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**Assignment**

Do a review of Chapter 8, “Political Parties in Nigeria,” In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics.

In a democratic government sovereignty resides and flows from the people. There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. For true democracy to exist citizens must be informed about issues that can improve their lives. The term “citizen” politically implies a certain type of relationship between the government and the people. Citizens have a set of rights, liberties and responsibilities which enables them develop their potentials. Citizenship may be acquired either by birth, which is fundamental in the law of most countries or by naturalisation. Naturalization is the process by which an individual may voluntarily change his/ her citizenship of state to another state. The conditions under which naturalization is conferred vary from country to country.

Citizenship can be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Civil citizenship are the rights necessary to protect individual liberty. Political citizenship associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political power. Social citizenship claims that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society. Individual’s rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state. A right can be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. A privilege when expressed within the framework of the constitution becomes a civil right. A citizen upon invasion of his/her civil right is free to seek redress in court. Civil rights in Nigeria include: the right to life, right to education, right to freedom of religion, right to work, right of association and right to freedom of speech, writing and publication and so on.

Etymologically democracy is derived from the Greek word ‘demos-people and kratos -rule i.e. ‘rule by the people’. This concept originated from Ancient Greece, here direct democracy was practice with the exclusion of labourers, slaves and aliens from exercising political rights. Democracy in practice now is indirect government as defined by Abraham Lincoln as the government of the people, for the people and by the people. Maxey opines that in a democracy, the rights, freedoms and values of individuals count more than those of the state.

Features of democracy include :the fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press and periodic election that is free and fair.

Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy include: 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. They must be ready to assist the law enforcement officers by reporting breaches of the law and by giving them any useful information they may have. Good citizen refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepare to offer constructive alternatives to government policies. A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community AND (S)he must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts, through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.

Citizens should participate in every event in democracy with full enthusiasm to ensure the survival of democracy. Citizens have the duty of ensuring that their rights are preserved by challenging government when it errs. Citizens should check how institutions put in place for the well-being of democracy are working.