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**COURSE TITLE : GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203 ASSIGNMENT**

**QUESTION:** Do a two page review of chapter 7, “political parties in Nigeria” in “Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics”

CHAPTER 7

**Political** parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation, they help the government maintain its hold on power.

Many political thinkers have attempted the definition of political party;

Political parties or party can be defined according to R.G GETTEL 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 is also a group of persons organized to acquire and obtain political power in a modern society. In the nineteenth century political parties were created in response to the appearance of elections involving large number of voters.

In Britain 1867, was recorded as the first year in which there was a reasonably spread extension of votes done in Nigeria.

There have been other definitions according to other politicians and political thinkers;

Herman fisher, saw political party as an organized body with voluntary membership, with its concerted energy being employed in the concept of political power.

**The characteristics of Political party**;

- Political party has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning of election.

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

- Political party should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure. Such an organization is more necessary to establish rapport to the masses.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

- Ideological party: This is a political party formed with political ideology and benefits which form the bases of the party.

- Broker party: this is formed by its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society. This basic aim of this party is to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and the poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all.

- Charismatic party: this is a political party formed or led by the individuals with charisma, it revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY**

- Organization of Government

- Political Stability

- Interest aggregation

- Political education

- Political mobilization and recruitment

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties were formed due to the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movement. This was to although work against colonial misrule. These nationalists included; Nnamdi Azikiwe, Herbert Macaulay, and so on.

**EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES**

The first political party formed in Nigeria was the (NNDP) Nigerian National Development Party, the elective principle in the Clifford Constitution of the 1922 led its formation in 1923 and it was led by Herbert Macaulay.

Others went follow as; The Nigerian Youth Movement which was in 1934 which was led by young leaders like Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya. The first President General secretarycame from NCNC and it was known as a major party.

In the second republic after the lift of the ban in 1978, 53 political associations contested in the 1979 election and only 5 were selected and as well registered and this includes NPP, UPN NPN and so on

In the third republic, Nigeria operated a constitutional two-party system which was set up by the military government and these parties were; the (SDP) Social Democratic Party, National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and so on.

In the fourth republic, in 1998, three parties were registered then by the INEC Independent electoral commission and these parties include; Alliance for Democracy(AD), All Peoples Party (APP), people’s democratic party(PDP) etc. From thence, other political parties have then been formed as at now Nigeria currently has 99 political parties.