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**MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**GST 203**

Do a two page review of Chapter 7, Citizens Role in a Democracy, In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics

       Political parties are 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. In the political process of a political system, the party is an essential political agency. The political party crops up in all aspects of politics.

      The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By 1820s, they were well organized parties, and the Democratic parties, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political parties in the world. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalists consciousness and sentiments and nationalists’ movement in the 1920s

           CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY

     There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G Gethel, ‘’political parties a group of citizens more or less organized, who acta s a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies. A political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a stable group of citizens into an organization; a chief object of this organization is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power (Shively, 2008)

          CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL POWER

     Some of the characteristics are stated below:

* Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections
* Every political party should be national minded i.e in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation.
* Political party should be an organized body because it can only derive strength from an only effective organizational structure.

        TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

* Ideological party
* Broker party
* Charismatic or personality party
* Mass parties

       FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

* Political Stability
* Political Education
* Interest aggregation
* Political mobilization and recruitment

                     POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements (Ikelegbe, 2010). The fulcrum for the emergence of parties’ formation in Nigeria and constitutional development.

         EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES 1920-1950

  The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. It was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe respectively were the first president and general secretary respectively of NCNC which was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria.

         PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONTED PRE-INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL PARTIES

* The political parties were without national outlet.
* The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues.

           POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA.

Five constitutions were registered by the Federal Electoral Commission. There were the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), The Nigerian People’s Party (NPP), The Great Nigeria People’s Party (GNPP), The People’s Redemption Party (PRP) and the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN).

                                    CONCLUSION

     Nigeria’s political parties face some challenges like high level of corruption which made politics a competitive business and the regulatory framework for the establishment of parties should be changed. This is why the parties are established as coalitions of various functions of regional and economic rent-seekers.