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Question: write a review on chapter 7 of Salient issues in government and Nigeria's politics

Answer

Chapter seven is talking about political parties in Nigeria.

And it starts with the introduction of what political party is and it says political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal democratic system they help to keep governments accountable to public opinion even in autocratic system of government they help the government maintain its hold on power.

The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s there were well organised parties and the Democratic Party in the world. In Britain 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY

There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G. Gettel political party is a group of citizens more or less organised 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 organised body with voluntary membership its concerted energy being employed in pursuit of political power.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Some of the characteristics are

- 1) The major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means
- 2) Political parties always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organisation which is referred to as party ideology.
- 3) Every political party must be national minded that is in aims no functions it must take into consideration the interest of the nation.
- 4) Political party should be an organised body because it can only derive strength from an effective organisational structure
- 5) Political parties have party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections
- 6) Political parties are guided by party constitution which directs the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government

Types of political parties

Elitist

Mass parties

Ideological parties

Broker party

Charismatic or personality party

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

Political mobilisation for recruitment

Political education

Political representation

Interest aggregation

Political stability

Conflict management and political integration

Organisation of government

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist agitators formed groups and associations to organise against colonial

misrule. Thus for this purpose the national congress of British West Africa Territories was formed in 1920

EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES 1920- 1950

The Nigerian National Development party was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria the elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP IN 1923