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Tourism and event management.

Social Sciences and management.

Political parties in Nigeria.

Political parties are essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation.

In liberal- democratic systems, they help to keep government accountable to public opinion.

The first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820's there were well-organised parties, the democratic party, which can trace it's roots back to that time, is the oldest political party in the world. In Britain, 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes. Similarly, all over Europe, whenever a reasonably large and varied electorate was established with the coming of democracy, the political parties appeared.

Conceptual Clarification of the idea of political party.

A political party performs so many tasks in the political process that us difficult to establish a single definition. However, Joseph La Palombra defined political party as "a formal organisation whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government."

According to Agbaje (1999), "a political party is a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause, which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention, for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices.

A political party is a group of officials or would be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organisation; a chief object of this organisation is to ensure that it's officials attain power or maintain power (Shively, 2008)

Characteristics of political party.

1. Every political party must be national-minded, i.e., in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation. A party which falls short of national character and represents only a sectarian outlook cannot be a political party.
2. Political party should be an organised body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organisational structure. Such an organisation is more necessary to establish rapport with masses.
3. Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.

4. Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

Types of political parties.

1. Elitist/Cadre parties: This is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The party boasts of members who are intellectuals like doctors, lawyers, lecturers, or people who are business tycoons, traditional rulers.
2. Mass parties: This is political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership. Mass parties takes such name as; people party, labour party, workers party, etc. and their manifestoes are aimed at alleviating the suffering of the masses.
3. Ideological party: This is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
4. Charismatic or Personality party: this is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma it revolves the personal qualities of the leader.

Functions of political party

1. Political mobilisation and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Organisation of government
6. Goal formation.
7. Political stability

Political parties in Nigeria.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiment and nationalist movements (Ikelegbe 2010). According to Ikelegbe, nationalist agitators formed groups and associations, to organise against colonial misrule. Thus for the 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 in 1934.

Early Political Parties 1920-1950

The NNDP which is Nigerian National Development Party 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. The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C. Vaughan.

The NCNC was first political party to be organised to seek total independence for Nigeria.