NAME: ODEMI MARY IYAMUOLUWA

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COURSE: GOVERNMENT

ASSIGNMENT QUESTION: A 2 PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 OF SALIENT ISSUSES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIAN’S POLITICS

Political parties are essential features in modern democracy. It is an intervention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters .The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. Scholars like R.G Gettel , Herman Finer , Agbaje, Edmund Burke , dowse and Hughes and shively all have their own definitions , but the conclusion of it all is that a political party Is a group 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 .

**Some characteristics of political party include**: they have party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections, they have broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as a party ideology, they are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government, etc. **TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES: 1; Elitist / Cadre parties:** this political party draws it membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. 2: **Mass parties**: it draws it membership from all sections of the society. 3: **ideological party**; it membership is based with political ideology or benefit which formed the bases of the party. 4; **Broker parties ;** This type of political membership is drawn from the upper and lower classes of the society. 5**: charismatic or personal party** : it membership is formed or led by people with charisma. **Functions of political party include:** political education, political stability, organization of government, interest aggregation, etc.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movement. **The early political parties 1920-1950**. The Nigerian National development party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise of NNPD in 1923. The Nigerian youth movement was formed in 1934. **Political parties in Nigeria : 1950- 1966;**  during this period, two political groups were formed during this time and they were the Action group and the northern people’s congress**. Political parties in the second republic of Nigeria.:** the national party of Nigeria was officially launched in September 1978 in Lagos after lifting of ban on party politics by the military government the party’s main goal was national unity with the slogan ‘one nation, one unity’ .The unity party of Nigeria on its part, was an offshoot of the Action group , and its main support base is the Yoruba land. **POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REBUPLIC NIGERIA :**  General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties where registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1989. **POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC:**  Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998. Alliance from democracy sponsored and contested elections throughout Nigeria during 1998 and 1999 general election. **Political parties in the fourth republic :** since the inception of the fourth republic , however , other political parties have been registered by INEC . so, Nigeria now has more than 50 political parties.

In conclusion, although the Nigeria political parties faces some challenges, there is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion amongst Nigerians and engendering the development of Nigeria.