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### Government Assignment.

#### Political Parties In Nigeria.

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political parties are an important link between government and the people. It is an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters as a device to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected, but the party proved to have many other uses as well.

There are so many definitions of political parties as the political scientist. In summary, a political party is a group of citizens, more or less organised, having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means. Political parties have some characteristics including, the major feature which is to capture governmental power through constitutional means, having broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation known as party ideology. They must be national-minded and be an organised body, etc. Political parties are of different types. Various types of political parties include: elitist / cadre parties, mass parties, ideological party, broker party and charismatic or personality party. Political parties perform political education, political representation, political stability, organisation of government, goal-formation and so on as their functions.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. Herbert Macaulay, H.O. Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria; were in the forefront of political parties activities and party formation in the 1920s and thereafter. The fulcrum of the emergence of parties' formation in Nigeria was constitutional development



The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) 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 1933 which was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. In the second republic, NPN was officially launched on September 1978 in Lagos after lifting of ban on political parties by the military government. Its main goal was national unity. In the third republic, General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through 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 Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC). Three political parties were registered in preparation to inaugurate the Fourth Republic in 1998 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. They are: the Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Peoples Party (APP) which changed to All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

As things stand now, Nigerian political parties face some challenges. First, there is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Second, the regulatory framework for the establishment of parties should be changed so that new parties do not have to forge coalitions of the wealthy as a means for their registration. There is need to direct this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of Nigeria.