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MBBs

CITIZENS ROLES IN DEMOCRACY

In a democracy, the government belong to the people and elections belong to the people. There is no democracy without the engagements of citizens. Engagement is thus both a right and responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy. Citizen engagement pursues economic, social, cultural and political development, including the provision of opportunity, resources, services and security.

For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be freed to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens views, thus holding those in government accountable. To be informed, citizens need accurate and timely information, particularly government-held information. They need to learn from those who compete in politics how politicians intend to employ that information for the good of the population. Access to information is essential to an informed citizenry, that is why transparency is a necessity for democracy. Citizens, including political competitors, must also be free to impart their views about government processes and public affairs, otherwise citizens cannot be truly informed, nor can they freely make choices.

A symbiotic relationship exists between democracy, the citizens and state's development to the effect that citizen's government , made by the citizens for the citizenry is called democracy and it is the involvement or active participation of the people in governance that brings about development.

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set if rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio-economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of the state. Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. The conditions under which naturalization are converted vary from country to country.

Citizens’ rights : these are privileges conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government, he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law.

Democracy is a system of government where citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also defined as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people.