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### ASSIGNMENT.

Do a two-page review of chapter 7 and 8 of salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics.

### ANSWER.

#### CHAPTER 7 (POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA).

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. Some of them are as follows;

According to R.G. Gettel, "political party is a group of citizens more or less organised who acts as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out general policies."

According to Hughes, political parties are associations formally organised with explicit and declare purpose of acquiring and maintaining legal control, either singly or in collation with other similar associations, over the personnel and the policy of the government of an actual states

According to Agbaje, "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.

Political party is a group of citizens, more or less organised, having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY.

1. Political party captures governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Political party is always national-minded, I.e, in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation.
3. Political parties are guided by party constitution.

#### TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Some types of political parties are as follows;

Elitist Parties, Mass Parties, Ideological Party, Broker Party, Charismatic or Personality Party.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.

**Herbert Macaulay, H.O. Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Obafemi Awolowo were some of the founding fathers of political parties in Nigeria.** The fulcrum for the emergence of parties' formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided four (4) elective seats in its legislative council, while the Richards constitution of 1946 retained the four (4) elective seats and established regional assemblies. The Macpherson's constitution established regional executive councils, and provided for a system of indirect elections to the much largely Nigerian Legislative houses.

#### EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES 1920-1950.

**The first political party that was formed in Nigeria is The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP).** The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay who is known as the father of Nigerian Nationalism. The party won all the three seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the elections of 1923, 1928, 1933. The party brought about the Lagos Daily News launched in 1925. **The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934** led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr.J.C. Vaughan. Some of their objectives were; promotion of Nigerian unity, and National consciousness and the achievement of complete autonomy within the British Empire. **The National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944.** The NCNC was the first political party to seek total independence for Nigeria. **Its first president and general secretary were Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe respectively.** The party campaigned vigorously against the Richards constitution of 1946, between 1946 and 1948. The party was the major Nigerian party until 1950. Nnamdi Azikiwe became the president in 1946 after the death of Herbert Macaulay.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA 1950-1966.

**According to Ikelegbe, 2010; two major political parties emerged between 1950-1951. These were the Action Group (AG) and Northern People's Congress (NPC).** AG emerged from the Elbe Omo Oduduwa which was formed in 1945 as a Pan Yoruba cultural society. **AG started its political wing in 1950, it was formally inaugurated in April 1951. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo while its general secretary was Egbe Omo Oduduwa.** The major aim of AG was to provide leadership to capture political power in the western region. **The Northern People's Congress (NPC) emerged from the Jam'iyya Mutanein Arewa which was formed in 1949 by Dr.Dikko, M.Yahaya Gusua, Aminu Kano and Abubakar Imam. The Jam'iyya constituted it into a political party (NPC) in October 1951.** The main aims were; combating ignorance, idleness injustice in the north and control of the government in the north. The Nigerian multi-party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties apart from the three major political parties.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA.

The National Party of Nigeria Party (NPN), The Nigerian People's Party (NPP), The Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNNP), The Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), and The Nigerian Advance Party (NAP) were registered to contest the 1983 elections.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC NIGERIA.

General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through two political parties where registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1989. The two political parties were set up by the military government; the two parties were; Social Democratic Party (SDP), and the National Republican Convention (NRC).

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC.

The name of the three registered parties are the Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Peoples Party (APP) which later changed name to All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP).