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**COURSE NAME: GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203**

 **COLLEGE: LAW**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/225**

**QUESTION**

**Do a review of chapter seven political parties in Nigeria**

**ANSWER**

**CHAPTER SEVEN**

Political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation .In liberal democratic systems they help to keep governments accountable to public opinion, even in the autocratic system of governments; they also help the government maintain their hold on power. Political parties are an important link between the government and the people (Dickerson and Flanagan in 2002), the first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America and it was here that the first parties developed, by the 1820s there well organized parties.

 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 finer “,on his part defined political party as “an organized body with voluntary membership it has to do with concerted energy been employed in the pursuit of political power”. And “Joseph Lapalombara “defined political party as a formal organization whose self-conscious ,primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalitions ,the machinery of government. And lastly on the definition of political parties “Dowse and Hughes”, see political parties as an association formally organized with the explicit and declarers purpose of acquiring and maintaining legal control ,either singly or in coalitions with others similar association ,over the personnel and the policy of the government actual or prospectective

**CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY.**

There are a lot of features/characteristics of a political party and they are as follows :

1) The major or central feature of a political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means .But capturing power by some violent or some unlawful means cannot be allowed in the arena of the political parties, the means of acquiring power must be legal.

2) Every political party must be national-minded, in aims and in functions; it must take into consideration the interest of the nation. A party which falls short of national character and represent only a sectarian outlook can not be a political party.

3) Political parties have party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.

4 )Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party official and members within and outside government.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**.

1. Elitists/cadre parties
2. Mass parties.
3. Ideology party.
4. Broker party.
5. Charismatic or personality party.

**FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY**.

1. Political mobilization.
2. Political education.
3. Political stability.
4. Interest aggregation.
5. Goal formation.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**.

 EARLY PARTIES 1920-1950

The Nigerian national development party (NNDP)was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria ,it was introduced by the Clifford constitution of 1922 ,gave rise to the formation of the party in 1923 led by Hebert macaulay.We also have the:

The Nigerian youth movement (formed in 1934 by a group of Nigerians “Ernest ikoli”.

The National council of Nigeria and Cameroon (formed in 1944).

PARTIES IN 1950-1966

According the research two major parties emerged between ‘1950 and 1951”,and these are the AG(The action group) and the NPC(Northern people congress ).

PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA.

The ban on politics was lifted in September 1978.After that about 53 political associations sought to contest and only five were registered by the federal electoral commission, and there are namely:

1) NPN (The National party of Nigeria) launched in September 1978, Lagos.

2) NPP (The Nigeria people party).

3) GNPP (The great Nigeria people’s party).

4) PRP (The people redemption party).

5) UPN (The unity party of Nigeria).

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC.

General Ibrahim babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule through the two political parties that were registered according to the constitution in 1989, namely:

1) SDP (The social democratic party), it was approved by the armed forces ruling council with chief tony anenih as its national chairman, it was said to have won the annulled presidential election of 12th June 1993.

2)NRC(The national republican convection),it was also approved by the armed forces ruling council with chief tom lkimi as its national chairman, the party program mostly favored the private initiatives and more state regulation.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC.

Since the inception of the fourth republic however other political parties have been registered by INEC, so now Nigeria has a lot of political parties namely:

1)ANRP(Abundant Nigeria renewal party.(B)AA(Action alliance).(C)AGA(All grassroots alliance.(D)DPP(Democratic peoples party).(E)ZLP(Zenith labor party).(F)YP(Youth party)etc.

In conclusion Nigeria political parties face some challenges, first the problem with corruption, and also the process of registering new parties should be changed, if all things are done the state or country will move forward and it will be developed.

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