

Name : Atolagbe Jamila
College: SMS
Department: Business Administration
Martic no: 19/sms03/007
Course:Gst 203
Level: 200L

Political parties in Nigeria.

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal democratic systems, they help to keep government accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold on power. In either cases, they are an important link between government and the people.

The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s, there were well organized parties and the Democratic Party, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political party in the world. The political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists' movements in the 1920s.

Characteristics of political party

1. Political parties capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. They always adopt a broad principles of public policy which is called party ideology.
3. They are nation minded.
4. They should be an organized body.
5. They have party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.

Types of political parties

Elitist/ Cadre Parties : this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country eg, doctors, business tycoons, lawyers, etc.

Mass parties: it draw its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership eg, people party, Labour Party, workers party, etc.

Ideological party: is a party formed with the political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

Broker party: it is formed with its members drawn from upper and lower class of the society.

Charismatic or Personality party: it is formed and lead by individual with charisma. It revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

Function of political party

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Political stability
5. Organisation of government
6. Goal formation
7. Interest aggregation.

Example of political parties in Nigeria.

- Early political parties 1920-1950:- eg, Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP), National Youth Movement (NYM), etc.
- Political parties in Nigeria 1950-1966:- Action Group (AG), Northern People's Congress (NPC), United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC),etc.
- Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria:- Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), National Party of Nigeria (NPN), National People's Party (NPP),etc.

- Political parties in the third republic in Nigeria:- Social Democratic Party (SDP) and National Republican Convention (NRC).
- Political parties in the fourth republic in Nigeria:- Action Alliance (AA), African Action Congress (AAC), Change Nigeria Party (CNP), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), etc.