

Name: ANYAKORAH RAPHAEL CHINONDU

Matric No: 19/MHS11/030

Level: 200level

Department: PHARMACY

CHAPTER7: POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are essential feature of politics in the modern age participation. The political party crops up all aspects of politics, it is an intervention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. Politicians developed the idea of political party at that time as a device to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected. The first Modern electoral democracy was the United state of America, and it was here that the first parties developed.

According to R.G Gettel, "political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies". Herman Finer, on his part defined political party as "an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political powers". A political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizen into an organization. Finally a party joins people together in a formally organized structure.

Characteristics of political party include: the major or central feature of political party is to capture government power through constitutional means; political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology; every political party must be national-minded i.e in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation; political party should be an organized, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure; political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after wining elections; political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- **ELITIST/CADRE PARTIES:** this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
- **MASS PARTIES:** this is a political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.
- **IDEOLOGICAL PARTY:** this is a political party friend with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
- **BROKER PARTY:** this is political party formed with its members drawn firm upper and lower classes of the society. The aim of this political party is to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and poor.
- **CHARISMATIC OR PERSONALITY PARTY:** this is political part formed or led by individuals with charisma. It revolves around the personal and qualities of the leader.

Function of political party includes: political mobilization and recruitment; political education; political representation; interest aggregation; political stability; conflict

management and political integration; organization of government; provision of alternative government and politics; electoral competition and governance; goal formation.

Political parties in Nigeria developed the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. According to Ikelegbe, nationalist agitators formed groups and associations to organize against colonial misuse. This 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 in 1934. Herbert Macaulay, H.O Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria, were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920 and their-after. The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided for four elective seats in its legislative council while Richard constitution of 1946 retained the four elective seats and established regional assemblies. The Macpherson's constitution established regional executive councils and provided for a system of indirect election to the much largely Nigerian legislative houses.

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution in 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923 which was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as father of Nigerian Nationalism. The party was exclusively based in Lagos and had no national coloration, won all the three seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the election 1923, 1928, and 1933. The Nigeria Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli. Samuel Akinsanya and Dr Jac Vaughan. Promotion of Nigerian unity and national consciousness and achievement of complete autonomy within the British Empire were among the objectives of the NYM in its charter published in 1938. It also contested and won elections to the Nigeria Legislative council and Lagos Town council in 1938. The National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon was formed in 1944. It was later renamed true National Convention of Nigeria Citizen in 1960 when some part of Cameroon's broke out away from Nigeria.

Political parties in Nigeria 1950-1966: two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were the Action Group and the National People Congress. The parties emerged from cultural associations because of the prospects of the 1951 election following the Macpherson's constitution. The NPC emerged from the Jam'iyya Mutanein Arewa. The cultural association was formed in 1949 by Dr Dikko, M. Yahaya Gusau, Aminu Kano and Abubakar Imam. The Jam'iyya constituted itself into a political party. The Nigerian multi-party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties.

Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties: the political parties were without national outlook; the political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues; intra-party and inter-party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitter them into fractions; political party defection weakens or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

In the second republic in Nigeria, the ban on politics was lifted in September 1967 following that about 53 political association sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these associations were registered by the federal electoral commission. These were the NPN, NPP, GNPP, PRP and the UPN. A sixth party, NAP registered to contest the 1983 elections. The NPN was formerly laughed in September 1978 in Lagos i after lifting the ban on party politics by the military government. The unity party of Nigeria on its part, was an offshoot of the AG and its main support base in the Yoruba land. The third registered party

in the second republic, the NPP reincarnated from the NCNC. It's main support base was the Igbo. The Great Nigeria People's party was led by Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim. It was base in Kanuri.

In the third republic of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babagida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties were registered in accordance with constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, 1989. Thus for the first time the constitution has a two party system which were the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republic Convention (NRC). The SDP was approved by the armed forces ruling council with chief Tony Anenih as its national chairman. The NRC was approved by the armed forces ruling council with chief Tom Ikimi as its national chairman.

In the fourth republic, three political parties were registered by the INEC among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. These are Alliance for Democracy (AD), APP which in 2002 changed to ANPP and PDP. AD sponsored and contested elections throughout Nigeria during 1998 and 1999 general elections. The APP won nine gubernatorial elections. PDP has two major aims which are maintaining and preserving the integrity, unity and sovereignty.

Nigeria has the following parties since the inception of the fourth republic: AA, ADC, AGA, APC, ACPN, CNP, DPC, FJP, GDPN, ID, KP, LP, NNP, PDP, PCP, e.t.c