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 **CHAPTER SEVEN**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties being an essential feature of politics, holds it’s origin as important as well.political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist’s movements in 1920s.

On the conceptual clarification of the idea of political party, starting with its definition. Political party, starting with its definition. Political party hasany definitions as it performs so many tasks in the political process that it is difficult to establish a single definition. Going by “Shively” in the year 2008, he defined a political party was 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 organisation is to ensure that it’s officials attain power or maintain power. From other definitiona including Shively’s definition, we infer that a political party is a group of citizens, more less organized, having some agreement in board principles of national policy with an effort to capture political by some constitutional means.

Just like every other thing, political parties have characteristics and they include;The major or central features of poly party is to capture government power through constitutional means. Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by it’s organisation, which referred to as party ideology. Every political party must be national-minded in oaks and in functions. Political party should be an organised body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organisation structure. Political parties have 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.

Political parties are also divided into different types. They include; elitist/cadre parties, mass parties, ideology party, ideology party, broker party mad charismatic or personality party. These types of political parties are differentiated based on the ways they are formed. Aside their various types, political parties as a whole carry out several functions, some of which include; political mobilisation and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political representation, political stability, conflict management and political integration, organisation of government, goal formation and so on.

**EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES (1920-1950)**

The NNDP was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria, led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The party won all seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the council in the elections of 1923,1928 and 1933. The party was formed mainly by a newspaper called Lagos daily news in 1925. The NYM was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanaya and Dr. J.C. Vaughan.The NCNC was formed in 1944, it was later renamed from the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon to the National Convention of Nigerian Citizens in 1960 when parts of Cameroon broke away from Nigeria.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA (1950-1966)**

According to Ikelegbe, 2010 there were two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were the Action group (AG) and the Northern people’s congress (NPC). The AG emerged and underwent inauguration in April 1951. The NPC emerged and formed a cultural association in 1949. At this stage they faced several problems that confronted pre independence concerning the political parties.

**THE GROWTH OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

Political parties in the second, third and fourth republic in Nigeria were noticed to have undergone an increase in the number of registered political parties, an increase in members and difference in motives.

**IN CONCLUSION**

As the years have gone by, political parties in Nigeria have are facing some challenges such as corruption, over priced financed being the reason good leaders may not be able to step in, some even use political parties as a means of business. With the right approach these problems can be curbed.