**Name:** Ishola, Flourish Oluwaseun

**Matric Number:** 19/Law01/126

**College:** Law

**Level:** 200

**Course Title:** Government and Political Institutions.

**CHAPTER SEVEN (7) REVIEW.**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.**

Political parties can be regarded as one of the essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation in government affairs by citizens. They are seen as a link between government and the people. The political party crops up in all aspects of politics. It is an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the 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, but the party proved to have many other uses as well and went on to become a ubiquitous feature of modern politics. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist’s movement in the 1920s. Different political thinkers have come up with different definitions to political parties:

* R.G Gettel: ‘Political party is 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.’
* Herman Finer: ‘An organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of Political Power.’
* Joseph LaPalombara: ‘A formal organization 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.’
* 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.’
* Edmund Burke: ‘A body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavors the national interests upon some particular principle in which they are all agreed.’

From the above opinions we can derive that a political party is a group of citizens, more or less organized, having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

Characteristics of political parties:

1. To capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Broad principles of public policy call party ideology.
3. They are national-minded in aims and functions.
4. Organized body.
5. Party manifestoes.
6. They are guided by a party constitution.

Types of political parties:

1. Elitist/Cadre Parties: Draws membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country like doctors, lawyers, traditional rulers etc.
2. Mass Parties: Draws membership from all aspects of the society and have wide membership.
3. Ideological Parties: Formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
4. Broker Parties: Formed with members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.
5. Charismatic or Personality Parties: Formed and led by individuals with charisma.

Functions of political parties:

1. Political mobilization
2. Political education
3. Interest aggregation
4. Political stability etc.

Early Political Parties (1920-1950): NNDP (Nigerian National Development Party) of 1923 led by Herbert Macaulay, NYM (Nigerian Youth Movement) 1934, NCNC (National Convention of Nigerian Citizen) 1944

Political Parties in Nigeria 1950-1966: AG (Action Group) 1945, NPC (Northern Peoples’ Congress) 1949, NEPU (Northern Element Progressive Union) 1950, UMBC (United Middle Belt Congress) 1955, UNIP (United National Independent Party).

Political Parties in the second republic: NPN (National Party of Nigeria), NPP (Nigerian People’s Party), GNPP (Great Nigeria Peoples Party), PRP (Peoples Redemption Party), UPN (Unity Party of Nigeria), NAP (Nigerian Advance Party)

Political Parties in the third republic: SDP (Social Democratic Party) and NRC (National Republican Convention)

Political Parties in the fourth republic: APC (All Progressive Congress), PDP (Peoples Democratic Party), AD (Alliance for Democracy), PCP (Peoples Coalition Party). Etc.