

Muonagolu Onyinye Gloria

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Law

### **Review of Chapter 7 in salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics**

political parties are the essential features of democracy. In liberal democratic 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 either case, political parties are important link between the government and the citizens.

There are many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G Gettel, " political parties is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out the general policies."

Some of the other the characteristics of political parties are :

- Manifesto
- Ideology
- Organized structure

Types of political parties

- Elite parties
- Mass parties
- Ideology party
- Broker party etc

Functions of political parties

- Political education
- Political representation
- Interest aggregation
- Political stability
- Goal formation

The Nigerian national development party(NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principal introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. And so where many other political parties in different republics. Since the inception of the fourth republic, however other republic have been registered by INEC. So Nigeria now has the following political parties. Abundant renewal party(ANRP), Action Democratic Party (ADP), change advocacy party (CAP).

In the second republic, about 53 political parties sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these parties were registered by the federal electoral commission. These were the National party of Nigeria (NPN). The Nigerian people's party (NPP), the great Nigeria people's party, the people's redemption party (PRP) and the unity party of Nigeria (UPN) a sixth party, the Nigerian advance party (NAP) was registered to contest the 1983 election.

General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decrees to which two political parties were registered in accordance with the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, 1989. For the first time, Nigeria had a constitutional two party system. The constitutions, objectives, policies and programme of the two political parties were set up by the military government.

The two parties, the social Democratic Party (SDP) and the national republican convention (NRC), were established by the government. Political parties were elected afterward, local government and state congresses and national convention were directed by government officials.

In the definition of political parties, some types of political parties were also listed out.

- Elitist parties: this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelons of social hierarchy in a country.
- Mass parties: this is a political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.
- Ideological party: this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

