

# CHAPTER 7

Name: Adubuisi Ozonole Laurel

Matric No: 19/MIT501/256

Course: Ast 203 (Assignment)

Dept: MBS

## Political Parties in Nigeria

Political parties are essential in the modern age. They help to keep the Democratic government accountable and even in the past they helped the autocratic government to maintain its hold on power. It is an important link between the government and the people. Political parties were developed in the nineteenth century, in response to the appearance of election with high number of voters. The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America and was where the first political parties were developed. By the 1820s there were well organized parties and Democratic parties, which's roots could be traced back to those times is the oldest party in the world. In 1867 was the first year in the Britain where there was widespread of voters. In the Europe, where ever there was a widespread of votes, political parties appeared. Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and movement in the 1920's. 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. Some characteristics of political party include: (1) The major feature of party is to capture government power through peaceful and lawful constitutional means (2) Political parties has party manifestoes. (3) Every political party must be national minded.

Types of political parties include: (1) Elitist/elite parties (2) Mass parties (3) Ideological Party (4) Broker party (5) Charismatic/personality party.

Functions of Political party includes, (i) Political education (ii) Political mobilisation & recruitment (iii) Political representation (iv) Interest aggregation etc.

Political parties developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. The National Congress of British West African Territories was formed in 1920. The West African student union in 1925 and Lagos Youth Movement in 1934. Precursors of the political parties include; Herbert Macaulay, H.D Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Olufermi Awolowo etc. The pre-condition for the emergence of parties' formation was constitutional development. The first political party formed



In Nigeria was the Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) which was formed in 1925. The elective principle introduced by the constitution of 1992 gave rise to this formation. It was led by Herbert Macaulay (referred to as the father of Nigerian nationalism). The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinjaye & Dr J.C. Vaughan. Its charter was published in 1938. The National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC), 1944. It was later renamed National Convention of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC), 1944. It was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria and was led by Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe. Two major political parties emerged between 1945 and 1951. The Action Group (AG) and the Northern People's Congress (NPC). The action group emerged from Egbe Omo Oduduwa. AG started in 1950 and was inaugurated in 1951. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo. The NPC emerged from the Jinnah Mutanein Arewa. It was formed in 1949 by Dr B.K.K.O., M.Y. Guse, Amaju Koro and Abubakar Ibrahim. The Jinnah Mutanein Arewa constituted itself into a political party (NPC) in October, 1951. Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties include: (a) The parties were without national outlook. (b) The political parties placed more emphasis on personalities rather than issues. (c) Political party defection weakened or led to collapse of political parties. The NPN was launched in September, 1978 in Lagos after lifting of ban placed on politics by the military government. NPN was comprised of a host of social clubs, tribal unions and associations. The party won the presidential election and ruled the country for 4 1/2 years and 3 months. The Unity Party of Nigeria was an offshoot of the Action Group and its main support base was the Yoruba land. They acted as a strong opposition party that reduced the excesses of the ruling NPN. The Nigeria People's Party (NPP) reconstituted from the NCNC. Its main support was based on Igbo, and its members were Ndele members and supporters of Nnamdi Azikiwe. The Great Nigeria People's Party (GNPP) was led by Alhaji Maziun Ibrahim. Its ethnic base was Kanuri. Two parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC) were established by government. The registration of SDP was approved by the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) as its national chairman. It had its registered offices at the federal capital territory, Abuja. Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the NEE among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties.