

**NAME: OGUNFOWOKAN IFEOLUWAPO MODUPEOLUWA**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS01/298**

## **REVIEW OF CHAPTER SEVEN: POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal-democratic systems, they help to keep governments accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold on power.

### **Conceptual Clarification of the Idea of Political Party**

There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G. Gettel, 'political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies.' Edmund Burke defines political party as a body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavours the national interests upon some particular principle in which they are all agreed (Burke 1975).

### **Characteristics of Political Party**

- 1.** The major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means. But capturing power by some violent or unlawful means cannot be allowed in the arena of the political parties. The means of capturing such powers must also be peaceful and lawful.
- 2.** Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
- 3.** Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.
- 4.** Political party should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure. Such an organization is more necessary to establish rapport with the masses.
- 5.** Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology

### **Types of Political Parties**

**Elitist/ Cadre Parties:** This is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.

**Mass Parties:** This is political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.

### **Ideological Party**

### **Broker Party**

## **Functions of Political Party**

Includes: Political mobilization and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, goal formation amongst others

## **Political Parties in Nigeria**

The fulcrum for the emergence of political parties formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided for four elective seats in the legislative council, while the Richards constitution of 1946 retained four elective seats and established regional assemblies. The Macpherson's constitution established regional executive council, and provided for a system of indirect elections to the much largely Nigerian Legislative houses.

### **Early Political Parties 1920-1950**

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The Clifford Constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay. The Nigerian Youth Movement was formed in 1934 by Ernest Ikoli.

### **Political Parties 1950- 1966**

Action Group (AG) and Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) were formed

Some of the problems that confronted these political parties were that they were without national outlook, placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, amongst others.

### **Political Parties in The Second Republic In Nigeria**

53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these associations were registered by the Federal Electoral Commission. Among these were National Party of Nigeria (NPN), Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP)

### **Political Parties in The Third Republic In Nigeria**

For the first time, Nigeria had a constitutional two party system which were set up by the military government. The two parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC).

### **Political Parties in The Fourth Republic In Nigeria**

Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the Fourth Republic in 1998 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. They are Alliance for Democracy(AD), All Peoples Party (APP) and the Peoples Democratic Party(PDP).

Since the inception of the Fourth Republic, however, other political parties have been registered by INEC. So, Nigeria now has ninety political parties.

