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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7;POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.**

In the modern age, an essential feature of mass participation is political parties and it is also an important link between government and the people. There are various definitions of political parties whereby one of it is that it is seen as a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as political unit and who by the use of political aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies according to R.G. Gettel and another is Herman Finer, defining political party as an organised body with voluntary membership, it’s concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power and many other definitions by various political thinkers.

Furthermore, political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections. Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government, it should also be an organised body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organisational structure. All of these listed above are characteristics of political parties. There are also various types of political parties which include Elitist/Cadre parties, which is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country; Mass parties which draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership; Ideological party which is formed with political benefits which form the bases of the party; Broker party which is formed with its membership drawn from upper and lower classes of society and charismatic party which is formed by individuals with charisma.

Some of the functions of political party include political mobilisation and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, organisation of government and many others. Following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements, political parties in Nigeria developed. The nationalists agitators formed groups and associations to organise against colonial misrule. The early political party that was formed in Nigeria was the Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP). It was formed mainly by its leaders and its political activities and campaigns were aided by a Newspaper called Lagos Daily News launched in 1925. Some problems that confronted Pre- Independence Political parties include;

* The political parties were without national outlook.
* They placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues.
* Political party defection led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Since the inception of the Fourth Republic, various political parties have been registered under INEC and they include; Allied Congress Party of Nigeria (ACPN), All Progressive Congress (APC), National Interest Party(NIP), People’s Democratic Party (PDP), etc. In conclusion, Nigeria’s political parties face some challenges as a result of high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Moreover, the aim of most Nigerian parties has been the development of a national system for sharing out the national cake as a system of patronage and therefore there is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of Nigeria.