NAME: IZUCHUKWU VIVIAN CHINEMEREM

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CHAPTERSEVEN: POLITICALPARTIESINNIGERIA

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sedimentsandnationalist’movementsinthe1920s.

There are different ways of defining political parties as politicalthinkers.AccordingtoR.G.Getel,“political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who acts as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at control ling the government and carrying out its general policies.”According to Agbaje(1999),“a political party isagroupofpersonsbondedin policyandopinionsinsupportofageneralpoliticalcause,which essentialyisthepursuit,captureandretention,foraslongas democraticalyfeasible,ofgovernmentanditsofices.Etc. politicalpartiesareguidedbypartyconstitutionwhichdirectthe conductofpartyoficialsandmemberswithinandoutside government,politicalpartieshaspartymanifestoeswhichguide theirconductduringandafterwinningelections.Themajor featureofpoliticalpartyistocapturegovernmentalpower throughconstitutionalmeans.

Typesofpoliticalpartiesincludes;elitist/cadreparties,mass parties,ideologicalparty,brokerparty,charismaticparty.

Politicalpartiesperform thefol lowingfunctions:politicalstability, interestaggregation,conflictmanagement,organizationof government,politicalrepresentation,goalformation.Etc.

TheNigeriannationaldevelopmentparty(NNDP)was regardedasthefirstpoliticalpartythatwasformedinNigeria. NNDPwasledbyHerbertMacaulyregardedasthefatherof Nigerian nationalism.Otherpartiestoocameuplikethe(NYM) Nigerianyouthmovementfoundedin1934byagroupofyoung NigeriansledbyErnestIkoli,SamuelAkinsanyaandDr.J.C. Vaughan.(NCNC)thenationalcouncilofNigeriaandCameroon formedin1944.(NPC)thenorthernpeoplescongressemerged from theJam’iyaMutaneinArewa.Etc.

Otherpartiescameupinthesecondrepublic,thirdrepublic, fourthrepublicofNigeriaastimepassed.Nigerianspartiesasof nowfacesomechalenges.thereisanextremelyhighlevelof coruptionwhichhasmadepoliticsacompetitivebusiness.Most partyleadersseetheirpoliticalpartyactivityasameanstofurther theirbusinessinterests.Thereisneedtoarestthistrendand makepoliticalpartiestobedirectedtofosteringcohesionamong NigeriansandengenderingthedevelopmentoftheNigeria.