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Political Parties of Nigeria

Political parties are essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. They are an important link between government and the people. The political party is an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. The first modern electoral democracy was the united states of America, and it was here that the first parties developed political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist movements in the 1920s.

Different people had their idea on what political parties are, some are; an organized body with voluntary membership; a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause it joins people together in a formally organized structure. Some characteristics of political parties are;

1. To capture governmental power through constitutional means
2. It must be national-minded
3. They have party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections

We have different political parties which are Cadre parties, mass parties, ideological party, broker party and some functions are:

1. Political education
2. Interest aggregation
3. Political stability
4. Organization of government

Political parties in Nigeria

It developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiment and nationalist movement. The national congress of British west Africa territories was formed in 1920. Due to all this we have three chifford, Richard and macphersons constitution.

Early political parties

The Nigerian national development party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. Their Nigerian youth movement (NYM) which was formed 1934, national council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944. Between year 1950 and 1951 two major political parties emerged which an Action Group (AG) and the Northern people's congress (NPC)

Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties

- The political parties were without national outlook
- Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Political parties in the second republic of Nigeria

The ban on politics was lifted on September, 1978, following that about 53 political association sought to the contest the 1979 general election of these association were registered by the federal electoral commission: NPP, NPN, GNPP, PRP, UPN.

In the third Republic, Nigeria had a constitutional two party system, and the parties SDP (Social Democratic Party) and (NRC) national republic convention. Then three parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic on 1998 and they are Alliance for Democracy (AD), all peoples party (APP) which changed its name to (ANPP) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

There is a need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and endangering the development of the Nigeria.