**NAME: EGBORO BETHEL OROWO**

**COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT: PHARMACY**

**MATRIC NO.: 19/MHS11/050**

**DATE: 17-01-2021.**

**GST 203 ASSIGNMENT**

**REVIEW OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.**

Political parties are important features of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal-democratic systems, they help keep governments accountable to public opinion. In autocratic systems, they help the government maintain its hold on power. The political party appears in all aspects of politics. It first developed in the nineteenth century due to elections having large number of voters. The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America and it was here the first parties developed. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists’ movements in the 1920s.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITION OF POLITICAL PARTY;

There are so many concepts regarding what political party is.

R.G Gettel says that “political party 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 its general policies.” Herman Finer is of the view that “political party is an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of Political Power.

There are many other opinions as to what political party is from different scholars. Political party therefore is a group of citizens, more or less organized, having agreements in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by constitutional means.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY;

* Capturing governmental power through constitutional means. That is by peaceful and lawful means. This is the major feature of political parties.
* Party Ideology, which are broad principles of public policy adopted by the political party’s organization. This party ideology may also serve as a basis for classifying parties as either leftist, rightist, liberal, etc.
* It is national-minded. It takes into consideration, the interest of the nation as its aim and function.
* It is an organized body
* Possess manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
* A party constitution they’re guided by, which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

* Eltist/Cadre Parties; this is a political party that attracts membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The party boasts of members who have high disciplines.

Other types include; mass party, ideological party, broker party, Charismatic or Personality party.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY; political mobilization and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, conflict management and political integration, organization of government, provision of alternate government and policies, electoral competition and governance, goal formation.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Constitutional development was the central point for the emergence of parties’ formation in Nigeria. The early political parties were from 1920-1950. The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party formed in Nigeria in 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of nationalism, it was based in Lagos. The next party that was formed among the early parties was the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), this was formed in 1923.

Between the periods of 1950-1966; the Action Group (AG) and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC) emerged (between 1950 and 1951). These parties emerged from cultural associations because of the prospects of the 1951 elections. The Northern Peoples’ Congress emerged from Jam’iyya Mutanein Arewa in October, 1951.

Some of the problems that Confronted Pre-Independence Political Parties are; they lacked national outlook; they placed more efforts on personalities rather than issues. Intra-party and inter-party conflicts. Political party defection led to the fall of some political parties in that era.

Many Political Parties emerged between the periods of **the second, third and fourth** **republic** in Nigeria after the ban on politics was lifted in September 1978. Five parties emerged in the second republic and the sixth, the Nigerian Advance Party (NAP) was formed and registered to contest the 1983 elections. Two parties emerged in the third republic, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republic Convention (NRC). They were established by the government. In the fourth republic (1998), three parties were formed including the well-known People’s Democratic Party (PDP). These political parties contested the 1998 and 1999 general elections.

Since the fourth republic, there are over 50 political parties that have been formed. But these parties still face some number of challenges with corruption being the major challenge. If the challenges are tackled, there will be cohesion among Nigerians therefore improving the development of our country, Nigeria.