**NAME: OLADELE JESUFEOLAMI PRINCESS**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/202**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203**

**CHAPTER 15: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP.**

**According to this chapter, to mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing governmental policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as ‘The Functional Representative.’ This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions. It is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represents lawyers and solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) represents doctor’s interests.**

**Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. Some of the distinctions are: political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain power, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals, pressure groups are not actually accountable for their actions while political parties do account for their actions and lastly, political parties are more formally organized than pressure groups. Irrespective of their differences, pressure groups and political parties still share some things in common. Pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interests.**

**Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better and to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. However, while pressure groups have their important place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources. For example, ASUU and NMA may indeed have genuine agitations, but when they go on strike, they hold other stakeholders to ransom and insist that government accommodate their requests. Some types of pressure groups are:**

1. **Interest Groups: this group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society i.e. Convention on Business Integration (CBI), in Nigeria.**
2. **Cause Groups: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes. For example, charities and environmental groups and also groups that champion social movement. It is always aimed at achieving single interests like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports, etc.**
3. **Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators i.e. The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA). On the other hand, Outsider groups have no access or link to the Government, they have to use other methods to have impact. An example of this type of group is the Animal Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front, etc. the outsider and the insider groups changes from time to time based on the government or party in power.**
4. **Anomic Groups: groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the country. Protest, rioting, strikes and sometimes revolution are some of the ways through which they mount pressure.**
5. **Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups: associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country, whereas non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. For the latter, its arrangements are by virtue of kinship, family or tribe, just to mention a few.**

**Functions of Pressure Groups include:**

1. **Pressure groups link the government to the people: They are able to stay up to date on relevant information and communicate it to the citizens and at the same time relate to the government the opinion of the people.**
2. **It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day: The activities of pressure groups therefore, promote political participation and carries the citizenry along.**
3. **Serving as sources of information to the government: as the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects they may not even be aware of.**
4. **Curtailing of dictatorial tendencies of government through criticism.**
5. **Promotion of the interests of the minority: as they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government. They serve as watch dogs on the government.**
6. **Influencing legislation: pressure groups put pressure on government to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.**
7. **Pressure groups lobbying: pressure groups lobby in so many ways. They lobby with governmental officials directly. They might sometimes lobby these officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives. Pressure groups could also sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.**