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COURSE:GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

COURSE CODE: GST203

COLLEGE:LAW

LEVEL:200LEVEL

MATRICULATION NUMBER: 19/LAW01/135

Question: Review chapter fifteen of salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics.

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 government policies and laws to its own Advantage. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue it seeks to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure is referred to as the functional representative. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Nigeria medical Association (NMA). According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups. Pressure Groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers, while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power. Rather, their aim is to influence political decisions. Second, political parties have a wide range of policies whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. Pressure group’s existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. Pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in nation,there is some downside

Types of pressure groups: interest groups is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example the trade units CBI

Another cause group are promoting grops,which seek to promote particular causes . For example, charities and environmental groups. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports ,railway etc. Another pressure groups is insider group and outsider group. Insider group may be high or low in profile nevertheless they intend to have influence on government’s mission and vision. On the other hand outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact. Also we have Anomic pressure groups they have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioural style or rule and they may sometimes act violently. Finally the last but not the less pressure groups is associational groups and non- association groups. Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. Also these groups have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. On the other hand non-associational groups are pressure group without a formal organisation.

Features or functions of pressure Groups:

1. Links government to the people: one of the functions of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs.
2. Promotes participation in Government: Another function of pressure groups is that it promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day.
3. Serving as source of information to Government: another function of pressure groups it the source of information to the government.
4. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies: the activities of pressure groups ensures that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
5. 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.

Pressure Groups’ lobbying. Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy ,and direct political action (e.g organized protests).clearly, some pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by the population, media, and by those in power. For example they lobby legislators, ministers and other government machineries. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends, spouses, children and other relatives.