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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 15 OF “SALIENT ISSUES IN
GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS”**

To mount pressure is to persuade someone or coerce the 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. A pressure group promotes its interest regarding an issue; it seeks to influence government policies and decisions. For example, the Nigerian Bar Association represents the lawyers and solicitors, while Nigerian Medical Association represents doctors’ interests. There is also the Academic Staff Union of Universities which champions the interest of academics and conditions of learning in Nigeria universities. Some other examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are: Afenifere, Oodua People’s Congress (representing the Yoruba tribe), the Arewa Consultative Forum, Arewa People’s Congress. (Representing the Hausa tribe), Christain Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nigeria Labor Congress, etc.

While pressure groups have their importance place in the scheme of things in a nation, there is some downside. Sometimes due to their selfish interest, pressure is mounted to alter the direction of give decisions, while not considering government’s limited resources.

There are various types of pressure groups. There are the Interest groups which are representing the people in the society. The Cause groups which seek to promote particular causes. The Insider and Outsider groups, the insider groups are regularly consulted by the government and they regulate access to ministers or legislators while the outsider groups have no access or links to government and its machineries. The Anomic groups are the groups that work based on the moment or situation in the society. The associational and non associated groups are the groups registered with appropriate authorities in a state or country.

The functions of the pressure groups are they are the link between the government and the people. They promote participation in government. They serve as sources of information to government. They help in curtailing dictatorial tendencies. They promote the interest of the minority. They influence legislation.

Pressure groups may adopt a variety of strategies to achieve their goals including lobbying elected officials, media advocacy and direct political action. Clearly, some pressure groups exert more influence than others. The degree to which such groups are able to achieve their goals may depend on their ability to be recognized as legitimate by their population, media and by those in power. For example, civil rights groups, trade unions and professional associations are more widely recognized and accepted than newly formed pressure groups or single issued pressure groups.