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ASSIGNMENT: DO A 2 PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 & 8 IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS

CHAPTER 7: POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are important segments of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Like the liberalist-democratic systems, they help to keep government accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government and people. A party is an essential political agency in the political agency in the political system. Politicians brought the concept of political party at that time as a means to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected, but the party seemed to have other agendas and became ubiquitous in the modern times.

The first parties were developed in the United States of America and also had the modern electoral democracy, the oldest political party can be traced to the 1820s. Britain wasn’t excluded in the development of political parties, theirs can be traced to 1867 and the widespread of the votes. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist awareness and sentiments movement in the 1920s.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY, we have numerous definitions of political parties as the political scholars. According to R.G Gettel ‘’Political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies’’. Herman Finers, also defined political party as ‘’ an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power. It is difficult to establish a single definition of political party because it performs so many tasks.

Agbaje also defined political party ‘’as a group of person bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause, which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention, for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices.

A political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are connected with a sizeable group of citizens into an organization; a chief object of this organization is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power. A political party joins people together in a formally organized structure.

In summary, 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. We numerous characteristics of political party like; to capture governmental power through constitutional means, a political party has its ideology that serves as a basis for classifying parties as either leftist, rightist, liberals, communist, labor, conservative etc, national minded in aims and functions, a political party should be organized because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure, a political party has its manifestoes which guides their conduct, and lastly political parties are guided by party constitution which directs their conduct.

We have 5 types of political parties; the Elitist/cadre, the mass party, the ideological party, the broker party and the charismatic/personality party.

The political party has its functions, like educating politically, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, government organization etc.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and their movement. The National Congress of British West Africa Territories was formed in 1920, the West African Students Union in 1925 and the Lagos Youth Movement in 1934. Herbert Macaulay, H.O Davies, Ernest Okoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria were the leaders of political activities. We had the early political parties 1920-1950, the Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the Father of Nigerian Nationalism. We also had the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C Vaughan.

Political parties in Nigeria: 1950-1966, according to Ikelegbe, 2010, two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951, likes of the Action Group (AG) and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC). These parties emerged from cultural associations.

Some problems confronted the pre-independence political parties include; not having any national outlook, emphasis were placed on personalities rather than issues, present of inter-party and intra-party conflicts.

Political Parties in the Second Republic in Nigeria; the ban on politics was lifted in September, 1978. Accompanying that about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Some of the political parties were; The Nigerian People’s Party (NPP), The Great Nigerian’s people’s party (GNPP), The People’s Redemption Party (PRP) etc.

Political Parties in the Third Republic of Nigeria; General Babangida promulgated to the civil rule decree through which two political parties where registered in accordance with the Federal Republic of Nigeria’s constitution of 1989. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC)

Political Parties in the Fourth Republic; three political parties were registered towards the Fourth Republic in 1998 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. The parties includes The Alliance for Democracy (AD), All People’s Party (APP) which in 2002 changed its names to All Nigeria People’s Party (ANPP) and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP).

Political Parties in the Fourth Republic; since the inception of the Fourth Republic, however, other political parties have been registered by INEC. So, Nigeria now has the following political parties; Accord (A), Actions People’s Party (APP), African Peoples Alliance (APA), Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Progressive Congress (APC), People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and many more.