NAME: ODEYEMI MARY IYANUOLUWA

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ASSSIGNMENT: AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP”, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMAENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, (PAGES 194-200). CHAPTER 15

The word pressure means to persuade someone or to coerce a person into doing something. Pressure groups are formal or organic body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government decisions and policies. There are various pressure groups that represent various groups in the society. For examples Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represent lawyers and solicitors, Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) represent the interest of doctors, etc. Pressure groups aim to ensure that government does their biddings.

Although pressure groups and political parties may appear similar, but they are quite different. For example, political parties seek to seek to gain governmental power while pressure groups seek to influence the decisions of the government, the pressure groups are not responsible for their actions but it doesn’t apply to political parties, etc. pressure group’s existence it to checkmate and democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society.

There are various types of pressure groups and they include; **interest groups**: this can be seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society e.g. trade units, etc. **Cause groups:** these groups are promotional groups which seek to promote particular cause e.g. charities and environmental groups. We also have **Insider groups and outsider groups, Anomic groups, Associational groups and Non- associational groups, just to mention a few.**

One of the major functions of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs, pressure groups also promotes public participation in the activities of the government of the day. They act as sources of information to the government; pressure groups curtail the dictatorial tendencies of the government by criticizing the government. They also promote the interest of the minority and ensure that their rights are not trampled upon. The pressure groups are also instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to benefit of citizens.

Pressure groups adopt a wide variety of strategies to achieve their goals these include: lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Some pressure groups are widely recognized that others. For example, civil rights groups, trade unions, and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single –issue pressure group. Pressure group lobby in many ways, it can be through government official friends, spouses, children and other relatives.S