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CHAPTER 8: Citizens roles in a democracy.

The authorities of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems and the people have a right to take part in their government. Democracy allows citizens to take part in genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy government office. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizen, this engagement is both a right and a responsibility citizens. These precepts are embodied in the universal declaration of human rights and in modern constitutions the world over. Citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their. In democracy, transpiracy is needed because access to information is essential to citizens of the country. The barrier to citizen participation are multiple in every country, in order for full citizenship to be achieved we must remove these barriers whether they are based in gender age religion etc. Furthermore, citizens need knowledge to make decisions about policy, choices and proper use of authority so citizens should have a mild education about politics.

Conceptual clarification of terms.

Citizens rights:

In order to let the citizens have a share in running of his/her government, a group of rights are established. These rights are the ground work of the state since 8t exists to enable men to live and develop fully.

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 l, 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 deducted 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

Citizens/Citizenship:

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. A set of rights and responsibilities are bestowed upon citizens as well as the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In morden states citizens are conferred on particularly their whole residents or populations. In accent Rome, it was considered a privilege statuses to be called a citizen, thiscus because the status was not accorded to all inhabitants of the roman empire. On the other hand, Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. It can be perceived to be made up of, or to be derived into civil citizenship, social citizenship and political citizenship

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 co operation 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 well being of the democracy are well working.