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**PHARMACY**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

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.in the political process of a given political system, the party is an essential political agency .the political party crops up in all aspects of politics. The first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America , Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal democratic and it was here that the first parties developed by the 1820 ,there were well organized parties, and the democratic party, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political party in the world.

**CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY**

There are so many definition of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G Gettel, political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who acts as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies. A political party is a group of officials or would be 0fficials who are linked with a stable group of citizens into an organization. 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**

The major or central feature of political party is to ensure governmental power through constitutional means. Political power always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by organization, which is referred to as party ideology. Political party should be an organized body ,because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure. Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conducts 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.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

Elitist parties: This is a political party that draws its membership from its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The party boosts of members who are intellectuals like doctors ,lawyers, or people who are business tycoons.

Mass parties: this is a political party formed with its membership drawn from upper and lower classes of the society. The basic aim of this type of political party is to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all

Ideological parties; this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party

Broker party: this is the political party formed with its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.

Functions of political party

Political education

*Political stability*

*Political mobilization*

*Political representation*

***Political aggregation***

*Goal formation*

*Electoral competition*

*Conflict management*

*Organization of government*

***POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA***

*Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements . the fulcrum of the emergence of parties formation in Nigeria was constitutional development . the Macphrerson constitution established regional assemblies .*

***EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES***

*The Nigeria national development party was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria . The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. It was led by Herbert macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism . the party was exclusively based in lagos and had no national colouration . it won all the three seats allocated to lagos in the legislative council in the elections of 1923,1928 and 1933. The partry was formed by its leader. In conclusion, Nigeria political parties face some challenges . there I s an* extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business.