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**ASSINGMENT:** **SUMMARIZE CHAPTER 15 IN TWO PAGES**

TOPIC: AN OVERVIEW ON THE IDEA OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT

Talking about putting pressure or mounting pressure, this has to do with persuading someone or a person into a doing something that the person doesn’t want to do initially. A pressure group is a formal or organized body with a common interest whose aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing government policies and laws to its own advantage. The pressure group is referred to as “THE FUNCTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE”. This has to do with the fact that various pressure groups represents different sectors of the society based on their importance. In 1999, Anifowose described pressure group as interest groups ,lobby groups or even protest groups. In addition to this, pressure groups influence both the public policy, administration and also go a long way to determine political structures of the society and forms of government. Pressure groups can either be religious, business like, educational or social among others.

Pressure groups and political parties activities may sometimes appear but they are different from each other. The first difference is that that the political parties seek to gain government powers while on the other hand, pressure groups do not seek to gain power. The second one is that political parties have wide range of policies, while pressure groups narrow their goals. The third is that pressure groups are not accountable for their actions while political parties are.

Moreover, in the democratic process, there is a need for compromise in order to reach consensus regarding the common good. While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in nation, there is some downside. Sometimes, due to their own selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decisions while not considering the governments limited natural resources.

There are different types of pressure groups

Interest groups are sectional groups representing the people in the society.eg trade units

Cause groups are promotion groups which seem to promote particular causes. For example, we have the charities and environmental groups

Insider groups and outsider groups are regularly consulted by the government. They have regular access to ministers or legislators. A typical example is the Nigerian Bar Association. However an insider group might be low or high in profile, nevertheless they intend to have influence on governments mission and visions.

Anomic groups have unpredictable actions and behavior as they work based on the moment and situation in the society and sometimes act violently.

Associational groups and non associational groups, associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state or a country. They have their own registered offices, constitutions and so on. While non associational groups are groups without formal organization. Their arrangement and gathering is are by virtue of kinship or even family attachment, social traditions, tribal or even race afflictions, just to mention a few.

There are various functions of pressure groups

Pressure groups links government to the people, they stay up to date on relevant information and are able to sensitise the people on such matter and at the same time relate to the government on the opinions of people.

Promotes participation in government mostly in their activities of the day. Some pressure groups engage in demonstrations and other measures to put their views across the government

They serve as sources of information to the government, as the pressure group lobby government on various fronts , the interaction offers the government valuable information on aspects of issues they may not even know about .

It helps in promotion of the interest of the minority

It helps in influencing legislation

It helps in pressure groups lobbying.