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Government chapter 7: Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties are essential features of politics, they help to keep government accountable to public opinion, they also the government maintain its hold on power. Politicak parties are important link between government and the people.

Political party is a group of officials or would be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organisation, the chief objesct of this organisation is to ensure it officials attain power or maintain power.

Characteristics of Political parties include

1. Capturing governmental power through constitutional means

2. Being nationally minded

3. Having party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning an election

4. Being an organised body

5. Being guided by political constitution which direct the conduct of their officials and members

Types of political parties

1. Elitist/Cadre parties: draws it members from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country W.g doctors, lawyers, business tycoons, traditional leaders.

2. Mass parties: draws members from all sectors of the country and have wide membership E.g peoples party, labour party, workers party.

3. Broker party: draws it members from the upper and lower classes of the society.

4. Ideological party. 5. Charismatic party

Functions of a political party

\*Political education \* political stability \*political mobilizations and recruitment \*political representation \*goal formation \*electoral competition and governance

Political parties in Nigeria

The fulcrum of the formation of political parties in Nigeria was constitutional development

\*Early political parties 1920-1950: The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded asvthe first political party formed in Nigeria. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C Vaughan. The National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944 and was renamed National Convention of Nigerian Citizen in 1960.

\*political parties in Nigeria (1950-1966): According to Ikelegve 2010, two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951, they are the Action Group (AG) and the Northern people's Congress(NPC). The AG emerged from Egbe Omo Oduduwa while the NPC emerged from the Jam'iyya Mutanein Arewa. The Nigerian multiparty system of the first Republic gave rise to the emergence ofamy political parties.

Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties

1. The political parties were without national outlook 2. Intra and inter party crises spotted them into fractions 3. Political patt defection weakened political parties during this era

\*Political parties in the second Republic in Nigeria: The ban on politics was lifted in September 1978. The National people’s partyvwas officially launched in September 1978 in lagos . The party won the presidential election and ruled the country for 4years and 3 months. Unity parties the offshoot of the Action Group and its main support nase was Yoruba land.

\*Political parties in the third Republic 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 1989. The two political parties were Social Democratic Party (SDC) and National Republican Convention (NRC). SDP was approved by the Armed forces ruling Council with chief Tony Anenih as its National Chairman and had its headquarters in Abuja. NRC was approved by the armed forces Council with chief Tom Ikimi aavita national Chairman.

\*Political parties in the forth Republic: 3 political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth Republic in 1988 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The political parties were Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Peoples party (APP) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Political parties in the Fourth Republic:Advanced Congress of Democrats(ACD) All Progessive Grand Alliance (APGA), Hope Democratic Party (HDP)People's Democratic (PDP), Young Democratic Party (YDP) Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) etc