmental credibility is undermined to the degree that these issues exist.