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ASSIGNMENT:REVIEW CHAPTER SEVEN[POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA]

In this chapter,it has been explained that political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation.In liberal-democratic systems;they help to keep government accountable to public opinions,even in autocratic system of government,they help the government maintain its hold on power.In either case,political parties are important link between government and the people.In the political process of a given political system,the party is an essential political agency.

The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America,and it was here that the first parties developed.Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists movements in 1920s.

There are as many definitons of political partiesas 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 power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies.’According to Agbaje’a political party is a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause,which is essentially the pursuit,capture and retention,for as long as democratically feasible,of government and its offices.Finally,a party joins people together in a formally organized structure.From the above opinions,we infer that a political party is a group of citizens,more or less organized,having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1.To capture governmental power through constitutional means.

2.Political parties always have a principle of broad policy adopted by its organization,which is referred to as party ideology.

3.Every political party must be national-minded.i.e. in aims and functions,it must take into consideration the interest of the nation.

4.Political parties must be an organized body.

5.Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conducts during and after winning elections.

6.Political parties are guided by party constitutions which direct the conduct of the party officials and members within and outside government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1.Elitist/Cadre Parties:This ias a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.The party boasts of members who are intellectuals like doctors,lawyers,lecturers,business tycoon,traditional rulers.

2.Mass Parties:Here,political parties draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.

3.Ideological Party:This is a politiacal party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

4.Broker Party:This is a political party formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.

5.Charismatic/Personality Party:This is a political party formed or led by individuals with charisma.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1.Political Mobilisation and recruitment.

2.Political Education.

3.Political Representation.

4.Interest Aggregation.

5.Political Stability.

6.Conflict Management and Political Integration.

7.Organisation of Government.

8.Goal Formation.

Political Parties:The Nigerian National Development Party[NNDP]was regarded as the first political party that was formed in an Nigeria.The National Youth Movement[NYM] followed,then the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon[NCNC].Later on,other political parties like Advanced Allied Parties[aap],African Democratic Congress[ADC],All Progressive Congress[APC],People’s Democratic Party[PDP],United Patriots[UP] came up.