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| DEPARTMENT: | MEDICINE AND SURGERY |
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| COLLEGE: | MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES |
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| COURSE: | GST 203(GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS) |
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| ASSIGNMENT | Summarize chapter 15 of Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics. |
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OVERVIEW.

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce a person into doing something. Pressure groups are an association or group of people with common aims or interests who try to achieve their aims or interests by influencing the government. It is summarily an organized group of people coming together to influence government policy. They fight for the best interest of their members or the citizens of a state. They can be referred to as *the functional representative* and this is based on the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions.

Anifowose (1999) defines pressure group as interest groups, lobby groups or even protest groups. They aim to achieve and ensure that the government does its biddings.

Differences between political parties and pressure groups.

1. Political parties seek to gain government power while pressure groups aim to influence political decisions.
2. Political parties account for their actions while pressure groups do not account for their actions.
3. Political parties are more formally organized while pressure groups not always organised.

Similarities between political parties and pressure groups.

1. They relate together to achieve certain social changes.
2. Pressure groups may align their interest with that of certain political parties that are believed to possess the ability or capability to further their interests.

FUNCTIONS.

Pressure groups exist to checkmate and make democracy better. They also compensate for the tyranny of the majority of people in the society and they also treat gaps in the democratic process. They enhance good accountability in our daily society.

Pressure groups serves as a link between the government of the day and the people it governs. They promote public participation in the activities of the government of the day. They serve as sources of information to the government and curtail any dictatorial tendency the government may have.

TYPES.

1. Associational groups: they are constitutionally controlled as they have laws within their associations. They are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country and they have formal organisation. E.g. labour unions.
2. Non-associational groups: they are without a formal organisation. Their arrangement and gathering are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, race afflictions. E.g. Ethnic groups, linguistic groups, ethnic class.
3. Anomic groups: they are formed spontaneously and originate from certain events. They have no history or leader. This kind of pressure group expresses their dissatisfaction naturally with their smoky accusations towards the government while also creating pressure on the country’s political system through protests, riots, assassination. Their actions are unpredictable.
4. Institutional groups: these pressure groups are made up of professionals. These are people who are intellectuals in the same field. E.g. Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Medical Association, etc.
5. Cause groups: They seek to promote particular causes. These are promotion groups which seek to promote particular interests that they see as important. E.g. Amnesty International, charity groups, environmental group.
6. Insider groups and outside groups: Insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and they have access to ministers or legislators. Outsider groups have no access or links to the government and its machineries. They have to use other ways to have impact.

Techniques used by pressure groups to accomplish their goals.

Lobbying is the first technique used by pressure groups in which they influence the inner actions of the government bodies to execute their policies. It involves all attempts to influence legislators and officials. Striking involves workers or groups coming together, staying away from work and protesting until their needs are met.