**NAME: EMASEALU MARTHA ODENOSE**

**LEVEL: 200L**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/085**

**COURSE: GST 203**

**QUESTION: SUMMARIZE CHAPTER 15.**

To put pressure is to persuade someone into doing something hence, a pressure group is an organized body with a common goal to put pressure on any governmental body or institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage; ASUU(ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF UNIVERSITIES), NBA(NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION) both represent the interests of teachers and lawyers respectively.

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 groups (Oyeleye,1998)

Some examples of pressure groups include; NLC (NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS), CAN (CHRISTAIN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA).

Pressure groups and political parties’ activities may appear similar but are infact different from each other; political powers seek to gain power pressure groups do not seek power but try to influence political decision, political parties have have a wide range of policies whereas pressure group narrow their goals. Also pressure groups are not accountable for their actions but political parties are.

Pressure groups existence is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate tyranny of majority of people in the society.

Although pressure groups have good interests sometimes there’s a downside; sometimes they go on long strikes which severely affects citizens and government may be incapacitated to help due to shortage of funds to meet the requirements of the association.

There are different types of pressure groups:

1. **INTREST GROUPS**: this group is also seen as sectional groups representing people of the society. For example; CBI (Confederation of British Industry) known as the voice of business of the country, and in Nigeria, Convention on Business Integration (CBI)
2. **CAUSE GROUPS**: these groups are promotion groups, which seek to promote particular causes, for example; charities and environmental groups. For instance, we can see Amnesty International, which campaign for the need to end human rights abuse. Any group that champions social movement is also referred to as a “cause group”, even though the group lacks formal structure. It’s always aimed at achieving a single objective, like protesting about the expansion of airports, seaports, railways etc.
3. **INSIDER GROUPS AND OUTSIDER GROUPS**: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The NBA is an example of such groups. However, an insider group may be high or low in profile but would always tend to have influence on government.

Outsider groups however, have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to us other ways to have impact. Examples of this group are; The Animal Liberation Front, which concerns itself with rights of animals. Groups in this category are radical and most times denied by the government. Insider or outsider groups change from time to time depending on the government in power.

1. **ATOMIC GROUPS**: Groups here have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in society.

They are not based on moment and situation in the society. They aren’t guided by an appropriate behavioral style or rule and may sometimes be violent. Revolution, protests and strikes is how they apply pressure.

1. **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.

Non-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization. Their arrangement and gatherings are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention a few.

The functions of Pressure groups include;

1. It serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. Pressure groups stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the people on such matters and at the same time relate to the government what the opinion is.
2. It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day. Some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measures to put their voices out to the government.
3. Another function of pressure groups is that they act sources of information to the government. As 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.
4. The activities of pressure groups ensures that the government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
5. Pressure groups champion the rights of the under-privileged especially, promotional pressure groups. As they go about their activities, they ensure that the interests of minority groups are not trampled upon by the government.
6. They are instrumental in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of the citizens. They put pressure on the government to influence its policy, change a policy direction, withdraw entirely a particular policy that does not favour their members or the citizenry.
7. Pressure groups may adopt a few strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action like organized protests.

Some pressure groups influence more powers 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, media and by those in power. For example, civil rights groups, trade unions and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single-issue pressure group.

Pressure groups in so many ways lobby, they lobby with government officials directly, they might even lobby their spouses, children or other relatives and may sponsor legislative house bills and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.