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ASSIGNMENT

In about 2-page review chapter15 an overview of the idea of pressure Group In Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria Politics page 194-200.

According to Anifowose 1999 describe pressure group as interest groups or even protest group. Pressure groups came into existence to complement enhance or even to protect the interest of their members or groups the purpose of pressure groups is to ensure that government does their biddings and with some pressure through the right channels and means, 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 structure of the society and forms of government. Some examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are; Academic Staff Union for University (ASUU),Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe),Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress(representing the Hausa tribe),Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria(NBA),Christian Association of Nigeria(CAN),Nigeria Labour Congress( NLC)

Furthermore, 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 gap in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves to encourage participation, and to enhance good accountability in our daily society, however, while pressure groups are acknowledge as potentially beneficial to a democratic society problems can arise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. In this situation the voice of a small groups of people with narrow interest can become overly influential.

While pressure groups have their importance in the scheme of things in a nation,because there is so many downside.sometimes due to their own selfish interest,pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions,while not considering governments limited resources.

Types of Pressure Groups which includes as follows;Interest Groups,Cause Groups,Insider Groups and Outsider Groups,Anomic Groups,Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups.

Cause Pressure Groups;This group are promotion groups,which seek to promote particular causes,for example,charities and environmental groups.For instance we can see the Amnesty International which campaign for the need to end human right abuse.

Interest Pressure Groups;This type of group can be seen as sectional groups,representing the people in the society,for example,the trade units,for instance,Confederation of British Industry (CBI) known as the voice of business in the country,and in Nigeria.

Insider Groups and Outsider Groups;Insider can be said to be regularly consulted by government,they have regular access to minsters or legislators,the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) is an example of such groups.furthermore,an insider may be high or low in profit nevertheless the intend to have influence on government mission and vision.while an Outsider groups have no access or link to the government and its machineries.Example this set of groups are the Animal Liberation Front,which argues for rights to earth exploitation and destruction.

Anomic Pressure Group; This type of groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moment and situation in the society, also the are not guided by appropriate behavioral style or rule and the may sometimes act violently.

Associational Groups and Non-Associational Groups;Associational Groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country,the also have their own registered offices,constitutions and so on,While Non-Associational Groups are pressure group without a formal organization.

There are many functions of pressure groups few are as follows;Link Government to the people,Promotes Participation in Government,Serving as Sources of Information to Government,Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies,Promotion of the Interest of the Minority.

Serving as Sources of Information to Government;Another function of pressure groups is that they are source of information to the the government.

Promotion of the Interest of the Minority;Pressure groups champion the right of the privileged especially promotional pressure groups,as the go about their activities they ensure that the interest of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government,which is to say pressure groups act as a watch dogs on the government.

Link Government to the People;The main function of pressure groups is that it serves as a link between the government of the day and the people its governs.Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government what the question of the people is.

Promote Participation in Government;Another function of pressure groups is that it promote public participation in the activities of government of the day.

Curtailing of Dictatorial Tendencies;Criticism of government policies curtail and dictatorial tendency government may have.Also,the activities of pressure groups ensure that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into dictatorship.