**NAME: GOMBA-SAKA JOSEPH .S.**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/104**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203**

**COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**QUESTION;**

Do a two page review of Chapter 7, "Political Parties in Nigeria," In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics

Chapter seven in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics introduced political parties as an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal-democratic systems, they help to keep governments accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold on power.

There are as 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.” Herman Fiiner, on his part, defined political party as “an organized 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. Finally a party joins people together in a formally organized structure.

Political parties have as some of its characteristics;

1. Capturing the governmental power through constitutional means.
2. A broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology.
3. National-mindedness.
4. Should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure.
5. Manifestoes
6. Party constitution.

Types of Political Parties are:

**Elitist/ Cadre Parties**: membership of this party is drawn from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.

**Mass Parties**: membership is drawn from all sections of the society and have wide membership.

**Ideological Parties**: parties formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

**Broker Party**: a party formed with its membership drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.

**Charismatic or Personality Party**: party formed of led by individual with charisma.

The functions of political parties includes:

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Conflict management and political integration
7. Organization of government
8. Provision of alternative government and policies
9. Electoral competition and governance
10. Goal formation

In conclusion, political parties existed in Nigeria from pre independence to the current republic but at the moment, challenges such as high level of corruption and the regulatory framework for the establishment of political parties are some of the major problems being faced by political parties in Nigeria.