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REVIEW ON CHAPTER 2 AND 15 IN THE “SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS”

CHAPTER 15

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

Pressure groups arean interest group organized to influence public and especially government policy but not to elect candidates to office.

Unlike political parties, pressure groups are not interested in direct governance or in contesting elections. They may however support particular candidates or parties they regard as supportive of their cause. The Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Union of Teachers, and Market Women Associations are examples of pressure groups in Nigeria.

**Types of Pressure Groups**

1. Economic pressure groups:

These pressure groups focus on the economic wellbeing of their members. They comprise mostly producers and manufacturers.

2. Professional or occupational pressure groups:

These are pressure groups embracing workers of the same occupation or profession who try to protect their work or professional interests.

3. Religious pressure groups:

These are pressure groups of people that belong to the same religion and wish to influence government decisions in favor of their belief or members.

4. Promotional/cause groups:

These are pressure groups that promote some causes which may not directly benefit their members.

5. Anomic pressure groups:

These are interest groups that use violence, demonstrations, arson, assassination, strikes and the like in expressing their aims and objectives. They are mob groups, not well organized but may be interested in some common goals. Street demonstrators and student riot groups are examples.

Some characteristics of pressure groups are that; they exist to protect the common interest of members and not to take over governance as political parties do. They carry out their activities depending on contributions from members through levies, donations, and dues including support from other sources who appreciate their cause. They are well organized. pressure groups rarely recruit members, So, their membership is limited by profession, location, religion or other common interests. A pressure group should also understand the political environment in which it works.