**NAME; ISHIE DESTINY CHINEYE**

**MATRIC NUMBER; 19/LAW01/125**

**DEPARTMENT; LAW**

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**ASSIGNMENT**

**An overview of the Idea of Pressure Group in Salient issues in government and Nigeria’s Politics.**

**INTRODUCTION**

Understanding Pressure Group; To mount pressure is to persuade someone into doing something. This makes pressure group a formal and 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. Pressure groups are able to make government listen to them. In addition to that, these groups influence both public policy, administration and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. These groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender sensitive, economic or social, among others. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association( NBA), Nigeria Medical Association(NMA), Academic Staff Union for Universities( ASUU), Nigeria Labour Congress(NLC). Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), etc.

 Furthermore, pressure groups and political parties may appear similar, but they are different from each other. Political parties seek to political powers, it has a wide range of policies, political parties do account for their actions while pressure groups do not seek to gain powers, their aim is to influence political decisions, they are not usually accountable for their actions. Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participants and to enhance good accountability in the society.

**Types of Pressure Groups**

1. Interest groups
2. Cause groups
3. Insider and Outsider groups
4. Anomic groups
5. Associational and Non-associational groups

**Functions of Pressure groups**

1. Links government to the people
2. Promotes participation in government
3. Serving as sources of information to government
4. Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies
5. Promotion of the interest of the minority
6. Influencing the legislation
7. Pressure groups’ lobbying