Chapter 7,

Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties are the essential feature of politics, in the liberal-democratic systems, the help to keep governments accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government, the help the government maintain its hold on power. DICKERSON AND FLANAGAN said that political parties are an important link between the government and people. In the political process of a given political system, the party is an essential political agency. politicians developed the idea of political parties at that time as a device to help themselves and liked- minded men be elected,but some parties had other reasonable use as well and went out to become and independent and a feature in the aspect of politics. The first modern electoral democracy was the united states of America and it was there thatg the first practice developed. By 1820, well organized parties, democratic parties, which can trace its roots back in tym is the oldest party in the world. In Britain, 1867, their was a wide spread of extension in the world.political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalists consciousness and sentiments and nationalists movements in the 1920. According to R.G Gettol, political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who by aim use its power in controlling the government and also carrying out its general politics. Herman finer on his part defined political party as an organized body with voluntary membership and its energy being employed in pursuit of political power. Joseph defined political party as a formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is tro place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition. Well there so many definitions of political party here is mine, political party is a group of people with the same idea,points and views, with the sole aim of controlling the governments, inviting the points of citizens and still wanting to exercise political power.

Characteristics of a political party

The main feature of a political parties;

1. Is to capture governmental power through constitutional means. Capturing such power in the presence of violence and war would not be allowed. It is ought to be captured with peace and lawful understanding. 2.the always have broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as political ideology. 3. It must be nationa minded, in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation. 4. It should be an organized body because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure. 5. The must have party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after wining an election.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Elitist/ cadre parties: the boast of people who are intellectuals like doctors, lawyers etc the only input members who have highest social hierarchy in the country.

Mass parties: the draw their memebership from all sections of society. E.g labour party, workers party etc

Ideological party: the are formed with political ideology which form the bases of the party.

Broker party: this parties membership is gotten from the upper and lower part of the society inorder to resolve the conflicting topic between the poor and the rich. Charismatic party: this parties membership is gotten from the charismatic people of the society, people who are given full respect due to their good and upright qualities. Functions of a political party: political mobilization and recruitment, political education, political representation, political stability, organization of government, goal formation, etc. political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalists consciousness and sentiments, and nationalists movements. The national congress of British west Africa territories was formed in 1920 and lagos youth movement in 1934. Herbert Macaulay , H.O. Davies , Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikwe , Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria, were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920s.

Early political parties; the Nigerian national development party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation NNDP in 1923 and it was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism.e.t.c

Political parties in Nigeria :1950-1966 are, AG( action group), NPC(national peoples congress). The action group emerged from the egbe omo oduduwa, there main aim was to capture leadership and give political power in the western region. Then the NPC emerged from the jan’iyya mutariein arewa and there main aim was combating ignorance, idlenesss and injustice in the northern region and control of the government in the north. There were also smaller parties that include NEPU, UMBC, and NCNC.

Here are some of the problems that confronted pre-independence political parties. The are; the political parties were without national oulook. The had regional support and ethnic loyalty. The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues. Intra- party and inter- party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions.political party detection weakened or led to the collapse of political during this era.

Here are list of political parties present in the second republic in Nigeria, the are; NPP(the Nigerian peoples party), NPN( the national party of Nigeria), GNPP(the great Nigeria peoples party), PRP( the peoples redemption party), UPN( the unity party of Nigeria).

Political parties of the third republic, the two party system that was present was SDP(the social democratic party), NRC( the national republican convention) and NRC( the national republican convention).lastly, the political parties in the fourth republic, ANRP, AA, ADP, APP, AAP, ACD, ANDP, APDA, AAC, ADC, APA, ABP, AGAP( ALL GRAND ALLIANCE PARTY), AGA, APC(ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS), APGA( all progressive grand alliance), CAP( CHANGE ADVOCACY PARTY0, AUN( alliance for united Nigeria),FJP( freedom and justice party), PDP( PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY), ZLP( ZENITH LABOUR PARTY), YDP, UP, PPP, PDC(people for democratic change) and so many others, etc.

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