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Chapter 7

Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political party can be defined in so many ways and by so many great scholars but the ones that caught my eyes were the ones of “ Herman Finer” he defined political party as an organized body with voluntary members, it’s concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power”. And the one of Agbaje(1999) he defined it as a group of persons bonded in policy and opinions in support of a general cause which essentially is the pursuit capture and retention (in other words “ in order to achieve some political goals) for as long as democratically feasible of government and its offenses.

Characteristics of political party

1. Political parties has manifestos which guides their conduct during and after winning elections.

2. The major characteristics of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means and so on.

Types of political party

1. Elistist/ cadre party: draws its membership from the highest hierarchy in the country e.g lawyers, business tycoons etc.

2. Mass party: from the society and they have wide memberships.

3. Ideology party.

4. Broker party: formed from the upper and lower classes of the society.

5. Charismatic: led by individuals with charisma.

Functions of political party

1. Political Education

2. Political stability

3. Political aggregation

4. Political representation

5. Goal formation

Political parties in Nigeria

NNDP - The Nigerian National development - This was the first political party in Nigeria to be established.

NYM- The Nigerian Youth movement- 1934 led by Ernest okoli.

NCNC - The National council of Nigerian and Cameroon .- 1960 it was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence. And so on.