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 ASSIGNMENT

A TWO-PAGE SUMMARY ON CHAPTER SEVEN – POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.

 Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation .in the liberal-democratic systems, they help to keep the government accountable to public opinions; even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold of power. but in either case political parties is the link between the government and the people as said by Dickerson and Flanagan,2002. The political party was first developed in the nineteenth century and politicians at that time developed the idea of political party 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 (shively ,2008).

 Conceptual clarification of the idea of political party

According to 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 .’A political party is a group of officials or would be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization; a chief object of this organization is to ensure that its officials aattain power or maintain power(shively,2008).

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

 In this chapter ,some characteristics of the political parties are shown,one of which is that every political party must be national-minded ,i.e ,in aims and functions ,it must take into consideration the interest of the nation. A party which falls short of national character and represents only a sectarian outlook cannot be a political party.

 TYPES OF POLITICL PARTIES

1. Elitist /Cardre parties: this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
2. Mass parties: this draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership .
3. Ideological party: this political party is formed from political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
4. Broker party: This political party is formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.
5. Charismatic or personality party: this is a political party formed or led by individuals with charisma.it revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

 Functions of political party

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation and Political stability
4. Conflict management and political integration;
5. Organization of government E.t.c. As things stand now, Nigerians political parties face some challenges; first ,there is an extremely high level of corruption, which has made polics a competitive buissness.