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A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7: **POLITICAL PARTIES IN** **NIGERIA.**

Political party can be defined as 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. It can also be defined as a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizeable group of citizens into an organization. The

main objective of political parties is to ensure that its elected officials attain power or maintain power.

These days the aim or political project of most Nigerian parties has been the development of a national system for sharing out the national cake as a system of patronage. One of the challenges of Nigeria's political parties is the extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business.

FEATURES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The main feature of political party is to attain governmental power through peaceful and lawful constitutional means.

2. It consist of a party ideology i.e a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization.
3. One of its aims and functions is to be national-minded that is it must take consideration the interest of the nation.
4. Political parties should be an organized body to establish rapport with the masses.
5. Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
6. They are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL

PARTIES

There are five types of political parties are as follows:

1. Elitist or cadre parties.
2. Mass parties
3. Ideological parties
4. Broker party
5. Charismatic or personality party.

Functions of Political Parties

- Political mobilization and recruitment
- Political education
- Political representation
- Interest aggregation
- Political stability
- Conflict management and political integration
- Organization of government
- Goal formation
- Provision of alternative

government and policies

- Electoral competition and governance.

Examples of Political parties include:

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP); The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM); The National Convention of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC); The Action Group (AG); United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC); United National Independent Party (UNIP); Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP); All Progressives Congress (APC) etc.

Most party leaders see their political party activity as a means to further their

business interests. There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of the country.