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18/SMS09/083

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

01/12/2020

In about 2-Page review Chapter 15, "An Overview of the Idea of Pressure Group," in Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics, pages 194-200

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The chapter starts off with explaining the meaning of pressure, which is basically to persuade or coerce a person into doing something. It also describes the term pressure groups according to Anifowose (1999) which he described as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. Pressure groups came into existence to complement, enhance or even protect the interest of their members or groups. What pressure groups seek to achieve is to ensure that 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 society and forms of government. The chapter further explains how pressure groups and political parties' activities may sometimes seem similar but they are different from each other. The first distinction is that political parties seek to gain government powers while pressure groups on the other hand do not.

The existence of pressure groups is to checkmate and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of people in the society. Also, to treat the gaps in the democratic process, to inform debates among ourselves, to encourage participations and to enhance good accountability in our daily society. However, while pressure groups are acknowledged as potentially beneficial to a democratic society, problems can rise when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. There are different types of pressure groups such as: Interest groups which are also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society, Cause groups which are also known as promotion groups which seek to promote particular causes and an example would be charities and environmental groups. Insider and outsider groups, insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and have regular access to ministers or legislators and the Nigerian bar association is one of such groups, on the other hand, outside groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact and an example of such groups is the Animal

liberation front which argues for the rights for animals, Earth liberation front which argues the rights for earth exploitation and destruction.

Pressure groups have different functions such as the link the government to the people, they promote participation in the government, they serve as sources of information to government, they curtail doctrinal tendencies, they promote the interest of the minority, they influence legislation etc.