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**A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 “POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA”**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties are an important characteristics of politics in the modern age of mass participation. It is an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. Political parties are an essential link between government and the people.

The first parties developed was in the United State of America. By 1820s there were well organized parties, and the Democratic Party is the oldest political party in the world. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists movements in the 1920s.

Political parties 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.

**Characteristics of Political Party**

Below are some of the characteristics of political parties:

1. The major feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutionals means in a lawful and peacefulness.
2. Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology.
3. Every political party must be national-minded, i.e., in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation e.tc.

**Types of Political Parties**

* **Elitist/Cadre parties**: this party draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country e.g. business tycoon etc.
* **Mass parties**: this party draw its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership e.g. Worker party, labor party etc.
* **Ideological party**: this party is formed with ideology or benefits.
* **Broker party**: this party draw its membership from upper and lower classes of the society.
* **Charismatic or personality party**: this party is formed or led by individuals with charisma.

**Functions of Political Party**

Political mobilization and recruitment; Political stability;

Political education; Political aggregation.

**Political Parties in Nigeria**

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe and Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria. The Nigeria National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian Nationalism. NCNC (National Council of Nigerian and Cameroun) was formed in 1944 but later renamed the National Convention of Nigeria citizen in 1960. NCNC was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria.

We have political parties in the first republic, second, third and fourth republic.

There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of the Nigeria.