

Name: ADEBAYO ADERENLE YEWANDE

Matric Number: 19/MHS06/001

Department: MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

REVIEW OF CHAPTER SEVEN

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are essential feature of politics that help to keep governments accountable to public opinion in democratic system and help governments maintain its hold on power in autocratic system. Political parties are important link between government and the people. Political party was first developed in nineteenth century.

R.G Gettel define political party as a group of organized citizens, who act as political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies. By Herman Finer, political party is an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. It capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Political parties always have broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization, which are referred to as political ideology.
3. Every political party must be national minded
4. Political party should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure.
5. Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
6. Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Elitist/ Cadre Parties: this is a political that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The party boasts of members who are intellectuals like doctors, lawyers, lecturers, or people who are business tycoons, traditional rulers.
2. Mass Parties: this is the political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership. Mass parties take such name as; peoples party, labour party, workers party, etc. and their manifestoes are aimed at alleviating the suffering of the masses.
3. Ideological party: this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form bases of the party.

4. Broker party: this is political formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society. The basic aim of this type of political party is to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and the poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all.
5. Charismatic or personality party: this is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma. It revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Conflict management and political integration
7. Organization of government
8. Goal formation
9. Electoral competition and government
10. Provision of alternative government and polices

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. According to ikelegbe, nationalists agitators forms groups and associations, to organize against colonial misrule. Herbert Macaulay, H.O. Davis, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria, were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920s and thereafter, the fulcrum for the emergence of parties' formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided for four elective seats in its legislative council, while the Richards constitution of 1946 retained the four elective seats and established regional assemblies. The Macpherson's constitution established regional executive councils, and provided for a system of indirect elections to the much largely Nigerian legislative houses.

~ EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES 1920- 1950

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was the first political party formed in Nigeria. Clifford constitution of 1922 led to formation of NNDP in 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Marcaulay regarded as the father of Nigeria nationalism. The NCNC was the first political party to b e organized to seek independence for Nigeria. Its first president and secretary were Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe respectively.

~ POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA: 1950 – 1966

Two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These are the Action Group (AG) and the Northern People's Congress (NPC). These parties emerged from cultural associations because of the prospects of the 1951 elections, following the Macpherson's constitution. The Action Group (AG) emerged from the Ebge Omo Oduduwa. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo. The main aim of AG was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region. The Northern people' Congress (NPC) emerged from the Jam'iyya Mutanein Arewa. The main purpose of the party was combating

ignorance, idleness, injustice in the northern region and control of the government in the North.

The Nigerian multi – party system of the first republic gave rise to emergence of many political parties apart from the three major political parties. Some of these smaller parties were splinter political parties formed as a result of disagreement that arose in the major parties.

PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONTED PRE- INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The political parties were without national outlook. They had regional support and ethnic loyalty.
2. The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues.
3. Intra- party and inter – party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions.
4. Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA

The ban on politics was lifted in September ,1978. Following that, about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these associations, were The National Party Of Nigeria (NPN), The Nigerian People’s Party (NPP), The Great Nigeria Peoples Party(GNPP), the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN). The sixth party, the Nigerian Advance Party (NAP) was registered to contest the 1983 elections.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC NIGERIA

Two political parties were registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1989. The two parties are, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican convention (NRC), were established by the government.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC

Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the Fourth Republic in 1998 by the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. The names of the registered parties are the Alliance for Democracy (AD), All Peoples Party (APP) which in 2002 changed its name to All Nigeria People’s Party (ANPP) and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP).