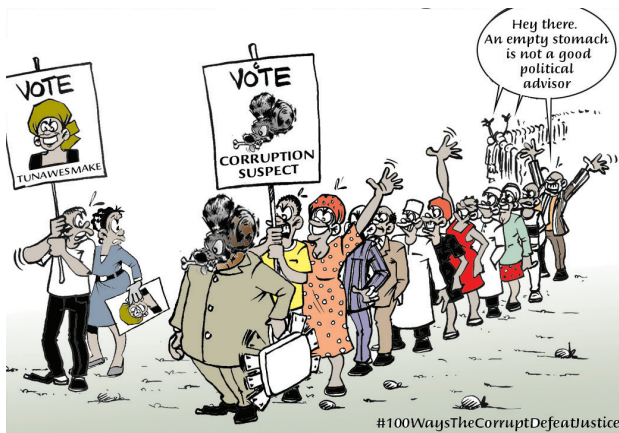


Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities



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What are the Rights of Citizens under the Constitution?

- Citizens exercise their sovereign power either *directly* or through their democratically elected representatives.
- Every person has the right to lodge a case in court if a right or fundamental freedom in the Bill of Rights is denied, violated or threatened.
- Every adult citizen may take part in Kenya's election since voting keeps our democracy alive and healthy
- Devolution gives power of self-governance to the people and grants them opportunity for greater participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in decision making.

How can citizens influence governments?

Citizens can influence government through

- Pressure/ Interest groups that seek to influence government policies and decisions
- By lodging Petitions
- By holding peaceful marches/ demonstrations
- The right of access to parliamentary sittings
- By joining political parties and thus influence party politics
- By voting in referendums and elections

What are the citizens' responsibilities whether or not they have elected representation?

- Citizens must respect, uphold and defend Kenya's sovereignty.
- Citizens have an obligation to ensure people serving in the independent Commissions are properly vetted.
- Devolution recognizes the right of communities to manage their own affairs and further their development.
- Citizens have the right to propose an amendment to the constitution by popular initiative signed by at least one million registered voters.

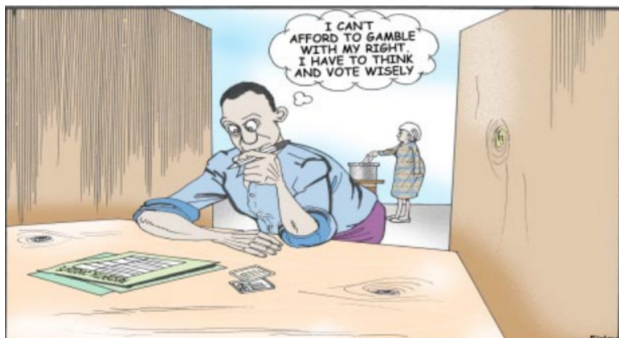
- Should live out the national values and principles of: patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people.
- They are to uphold human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized.
- In addition, citizens should ensure good governance, integrity and accountability are upheld.
- Every Kenyan has the responsibility to uphold the rights and fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights and to ensure they are observed in making social, economic and cultural policies.
- Every person has a duty to cooperate with the State to protect and conserve the environment and the country's natural resources and ensure sustainable development is carried out.

What can citizens do?

Citizens have the following obligations to ensure that elections are free and fair:

Before Elections:

- To register as voters
- To confirm that they have been registered as voters prior to actual voting



- To know who the candidates for all elective positions are and whether they qualify for the position(s) they are vying for.

During Elections

- To elect qualified and competent leaders who meet the leadership and integrity threshold.
- To encourage fellow eligible voters to go and cast their votes at polling centres on elections day.
- To maintain peace and wait patiently for their turn to vote

- To vote impartially and in a manner that benefits the entire community and not for self-serving purposes (nepotism, tribalism, gender, race)

After Elections citizens can:

- Recall their Member of Parliament/ County Assembly before the end of their term in office on grounds of
 - violating provisions of Chapter six of constitution,
 - if member is found to have mismanaged public resources or
 - if member is convicted of an offence under the Elections Act.
- Citizens can also petition Parliament to consider matters within its authority and enact, amend or repeal legislation.
- Citizens have the responsibility to ensure Executive authority is exercised in a manner that serves them and for their well-being and benefit.

Why should citizens register as voters?

- Voting entitles to make political choices such as forming or participating in forming a political party

- It allows them to participate in the activities of a political party
- Through voting, they can be candidates for public office or any office within a political party of which they are members.
- How citizens cast their votes determine how public institutions are run.

Public Participation and Access to Information

- Members of the Public must be well informed so that their participation is meaningful.
- Members of the public must be involved in the public-service policymaking process.
- The public must hold all public service institutions accountable for their work.
- Citizens have to ensure the government protects its people rights and freedoms and the country against internal and external threats to its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Citizens are obligated to ensure the constitution is interpreted in a manner that promotes its purposes, values and principles, advances rule of law, human rights and Bill of Rights, permits development of the law and contributes to good governance.



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