

DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

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Development of Political Parties in Nigeria

The Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) and the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) were formed as political parties after the introduction of the Clifford Constitution. They could not be said to be national parties since their activities were mainly restricted to Lagos. However, at the end of the Second World War, new political parties emerged and replaced the NNDP and NYM. Some of these new parties were in two groups, major and minor parties. Some of the major parties were the National Council of Nigeria and the Camerouns (NCNC), Northern People's Congress (NPC), Action Group (AG). Some of the minor parties were the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU), United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC), Dynamic Party (DP), Bomu Youth Movement (BYM) etc. Most of these parties, if not all, were regional in outlook and based on ethnic sentiments. Some scholars, however, have argued that the NCNC was more of a national party than the others. Nevertheless, they were formed mainly to awaken people's consciousness towards the struggle for political independence.

SECOND REPUBLIC POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The National Party of Nigeria (NPN) was partly an offshoot of the NPC of the First Republic). The majority of the leaders were from the former NPC, e.g. Ali Monguno, Adamu Ciroma, Adisa Akinloye (the party's chairman) Shehu Shagari and others. It won the 1979 and 1983: Second Republic presidential election.
2. The Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) emerged on 22 September 1978, a day after the 21 September 1978 lifting of the ban on political activities. It was formed by some foundation members of the defunct Action Group (AG).--- Obafemi Awolowo
3. Other political parties were: The Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP) ,the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), the Nigeria Advance Party (NAP), etc.

THIRD REPUBLIC POLITICAL PARTIES

The military government headed by General Ibrahim Babangida came to power in 1995. By 1986, the government set up a transition programme which was its process of handing power over to civilians, politicians. After the failure of the associations that applied for registration the government set up two political parties: the National Republican Convention (NRC) and social Democratic party (SDP) in 1989.

FOURTH REPUBLIC POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) was formed by a group among the 34 eminent Nigerians who had written a letter to General Abacha, opposing his nomination as the sole candidate for the presidency in his transition – to – civil rule programme. With the lifting of the political activities by General Abubakar Abdusalam (after the death of Gen. Sanni Abacha) the majority of the group 34 initiated a political association and named it the People's Democratic Party. It had support from most parts of the country. Some of the prominent members of the PDP were Dr. Alex Ekweme, Solomon Lar Philip Abiodun Don

Etiebet, Muhammedu Arzika, Isa Mohammed, Dr John Nwodo (Jnr) Graham Douglas Olusegun Obasanjo, Major General (rtd) David Jemibewon, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu Toni Anehih and General Igbenedion. Other political parties were: All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), and Alliance for Democracy (AD)), and elections were set for April 1999. In the widely monitored 1999 election, former military ruler Olusegun Obasanjo was elected on the PDP platform.

2. **All Progressives Congress (APC):** Formed in February 2013, the party is the result of a merger of Nigeria's three largest opposition parties – the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), and the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) along with a breakaway faction of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and the new PDP – a faction of then ruling People's Democratic Party
3. The Nigerian fourth Republic of has a multi-party system. The largest by National Assembly seats are the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP). There are also a number of smaller parties, the largest of which are the Labour Party (LP), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Young Progressives Party (YPP) as well as others including the African Democratic Congress (ADC), People's Redemption Party (PRP), Social Democratic Party (SDP), and eleven other parties registered with the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Sources of Finance for Political Parties

Generally, political parties are financed through the following channels/means.

1. Donations from foreign interests to political parties.
2. Donations from foreign interest to candidates.
3. Corporate donations to political parties.
4. Corporate donations to candidates.
5. Grants from government.
6. Loans from bank
7. Membership levies/dues.

EVALUATION

1. State five (5) sources of finance for political parties in Nigeria.