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S.M.S

International Relations and Diplomacy

Chapter 1

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.

Characteristics of political party.

1. Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
2. The major or central feature of political party is to capture government power through constitutional means. But capturing power by some violent or unlawful means cannot be allowed in the arena of political power parties.
3. Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation, which is referred to as party ideology.

Types of political parties.

1. Elitist / Cadre parties:
2. Mass Parties
3. Ideological party
4. Broker party
5. Charismatic or personality party.

Function of political party.

1. Political mobilisation and recruitment.

- 2 Political education
- 3 Political representation
- 4 Interest aggregation
- 5 Political stability
- 6 Conflict management and political integration
- 7 Organisation of Government
- 8 Goal formation
- 9 Provision of alternative government and policies
- 10 Electoral competition and governance.

Political Parties in Nigeria

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements.

According to Helegbe, nationalists agitators formed groups and associations, to organise against colonial misrule. Thus for this purpose, The National Congress of British West Africa Territories was formed in 1920, The West African Students Union in 1925 and the Lagos Youth Movement 1934.

Early Political Parties: 1920-1950. The Nigeria 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 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian Nationalism.

Political Parties in Nigeria 1950-1966

According to Helegbe 2010 the major political parties emerged between 1950-1966. These were the Action Group (AG) and the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC).

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International Relations and Diplomacy Chapter 8.

Citizens Role in a Democracy.

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning, that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and governments. Citizens have set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affects public welfare.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizen of the state or if he is born within the territory of that state.

Citizen's Rights

Individual's rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state, since it exists to enable them to live and develop fully.

Democracy: It has been etymology established that word democracy is derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning rule, that is "rule by the people".

Abraham Lincoln former American president perceived democracy as the government of the people and by the people and for the people.

Since there is no single definition of democracy however what can be deduce from the various definitions of democracy however, what can be deduce from all the

- Following features
- i. The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed.
 - ii. Independent and impartial judiciary.
 - iii. Existence of rule of law.
 - iv. Freedom of press.
 - v. Periodic election that is free and fair.

Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens

In a democracy

While the state provides rights and liberties to citizens, citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights, they have responsibilities. The recognition of democracy requires an investment of time and hard work. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy.

1. A citizen should be willing to pay taxes. Since without taxes to fund a democratic government there would be no democracy.
2. A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
3. A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
4. A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternative to government policies.
5. He or she must support public education in every way possible through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts through accordingly this system the respect to which should be entitled.