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Political Parties in Nigeria.

Political parties link between Government and the people. The political party crops up in all aspects of political conceptual clarification of the idea of political party ; there are so many definition of political parties as the political thinker Herman Finer define political party as an organized body with voluntary membership. Its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power.

Different political thinkers define political party in so many ways. 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.

Characteristics of political party

Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials. Every political party must be national minded .

Types of political party

Elist /cadre parties ;This is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.

Mass parties; This is political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership .

Ideological party; This is a political party formed with political ideology which form the bases of the party.

The other types are broker party , charismatic party or personality party. The functions of political party include ; political education, political representation ,political stability ,organization of government and goal formation. Political parties in Nigeria; developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements . According to Ikelegbe, 2010 ;two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951.they were the Action Group and the Northern peoples congress. The Nigerian multi party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties apart from the three major parties.

Problems that confronted pre independence political parties

The political parties were without national outlook.

Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria ; the party main goal was national unity , with the slogan one nation, one destiny. Their major programmes were those of provision of food shelter and qualitative education.

Political parties in the third republic nigeria ;The partys programmes were a little to the left in terms of favouring more public ownership and control of thr economy. In the electionsof the transition period, the party predicated its campaign of progressivism, populism, people welfare and change from bad leadership, corruption , underdevelopment and crises.

Political parties in the fourth republic; it gained political powers in six states of the south west of the federstion between 1999 and 2003 by winning the governorship elections.