

GST 203 Assignment

Name: IDE EUDORA EPERE

Department: NURSING

Matric No: 19/MHS02/051

Date: January 20, 2021

Chapter 7

Political Parties in Nigeria

Political parties are seen to be the link between government and the people. It is an essential feature of politics and promotes mass participation of the people in politics, and crops up in all aspects of politics. Political parties can function in both democratic and autocratic systems.

A political party is an organized group of people who have the same ideology, or who otherwise have the same political positions, and who field candidates for elections, in an attempt to get them elected and thereby implement their agenda. It first developed in nineteenth century due to the outcome of the elections. By 1820s there were political parties in the US.

Conceptual Clarification of the Idea of Political Party

Political party was defined by so many people. The activities of a political party are too many to be put into a single definition. Although, the main intention of a political party is to make an effort to capture political power by constitutional means.

Characteristics of a Political Party

- To capture governmental power through constitutional means
- Party ideology classifies parties as either leftist, rightist, liberal, communist, labor, etc.
- National minded
- It is an organized body
- It has manifestos
- They are guided by party constitution

Types of Political Parties

- Elitist/Cadre parties
- Mass parties
- Ideology parties
- Broker party
- Charismatic or personality party

Functions of Political Party

- Political mobilization and recruitment

- Political education
- Representation
- Goal formation
- Political stability, etc.

Political Parties in Nigeria

Herbert Macaulay, H.O. Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were the prosecutors of political parties in Nigeria in the 1920s. The first political party in Nigeria is the Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) in 1922. Other political parties include Nigerian Youth movement (NYM), National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC), Action Group (AG), Northern People's Congress (NPC).

Smaller parties include; Northern Element Progress Union (NEPU), United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC). Other political parties were created in the third, fourth and fifth republic. The major political parties in Nigeria are: People's Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC).

Corruption has made political parties in Nigeria a competition and a business. This is why many political parties were created. The trend of making political parties a means to further business acts should be curbed. There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties foster cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of Nigeria.