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**Chapter 7: POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

**Meaning of Political Party**

As per R.G Gettel, "political party is a gathering of residents pretty much coordinated, who go about as a political unit and who by the utilization of political force target controlling the public authority and completing its overall strategies". Herman Finer, on his part, characterized political party as "a coordinated body with intentional enrollment, its cemented energy being utilized chasing Political Power". Be that as it may, Joseph LaPalombara characterized political party as "a proper association whose hesitant, basic role is to put and keep up in open office individual who will control alone or in alliance, the apparatus of government". As indicated by Agbaje (1999), " an political party is a gathering of people reinforced in strategy and assessment on the side of an overall political reason, which basically is the pursuit, catch and maintenance, however long fairly possible, of government and its workplaces.

From the above opinions, we construe that an political party is a gathering of residents, pretty much coordinated, having some arrangement in wide standards of public strategy with a work to catch political force by some sacred methods.

**Attributes of Political Party**

The following are a portion of the attributes of political parties;

1. The major or focal element of political party is to catch legislative force through protected methods. The methods for catching such powers should likewise be quiet and legitimate

2. They generally have expansive standards of public arrangement embraced by its association, which is alluded to as gathering philosophy. It likewise fills in as a reason for arranging parties.

3. They host gathering manifestoes which manage their lead during and in the wake of winning decisions.

4. They should mull over the interest of the country

**Kinds of Political Parties**

1. Elitist/Cadre Parties: This is a political party that draws up participation from the most elevated echelon of social progressive system in a country.

2. Mass Parties: This is a political party that draws its participation from all areas of the general public and have wide enrollment.

3. Philosophical Party: This is a political party shaped with political philosophy or advantages which structure the bases of the gathering.

4. Specialist Party: This is a political party framed with its individuals drawn from upper and lower classes of the general public.

5. Alluring or Personality Party: This is a political party shaped or driven by people with magnetism.

Elements of Political Party are very broad but these are just the few of the elements of political party; Political activation and enlistment, Political instruction, Political portrayal, Interest conglomeration, Political soundness, organization of government, Provision of elective government and arrangements.

**Political party in Nigeria**

Political party in Nigeria created following the development of the patriot awareness and assessments, and patriot developments (Ikelegbe, 2010).

As per Ikelegbe, patriot’s instigators shaped gatherings and relationship, to sort out against provincial mismanagement. Along these lines for this reason, The National Congress of British West Africa Territories was shaped in 1920, the West African Students Union in 1925 and the Lagos Youth Movement in1934. Herbert Macaulay, H.O. Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were antecedents of political partys in Nigeria, where in the cutting edge of political exercises and gathering development during the 1920s and from that point.

The support for the rise of gatherings arrangement in Nigeria was sacred turn of events. The Clifford Constitution of 1922 gave four elective seats in its administrative gathering, while the Richards constitution of 1946 held four elective seats and set up territorial congregations. The Macpherson's constitution set up local chief committees, and accommodated an arrangement of roundabout decisions to the much generally Nigerian Legislative houses.