

WEEK 11

PRESSURE GROUPS/ POLITICAL PARTY

Meaning of pressure groups

This Is An Organization Of Like Minds Coming Together Formally With A View Of Protecting Or Advancing Some Particular Interest. A **Pressure Group** Is An Organized **Group** That Seeks To Influence Government (Public) Policy Or Protect Or Advance A Particular Cause Or Interest. **Groups** May Promote A Specific Issue And Raise It The Political Agenda Or They May Have More General Political And Ideological Objectives In Mind When They Campaign.

Types of Pressure Groups

1. **A gender pressure group:** This pressure group is set up solely to defend gender interest.
2. **An economic professional pressure group:** This is a pressure group set-up to converse for economic issues
3. **An ethnic or cultural pressure group:** This is formed along with ethnic interest e.g. Odua people congress (OPC), Arewa people's congress (APC)
4. **A religious pressure group:** Such groups influence government policies over religious issues e.g. Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Muslim student society (MSS)
5. **An anomic pressure group:** This is an unorganized group or action group working against the decisions of the government
6. **A social pressure group:** Are generally out to promote the interest of their members e.g. boy's scout, girls guide. E.t.c.

Factors That Can Aid Effective Operations of Pressure Group

1. Existence of a high degree of dedication and unity
2. Supply of adequate funds
3. The capacity of the leadership
4. The relevance of its aims and objectives

Mode of Operation of the Pressure Group

This is also known as techniques to achieve their objectives and they include the following:

1. The use of a mass media like radio, TV, newspaper, press conference
2. The use of dialogue between representatives of government and pressure group
3. The use of ultimatum: This comes up after different avenues of dialogue has been exhausted without result
4. Mounting of pressure on the executive arm of Government
5. Working alliance with the political party
6. Demonstration/ Protest
7. Consultation

POLITICAL PARTY

MEANING OF POLITICAL PARTY

A political party is an organization of people of like-minds united by the common desire to obtain the mandate of an electoral constituency to form and operate a government.

Types of Political Party

1. **Mass parties:** These are political parties that are structured to allow as many citizens as possible to take a membership. Membership of mass parties are mainly composed of different sections of the society
2. **Elitist parties:** These parties either deliberately or otherwise limit membership to a few elitist in a society and these elitists are of the upper class.
3. **Ideological parties:** Some parties are formed mainly to promote a particular ideological belief; a good example is Adolph Hitler national socialist party (NAZI).
4. **Oligarchy parties:** These are parties that are formed by and which invariably revolves around certain individuals.

Functions Of Political Party

1. Political parties unite the people on major issues affecting the states
2. It serves as a line between the people and government
3. It enables the government's accountability to the people
4. It provides an organization for running the government
5. It serves as an avenue for changing government

ASSIGNMENT

1. Define pressure groups and political parties
2. Enumerate five (5) functions of political parties
3. List five (5) types of pressure groups.