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ASSIGNMESNT: DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7,”POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA”, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.

CHAPTER SEVEN

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are the most important link between government and the people. Political party is an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Liberal-democratic systems helps to keep government accountable to public opinion while autocratic system of government helps the government to maintains its hold on power.

Political party first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. 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 its roots can be traced back to that time as the oldest political party in the world.

A political party is a group of officials or would be officials who are linked with a sizable group of people/citizens into an organization its objectives is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power (shively,2008).

Characteristics of a political party

1. It captures governmental power through constitutional means
2. It has a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, referred to as political ideology.
3. It must be national minded.
4. It should be an organized body
5. They have manifesto's which guides their conducts
6. They have a party constitution which guides the conducts of its officials .

Types of political parties

1. Elitist/ cadre parties: it draws its membership from the highest echenlon of social hierarchy in a country.
2. Mass parties: it draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.
3. Ideological party: it is formed from the ideology or benefits which form the basis of the party.
4. Broker party: it is formed from, the upper and lower classes of the society.
5. Charismatic or personality party: it is led by individuals with charisma, in other terms posses the qualities of a leader.

Functions of political parties

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Political aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Political integration
7. Organization of government.

Political parties in Nigeria

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party in Nigeria its elective principles introduced by cliffords constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. The political party was led by Herbert Macaulay who is regarded as the father of Nigeria Nationalism.

In 1950 to 1951, two political parties emerged known as the AG action group and the NPC northern peoples congress.

After the formation of these political parties more political parties where formed, till date.

In summary, Nigeria political parties, face some challenges which includes, corruption which has made politics a competitive business ,high level of corruption and change in its regulatory frame work,