ELUYEMI AISHAH OLAMIDE

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTION

GST 203

CHAPTER 15

Understanding pressure group

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This make a pressure group a formal or organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any government institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage.

Types of pressure groups

* Interest groups
* Cause groups
* Insider group and outsider groups
* Anomic groups
* Associational group and non-Associational groups

1. interest groups: these group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For Example, the trade unites, for instance, CBI (confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria, convention of Business Integration (CBI)
2. cause group: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular cause; for Example, charities and environmental group
3. insider groups and outside groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) is a good example of such groups.
4. Anomic groups: groups here have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.
5. Associational groups and non-associational groups: associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country while non-associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization.

Functions of pressure group

* Link government to people
* Promote participation in government
* Promotion of interest of minority
* Influencing legislation
* Serving as sources of information to government