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2 page summary of chapter 7 from 'salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics'

### Political parties

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in modern age participation. According to R.G Gettel a political party is a group of citizens more or less organized who act as a political unit and are carrying out its general policies. Herman Finer defined political party as an organized body with voluntary membership. Its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power. A political party is a group of officials or soon to be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization.

### Characteristics of a Political Party

1. The major feature of a political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Political party have broad principles known as a party ideology by which they are recognized
3. Every Political party must be national minded. In the aims and the mission of the party the affairs of the nation must be included
4. Political parties must have manifestos which they are guided by after they win elections
5. Political parties have a party constitution which their members are guided by.

### Types of political party

1. Elitist parties: These are political parties that draw their members from the higher class citizens in the country. The rich elites.
2. Mass parties: These political parties draw their members from all sections of the nation and they have large and wide memberships
3. Ideological Party: These parties are formed with political ideologies or benefits which form the basis of the party

4. Broker parties: These are political parties that draw their members from both the rich and poor part of the nation, the main aim here is to find a common ground that works for both the rich and poor and to empower the poor as well
5. Charismatic Party: This is a party with a charismatic leader.

#### Functions of political parties

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political aggregation
4. Political representation
5. Political stability

#### Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties were developed in Nigeria as a result of national consciousness and sentiments a group of national agitators came together to form groups such as National Congress of British West African Countries in 1920. Lagos youth movement by Herbert Macaulay and some notable Nigerians to organize against the colonial misrule and the British constitutions.

#### Early political parties in Nigeria

The NNDP (Nigerian National Development Party) was the first political party formed in Nigeria in 1923 as a result of the elective in the Clifford Constitution. It was headed by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. Other early political parties include NYM (Nigerian Youth Movement) formed by Ernest Ikoli and some other youths in 1938 other parties include NCNC (National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon) formed in 1944 it was later renamed as National Convention of Nigerian Citizens in 1960 after Cameroon broke away. It was the first party to seek total independence for Nigeria and its heads were Nnamdi Azikiwe and Herbert Macaulay.

#### Problems of political parties in pre independence Nigeria

1. Political parties were without an outlook

2. They placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues
3. They were many inter party and intra party conflicts

#### Political parties in the first and second republic

Between 1950 and 1951 two major political parties emerged the Action Group (AG) and Northern People's Congress (NPC) which were formed by Egbe Omo Oduduwa a Yoruba group and Mutanein Arewa respectively.

The emergence of the multi-party system brought about many other smaller political parties such as UNBC, NEPU, UNIP. The ban was lifted in 1978 which brought about 53 political parties which include NPP, NPN, GNPP, UPN, NAP. Notable parties include NPN and their main aim was provision of food shelter etc. and the Unity party which was an offshoot of the AG in the Yorubaland.

#### Political parties in the third and fourth republic

General Ibrahim Babangida brought the transition to civil rule which saw Nigeria operating the two party system for the first time ever. The two parties were SDP social democratic party and NRC National Republican Convention. The SDP was headed by Chief Tony Anenih and the NRC was headed by Chief Tom Ikimi.

Three political parties were registered by INEC in 1998 in preparation for the fourth republic which were Alliance for Democracy (AD) National People's Party (NPP) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) there are more than 93 registered political parties in Nigeria