NAME: Ajisafe Faridat Abike

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Political parties are important in politics in the modern age of mass participation, they are important bond between the government and the people. They are numerous definition that defines political parties as the political thinkers. It can now be deduced that a political party is a group of citizens, more or less organized have some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

They are various characteristics of political parties i.e; they capture government power through constitutional means, they must be national minded, they should be an organized body, they have party manifestos that lead their conduct during and after winning elections, they are also guided by party constitution which direct the conduct or activities of party officials and members within and after government.

They are also various types of political parties

* **ELITIST/CADRE PARTIES**; This political party are formed by drawing their members from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
* **MASS PARTIES**; They draw their members from all sections of the society and they have broad and wide members.
* **IDEOLOGICAL PARTY**; They are formed with political ideology or benefits which form their bases of the party.
* **BROKER PARTY**; Their members are drawn from the upper and lower classes of the society.
* **CHARISMATIC OR PERSONALITY PARTY**; Their political party is formed or led by individuals with charisma.

According to Ikelegbe, nationalists agitators formed groups and associations, to organize against colonial misrule.

**Early Political Parties 1920 - 1950**; The first political party that was formed in Nigeria was regarded as The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) and this party was led by the father of Nigeria nationalism, Herbert Macaulay**.** In 1934, The Nigerian Youth Movement was formed by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C Vaughan and then the National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon was formed in 1944 and in 1960 it was later re-named The National Convention of Nigerian Citizen.

**Political Parties in Nigeria: 1950 - 1966**; There were two political parties between 1950 and 1951 which was Action Group which emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa in 1950 and was formally inaugurated in April in the year 1951 and the Northern People’s Congress which emerged from the Jam’iyya Mutanein Arewa

They were problems that confronted Pre-Independence Political Parties and they are; They were without national outlook, they placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, political party defection resulted to the collapse of political parties during this era.

**Political Parties in The Second Republic In Nigeria;** There was a ban on politics that was lifted in September, 1978. The NPN was officially launched in on the day the ban was lifted, September 1978 in Lagos. The Unity Party of Nigeria won gubernatorial elections in five states in 1979 and lost one of them in the 1983 elections. The Nigerian People’s Party was the third registered party in the second republic and the party was reincarnated from the NCNC and the The Great Nigeria People’s Party was led by Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim and their slogan was ‘politicians without bitterness.”

**Political Parties in The Third Republic Nigerian;** In 1989, General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties where registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.The two parties are Social Democratic Party which was approved by the Armed Forces Ruling Council with Chief Tony Anenih as its national chairman and the National Republican Convention were established by the government and was registered through the approval of the Armed Forces Ruling Council with Chief Tom Ikimi as its national chairman.

**Political Parties in the Fourth Republic;** In 1998, three political parties were registered in preparation towards the Fourth Republic in 1998 by the Independent National Electoral Commission. Alliance for Democracy, All People’s Party and it changed its name to All Nigeria People’s Party and the People’s Democratic Party.

**Political Parties in The Fourth Republic;** Other Political parties has been registered by INEC since the inception of the Fourth Republic and they are so many.

Nigeria faces a lot of Up and down’s and the aim or political project of most Nigerian parties has been the development of a national system for sharing out the ‘national cake” as a system of patronage.There are so many things to make Nigeria great.