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Chapter7: **Political parties in Nigeria**

Political parties are essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political parties are important link between government and the people, in the political process of a given political system torte party is an essential political agency. 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.

The first modern electoral democracy was the United state of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists’ movement in the 1920s. A political party performs so many tasks in the political process that it is difficult to establish a single definition. 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 attain power or maintain power.

The major features of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means, the means of capturing such powers must also be peaceful and lawful. Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology. Every political party must be national minded, a party which falls short of national character and represents only a sectarian outlook cannot be a political party. Political parties has party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.

A political party that draws its membership from highest echelons of social hierarchy in a country is called Elitist/ Cadre parties. Mass parties is the political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership. Ideological party is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party. Broker party and charismatic or personality party.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movement. Since the inception of the Fourth Republic, other political parties have been registered by INEC, Nigeria now has a lot of political parties that I will be mentioning few of them I.e ADP( Action Democratic Party), PDP( People Democratic Party), LP( Labour Party) and so on.

There is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. The regulatory framework for the establishment of parties should be changed so that new parties do not have to forge coalitions of the wealthy as a basis for their registration. There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of the Nigeria.