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19/law01/149

Gst203

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## **An overview of the idea of pressure groups**

### *Understand pressure group*

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. This is usually done through their occupations or professions. For example, the Nigeria bar association (NBA) , represents the lawyers and solicitors, while Nigeria medical association (NMA) represent doctor's interests. There is also the academic staff union of universities (ASUU) while champion the interest of academics and condition of learning in Nigeria's universities.

According to anifowose pressure group is described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest 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 seeks to get governmental powers while on the other hands, 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 group narrow their goal. Also pressure groups are not actually accountable for any of their actions, while political parties do account for their actions. This differences doesn't point the fact that pressure groups and political parties have nothing in common, they do . In fact pressure groups and political parties relate to each other to achieve their goals and certain changes.

Pressure groups 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, debate among ourselves, to encourage participants, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups last. While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is mounted to alter the direction of resources.

#### *Types of pressure groups*

Interest groups:

this is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society.

Cause groups:

these groups are promotion groups, which seeks to promote particular causes.

Insider groups and outsiders groups:

inside groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian bar association is an example of such groups.

Anomic groups:

groups here has unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society. These groups are not guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule, and they may sometimes act violently.

Associational groups and Non associational groups :

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or county. Also these groups have their registered

offices, constitutions and so on. On the other hand, non associational groups are pressure group without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering are the virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race affliction, just to mention few

Functions of pressure groups

Long government to the people :

Pressure groups serves as a link between the government and the people and the people it governs.

Promotes participation in government:

It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. Some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measures to put their views across to the government.

Serving as sources of information to government:

Another function of pressure groups is that they are sources of information to the government. Pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even be aware of.