NAME: OJO OLUWADUNSIN HECARES.

DEPARTMENT: LAW.

MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/185.

COURSE CODE: GST203.

COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

ASSIGNMENT: 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.

This chapter is titled “An Overview of the idea of pressure group” and it was written by Maito S. Ajibowu-Yekini. It starts with a quick examination of the word “pressure” or what it means to mount pressure. A pressure group is referred to as “the functional representative”. Pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions like NBA, which represents Lawyers and Solicitors and NMA which represents Doctors. Anifowose describes as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. It influences public policy and administration. Examples of pressure groups are ASUU, NLC.

The different between pressure groups and political parties is highlighted. The differences between them is that pressure groups aim to influence political decisions while political parties aim at gaining control of government powers. Also, political parties are accountable for their actions while pressure group serve as a checkmate for the government to prevent tyranny in the society by the people in power. Pressure groups mainly cater for the needs of their members and this ends up affecting the larger part of the society in cases like strike

There are different types of pressure groups. The interest group which are also seen sectional groups represents the people in the society like trade units, the cause groups “promotion groups” that promotes particular causes and champions social movements for example Amnesty International that campaigns for human rights abuse. There are also insider and outsider groups, insider groups being the one that is regularly consulted by the government like the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and outsider groups being the ones that have no link to the government and its machineries like the Animal Liberation Front which champions the rights for animals. These groups change from time to time based on the party or government in power.

The Anomic groups are the groups not guided by any appropriate behaviour or style and can be violent. They employ tactics like protesting and rioting. The last type explained is the Associational and Non-associational groups, associational groups being the one with formal organisation while the non-associational being the one without formal organisation.

Pressure groups perform several functions as highlighted and explained in this chapter like serving as link between the people and the government, promoting public participation in government by engaging in pressure groups activities, serves as an information source to the government on aspect of issues, preventing dictatorship by criticizing government policies with its tendency and promoting the interest of the minority and acting as a watchdog on the government. They also influence the government to make policies that are beneficial to the citizens.

Pressure groups use different strategies to achieve their goals like lobbying, media advocacy and protests. From these we can be able to understand pressure groups, what it entails and through its functions have an idea of its importance in governments.