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LIMITS OF CONTEMPORARY (1) (AN APPLICATION OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP)

Pressure group can be defined as a formal or organized body with a common objective which fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. It is aimed at promoting its interests regarding the state, its desire to influence government decisions and policies. These pressure groups are known as the functional representation and they represent different interests, the activities based on their objectives and this is usually achieved through their occupation or profession. Examples of pressure groups include; the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) for lawyers and doctors, Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) represents the doctor's interests.

This chapter explains that pressure groups and political parties sometimes appear similar, but they are different from each other. Pressure groups do not seek to gain power like the political parties but they rather influence political decisions. Political parties have a wide range of policies than while pressure groups spread their goals political parties are usually accountable for their actions while pressure groups are not. The above differences will refer to the fact that though the pressure group and political parties have their differences, they also have some things that are in common. They relate positively together in order to make certain social changes. The existence of pressure groups is to strengthen and make democracy better, to compensate for the tyranny of majority of public in the society, to bring life within the democratic process and to encourage and

enhance good accountability in our daily society. Pressure groups have some demands although they have their Supreme. For example when some professional bodies go to strike citizens suffer and government might be incapacitated due to shortage of funds to meet the requirements of them. Another example when the ASUU and NTA go on strike, they hold other shareholders to ransom and insist that the government accommodate their requests.

The author took his time to explain five types of pressure groups. The Interest groups are seen as traditional groups representing the people in the society, example the ILO. The cause groups are groups which aim to promote a particular or a range of causes and groups that champion social welfare. It also seen as large group even though the group has a formal structure. Insider groups and outsider groups are regularly consulted by government. They have access to ministers or legislators. The Nigerian Bar Association is an example of such group. Insider groups have built up profitable relations and behaviour as they were based on the norms and traditions in the society. Associational groups and Non-associational groups; associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or county while for-associational groups are pressure groups without a formal registration.

The pressure groups perform different functions like to limit the government of the day and the people it governs. It promote public participation in the activities of government, they act as sources of information to the government, they ensure that the government in power do not drift into a dictatorship, they protect the interest of the minority, they monitor progress of the government so that they implement policies and benefits the citizens. Pressure groups adopt different strategies to achieve their goals, including lobbying. Some pressure groups have more influence than others and this depends on their ability to be organized.