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QUESTION: IN ABOUT 2 PAGR REVIEW CHAPTER 15, “AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP”, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, PAGES 194-200

To amount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. This makes a 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 and that of its members. The idea is that various pressure group represent different sector of the society based on their function and this is usually done through their occupation or profession. For example, the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) represent the Lawyers and Solicitors, while Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) represent doctor’s interest, Also the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) represent the interest of academics and condition of learning in Nigerian univversities, Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress representing the Yoruba tribe, Arewa People’s Congress representing the Hausa tribe, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) representing the Christians, Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) representing the workers. According to Anifowose (1999), pressure group is described as “interest group, lobby group or even protest groups”. These groups influence both public policy, administration, and even go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. These groups could be religious, business-like, educational, ethnic-oriented, gender-sensitive, economic or social and so forth.

* Interest Group: This group is also seen as sectional groups, representing the people in the society. For example, the trade unit for instance, Convention on Business Integration (CBI) known as the voice of business in Nigeria.
* Cause Groups: These groups are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes. Any group that champions social movement is also seen as “cause group” even though the group lacks formal structure. For example, charities and environmental groups and so forth.
* Insider Groups and Outsider Groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. The Nigeria Bar Association is an example of such group, While outsider group on the other hand, has no access or link to the government and its machineries and have to use other ways to have impact. For example, Animal Liberation Front.
* Anomic Groups: These groups have unpredictable actions and behaviour as they work based on the moments and situation in the society. For example, protest, rioting, strikes and some revolution through which they mount pressure.
* Association groups and Non-Association groups: Association groups are usually registed with appropriate authorities in a state or country. On the other hand, non-association group are pressure group without a formal organization.

functions of pressure groups which include;

* It serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs
* It promotes public participation in the activities of government of the day
* It serves as sources of information to government. Pressure group interaction offers the government valuable information on aspect of issues they may not even be aware of.
* The activities of pressure groups ensures that government do not perpetuate themselves in power thereby drifting into a dictatorship.
* It promotes the interest of the minority. It champion the right of the under-privileged, especially promotional pressure group.
* It influences legislation. They serve as instruments in the mounting of pressure on government so that it can implement policies that are to the benefit of the citizens.