

NAME: ONWO OGHENEFEJIRO HANIELLA EMAMOKE

MATRIC NO: 19/SMS02/042

DEPARTMENT: ACCOUNTING

CHAPTER 15

This Chapter talks about pressure groups. Pressure means to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. A pressure group is a formal or organised 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. It 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 Nigerian Bar Association represents the Lawyers and Solicitors, while Nigerian Medical Association represents doctor's interests. Also, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which champions the interests of academics and condition of learning in Nigeria's universities. According to Anifowose (1999) pressure group is described as "interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups." Pressure groups make government listen to them with some pressure through the right channels and means. They also influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. In nature, these groups could be religious, economic, or social, among others. Pressure groups and political parties differ in the sense that, political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups do not seek to gain power but to influence political decisions. Secondly, political parties have a wide range of policies, whereas pressure groups narrow their goals. Political parties account for their actions while pressure groups do not. Pressure groups and political parties relate together to achieve certain social changes. Pressure groups may align their interests with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the capability to further their interests. Pressure group's existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions, while not considering government's limited resources. For example, when some professional bodies go on strike citizens suffer and government might be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirements of these associations.

The types of Pressure Groups include: Interest groups, Cause groups, Insider groups and Outsider groups, Anomic groups, Associational and Non-Associational Groups. Interest groups are also seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society. For example, the trade

units, 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 are promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes and champions social movement. For example, charities and environmental groups. It is always aimed at achieving a single objective, like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports, railways.

Insider 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. They have influence on government's mission and visions. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries, they have to use other ways to impact. Examples are the Animal Liberation Front, which champions rights for animals, Earth Liberation Front, which argues for rights to earth exploitation and destruction.

Anomic groups 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. Protest, rioting, strikes, and sometimes revolution, are some of the means through which they mount pressure.

Associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country. These groups have their own registered offices, constitutions. Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions.

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. Another function 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. Another function of pressure groups is that they act 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 they may not even be aware of. Criticism of government policies curtail any dictatorial tendency government may have. Also, the activities of pressure groups ensure that governments do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship. Pressure groups promote the interest of the minority by acting as watchdogs on the government. Another function of pressure groups is that they are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of citizens. Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy, and direct political action. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognised as legitimate by the population, media, and by those in power.