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 ASSIGNMENT

In about 2-page review chapter 7 “POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA” in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics, pages 79-91.

ANSWERS

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political parties are an important link between government and the people.{Dickerson and Flangan}. Political party crops into all aspects of politics.

It is an invention that was developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. Politicians developed the idea of political party at that time as a device to help themselves and likeminded 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

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 {R.G.Gettel}. Herman Fisher defined political party as an organised body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power. 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(Shively,2008). A party joins people together in a formally organised structure. Opinions gathered explains that a 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.The major feature is to capture governmental power through constitutional means

2.It has broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation which is referred to as party ideology

3.It must take into consideration the interest of the nation

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTY

Elitist/Cadre parties: It draws membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.

Mass parties: It draws membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership

Ideological party: It is formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

Broker party: It draws its membership from upper and lower classes of the society.

Charismatic/Personality party: It is formed or led by individuals with charisma

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. Political education 2. Political instability 3. Interest aggregation 4.Political representation

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA:Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements (Ikelegbe,2010). The fulcrum for the emergence of parties formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Clifford constitution of 1922, The Richard constitution of 1946 and The Macpherson’s constitution

EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES IN 1920 -1950: The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was the first political party formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. . It was led by Herbert Macaulay. The Nigerian Youth Movement was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C. Vaughan

 POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA 1950-1966**:** According to Ikelegbe 2010, two major political parties that emerged between 1950 and 1951 are **Action Group (AG)** which emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa. It was started in 1950 but was formally inaugurated in April 1951. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo and the main aim of the party was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region. The second was **The Northern Peoples’ Congress (NPC)** which emerged from the Jam’iyya Mutanein Arewa. The Jam’iyya constituted itself into a political party, The Northern Peoples’ Congress in October, 1951. Its main purpose was combating ignorance, idleness, injustice in the northern region and control of the government in the North. Some problems that confronted Pre-Independence Political Parties are: The political parties were without national outlook, The political parties place more emphasis on personality rather than issues, political party defection weakened during the era e.t.c. POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA**:** After the ban on politics was lifted in September, 1978, about 53 political associations wanted to contest the 1979 general elections. Some of them were The National Party of Nigeria (NPN), The Nigerian People’s Party(NPP).

 POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA**:** General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties were registered in accordance with the constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria. The two parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC) were established by the government.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**:** Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the Fourth Republic in 1998 by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) they were, the Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Peoples Party (APP) which in 2002 changed its name to All Nigeria People’s Party (ANPP) and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP). Some other political parties registered by INEC in Nigeria are: Action Democratic Party (ADP), Advance Allied Party (AAP), Coalition for Change (C4C), Democratic People’s Congress (DPC), Social Democratic Party (SDP), United Patriots (UP), Youth Party (YP) e.t.c. There is need to make political parties to be solely focused and directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of the Nigeria.