Name: Ojelade Oluwapelumi Deborah

Matric Number: 19/MHS01/306

Course: Government- GST 203

Do a two paged review of chapter 7, political parties in Nigeria.

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. The political party is an essential political agency and it crops up in all aspects of politics. It is an invention that first 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 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 States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820’s, there were well-organized parties, and the Democratic Party, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political party in the world. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist’s movement in the 1920’s. There are many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. 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. According to agbaje, “a political party is a political cause, which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention, for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices. 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. From the above opinions we infer that a political party is a group of 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 parties are: the major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means, political parties always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology, every political party must be national-minded, political party should be an organized body, political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections, political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government. There are different types of political parties they are as follows: elitist or cadre parties is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country, mass parties is a 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 is a political party formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society, charismatic or personality party is a political party formed or led by individuals with charisma. Political parties perform the following functions: political mobilization and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, conflict management and political integration, organization of government, provision of alternative government and policies, electoral competition and governance, goal formation. According to ikelegbe, nationalist’s agitators formed groups and associations, to organize against colonial misrule. Thus for this purpose, the national congress of British west Africa territories were formed in 1920, the west African student union in 1925 and the Lagos youth movement in 1934. Herbert Macaulay, H.O Davies, Ernest ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precausors of political parties in Nigeria were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920’s and thereafter. The fulcrum for the emergence of party’s formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided for 4 elective seats in its legislative council, while the Richards constitution of 1946 retained the 4 elective seats and established regional assembles. The Nigerian National Development Party [NNDP] was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution gave rise to the formation of NNDP in1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of nationalism. It was based mainly in Lagos and it won all the 3 seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the elections of 1923, 1928 and 1933. The Nigeria Youth Movement [NYM] was formed in1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C. Vaughan. The party contested and won elections to the national legislative council and Lagos town council in 1938. The National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon [NCNC] was formed in 1944 it was later re-named the national convention of Nigerian citizen in 1960 when some parts of Cameroon broke away. It was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria. Its first president and general secretary were Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe respectively. Two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were the Action Group [AG] and the Northern People’s Congress [NPC]. The action group emerged from the egbe omo oduduwa. It started as the political wing of the egbe omo oduduwa in 1950. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo, the general secretary of egbe omo oduduwa. The Northern People’s Congress emerged from the Jam’íyya Mutanein Arewa. The cultural association was formed in 1949 by DR Dikko. The Jam’íyya constituted itself into a political party in October, 1951. The Nigerian multi-party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties apart from the three major political parties. Those parties include: Northern Element Progressive Union formed in august, 1950, it was led by late Mallam Aminu Kano. Another party is the Union Middle Belt Congress led by late J.S. tarka founded in 1955. Political parties before independence faced the following problems: the political parties were without national outlook, the political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during that era. The ban on politics was lifted in September, 1978. 53 associations sought to contest for the 1978 elections but only 5 were registered by the federal electoral commission, those 5 are: the National Party of Nigeria, the Nigerian’s People Party, the Great Nigeria Peoples Party, The Peoples Redemption Party and The Unity Party of Nigeria. A sixth party, the Nigerian Advance Party was registered during the 1983 elections. 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, 1989. Nigeria had a two party system, the two political parties, Social Democratic Party [SDP] and the National Republican Convention [NRC] were established by the government. The social democratic party was purported to have won the annulled presidential elections of June 12, 1993. Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the independent national electoral commission [INEC]. The names of the registered parties are the Alliance For Democracy [AD], All Peoples Party [APP] which in 2002 changed its name to All Nigeria Peoples Party [ANPP] and the People’s Democratic Party [PDP]. Since the inception of the fourth republic, however, other political parties have been registered by INEC. Some of them are: African Democratic Congress [ADC], All Grassroots Alliance [AGC], United Patriots [UP], Youth Party [YP], Zenith Labor Party [ZLP] etc.