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ASSIGNMENT: DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW ON CHAPTER 7 “POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA”

INTRODUCTION

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation, i.e., it serves as an important link between the 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 State of America, and it was here for the first parties developed. In 1820’s was well-organized parties followed by the Democratic party. In 1867 it extended to Britain. Similarly, all over to Europe. Political party in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist’s movement in 1920’s.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION ON THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY; A political party performs so may tasks in the political process that it is difficult to establish a single definition. According to Herman Finer, political party “is an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of Political Power. Dowse and Hughes (1972) see political parties as associations formally organized with the explicit and declare purpose of acquiring and maintaining legal control, either single or in coalition with other similar associations, over the personnel and policy of the government of an actual or prospective state.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTIES; The central feature of political part is to capture governmental power through constitutional means, every political party must be national-minded, Political parties always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as part ideology, Political parties have manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections. etc.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES; -Elitist/Cadre Party - Mass Party – Ideology Party – Broker Party – Charismatic or Personality Party

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY; Political mobilization and recruitment, Political education, Political representation, Interest aggregation, Political stability and Organization of government

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA: The fulcrum for the emergence of parties’ formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party formed in Nigeria, this party was formed due to the Clifford constitution provided for four elective seats in its legislative council, it was led by Herbert Macaulay who was regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) formed in 1934 by group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli and two others. The National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) formed in 1944, later renamed the National Convention of Nigerian Citizen in 1960 when some parts of Cameroon broke away from Nigeria. This party campaigned against the Richards constitution of 1946, between 1946-1948. Two parties emerged between 1950-1951; Action Group emerged from Egbe Omo Oduduwa and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC) emerged from Jam’iyya Mutanein Arewa. Other smaller parties include; NEPU in 1950, UMBC in 1955 also UNIP. Political parties before independence in Nigeria were without national look, the Political parties placed so much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, Political parties defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Political Parties in Second Republic in Nigeria; the ban on politics was lifted in September 1978, following that, about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. The Unity Party of Nigeria has its main support from the Yorubaland, while the Nigerian People’s Party has its main support from the Igboland, the Great Nigeria People’s Party support from the Kanuri.

Political Parties in the Third Republic Nigeria; General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated a constitution of the two political parties; the Social Democratic Party approved by the armed forces ruling council Chief Tony Anenih and National Republican Convention approved by Chief Tom Ikimi.

Political Parties in the Fourth Republic; three parties were registered by the INEC in 1998 they include; the AD, APP, and PDP. Since the inception of the fourth Republic other political parties have been registered by the INEC these include; Action Democratic Party, African Action Congress, All Progressives Congress, Young Progressive Party, United People’s Congress, Peoples Progressive Party etc.

Conclusion; Nigeria’s political parties face some challenges because there is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Moreover, the aim of political project of most Nigerian parties as been the development of a national system for sharing out the “national cake” as a system of patronage.