

Name Orizu precious

Matric no 19/ law01/223

Department Law

CHAPTER 15

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.

According to Anifowose (1999) pressure groups 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 group. Oyeleye, (1998) said what pressure groups seek to achieve 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. Some examples of pressure groups, in Nigeria are Nigeria Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and Nigerian Labor Congress (NLC).

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 governmental 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

Types of Pressure Groups

*Interest Groups: This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade unions, for instance, CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business in the country, and in Nigeria, Convention on Business Integration (CBI).

*Cause Groups: These groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes like, charities and environmental groups. For instance, we can see the Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end human right abuses. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as "cause group," even though the group lacks formal structure. It is always

aimed at achieving a single objective, like protesting about the expansion of airport, Sport Date etc.

***Insider Groups and Outsider Group:** Groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators e.g. (NBA). They intend to have influence on government's mission and visions On the other hand, Outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries Groups in this category are radical in nature because they are mostly denied by the government. However, the Insider and Outsider group changes from time to time based on the party or government in power.

***Anomic Groups:** Groups here have 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 of rule, and they may sometimes act violently. Protest, rioting, strikes, and sometime revolution, are some of the means through which they mount pressure

***Associational Groups and Non-Associational 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 organization. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions.

Functions of Pressure Groups in Government

1. Promotes Participation in Government: Another function of pressure groups is that 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. The activities of pressure groups therefore, promote political participation and carry the citizenry along.
2. Serving as Sources of Information to Government: They serve as sources of information to the government. As the pressure groups lobby government on various fronts, the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues.
3. Curtailing of Dictatorial

Tendencies: Criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency pavement may have. Also, the activities of pressure groups ensures that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby setting into a dictatorship

4. Promotion of the Interest of the Minority: Pressure groups champion the rights of the under-privileged. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government. Thus, pressure groups act as watchdogs on the government
5. Pressure Groups Lobbying: Pressure groups may adopt variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action. 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 and those in power.