

Corruption in Nigeria: Causes, Effects and Probable Solutions

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Abstract

Corruption is a worldwide phenomenon and continues to ravage states with endemic corruption activities. In view of the devastating effects of corruption, this paper examines the causes and effects on the Nigeria states and probable solutions were proffered. Many factors are adduced to have been responsible for this ugly trend; amongst which is the institutional factors. The effects are manifest in the decay infrastructure and decline in people's trust and this call for concerted efforts so as to checkmate and eliminate corruption in Nigeria. The article therefore suggests that an effective action against corruption has to evolve effective sanction and greater political transparency as a means of ensuring that the resources of the country are deployed to bring about sustainable development in the country.

Keyword: Corruption, Nigeria, Causes, Effects, Perspectives.

1. Introduction

The truism that corruption is a surest route that hinders development in any society does not need contention. Though, in some quarters, it is argued that corruption could trigger development (Otite, 1986). However, despite this assertion, there is a widespread held opinion condemning corruption in all ramifications and hence, worldwide outcry and call for eradicating the scourge.

Evidence may abound that corruption could aid development; no such evidence could be claimed to any root most especially developing state (Nigeria inclusive). Compelling evidences across the globe demonstrate that corruption is an anathema to development (khan, a). Furthermore, evidences in Nigeria have shown that corruption does more harm than good. This is evident in the fact that despite Nigeria's abundant natural resources the country is classified among poor countries in the world. Added to this is the fact that about 54% of the population earns less than \$1 per day. It needs to be stated that the incidence of extreme paradoxes of widespread and endemic poverty and hunger in the midst of plenty is a manifestation of corruption enmeshed in deteriorating condition of living (Ali, 2008). Statistics had also shown that "Nigeria is among the four largest economies in Africa" with a real GDP of 58.4 billion dollar and a population of about 140m" (Ibid).

Similarly, the enormous revenue generation capacity from oil and non-oil sectors, woefully contrasts with the decaying public infrastructures and extent of institutional development recorded. As it was rightly asserted by Salawu (2007), the phenomenon of corruption in Nigeria has made it impossible for Nigerians to enjoy the dividends of democracy and indeed the gifts of nature with which the country is greatly and abundantly endowed. This scenario is an acknowledgement that the state of affair in the country today is a reflection of pervasive corruption which has eaten deep into every facets of Nigeria life.

Without gain saying, it is a wide held belief that corruption is a way of life in Nigeria and that it is responsible for broken promises and dashed hopes which has characterized the lives of most Nigerians. It is not surprising to hear people saying that Nigerians are corrupt. Making it a fait accompli. More so, Nigeria is a country where corruption is rife and where greed for material acquisition and quest for political power had relegated to the background morals preached by various religions. This is because despite our claim to be religious, our quest for relevance had made nonsense of our self acclaimed religiosity and nothing can be left undone by our elites and non-elites for the realization their self desire. The end, it is believed, justifies the means.

To this end, there is now the increasing realisation about the ill effects of corruption on the nation's social, political and economic fabrics. Though, it is evident that there is no country that is totally free from corruption, the incidences of corruption is on the increase especially in poor and underdeveloped states. The Anti corruption efforts of the Nigerian government have proved ineffective, hence, large scale corrupt related cases, accusations and counter-accusations. There were cases of missing funds, police pensions scam, missing oil revenue or non-remittance into the federation account, contract scam, oil theft, administrative inefficiency or dereliction of duty, illegal sale or allotment of government land and property, bribery, extortion and other forms of corruption, economic and financial crimes.

In view of the above, it is imperative to undertake a review of the causes, effects and probable solutions to this menace. Following the introduction, are the other seven sub-sections, thence, this discourse, is organized as follows; the definition of corruption in Nigeria, perspectives, causes and effects of corruption. Others are the probable solutions and conclusion which forms the least nucleus of the paper.

2. Corruption Defined

The utility of corruption both as a concept and as a phenomenon is in contest. That is, it is a contested concept that takes varied forms. What is universal is that at least two (2) elements will be involved and the intent is to satisfy pecuniary or selfish interests either directly or indirectly. Corruption is a global phenomenon, and has been with all kinds of societies; be it Advanced, Primitive, Modern or Traditional, as a global scourge. It is a universal phenomenon which presents itself in different colourations and dimensions and,

wide spread in terms of coverage. The concept attracts different meanings from different people particularly the social scientists. Thence, its implications for different geo-political zones of the international community constitute a moot point.

Corruption like most concepts in social sciences is classified into the group of concept described by Gallie as highly contestable concepts. Thus, the definition that may be attached can be dissected and restricted. Onigu Otite defined corruption as “the perversion of integrity or affairs through bribery, favour, or moral depravity... societal impurity” (cited in Okafor, 2009). Lipset and Lenz (2000) define corruption as an “effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means for private gain at public expense” (Fagbadebo, 2007).

Corruption, according to Nkom (1982) is the perversion of public affairs for private advantage. Nkom was also of the view that corruption includes bribery or the use of unauthorized rewards to influence people in position of authority either to act or refuse to act in ways beneficial to the private advantage of the giver and then that of the receiver. It includes the misappropriation of public funds and resources for private gains, nepotism etc. In a similar vein, Doig (1996) described corruption as, the use of official position, resources or facilities for personal advantage, or possible conflict of interest between public position and private benefit. This involves misconduct by public officials and usually covered by a variety of internal regulations (Public Service Rules and Extant Rules). From the above, it is common to find people referring to corruption as the perversion of public affairs for private advancement. Therefore, corruption in this sense includes bribery, kickback, misappropriation, misapplication or the use of ones position to gain an undue advantage. Thus, any transaction which violates the duty of a public office holder and aimed at acquiring or amassing resources illegally for personal advancement and self gratification is seen as an act of corruption. Put differently, any intentional deviant behaviour for personal foredeal is a corrupt act.

Gibbons (1976) sees corruption in terms of politics and believes that political corruption has to do with the way public office forsakes public interest measured in terms of mass opinion in order to ensure that some form of political advantage are achieved at the expense of public interest. A more encompassing description of corruption was given by Akindele (1995) who opined that corruption is a socio-political, economic and moral malaise that is usually holistically permeates all the nerves of any society. The concept of corruption, as observed by Akindele (1995), has ideological, moral, cultural and intellectual discourse. Another simple, uncomplicated and encompassing definition of corruption that is found to be useful is the one that sees the phenomenon as the acquisition of that personal benefits which one (as a member of society not public official alone) is not entitled to (Salawu, 2007).

Corruption, seen from this perspective therefore represents a departure from what the society considers as correct procedures in exchange of goods and services on the part of everybody that makes up the society. The implication is that corruption is seen in various

societies from the perspective of the prescribed social life of the people. The proposition is that, while some societies speak of corruption mainly in terms of illegal acquisition of material resources or benefits, others tend to broaden it by attaching social and moral values to it (Metiboba, 1996). The deduction from above is that what someone regards as a corrupt act is seen differently by another person. The 1999 and other previous constitutions established a code of conduct for public officers and made it a political objective for the state to abolish all corrupt practices associated with abuse of power. However, it does not define corruption or give a list of acts that will amount to corruption. It has also been observed that the statutory criminal laws, the criminal and penal codes, do not define corruption. The Independent Corrupt Practices (and other related offences) Commission (ICPC) Act 2000, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act 2004 have now broadened the definition of corruption. The EFCC act empowers the commission to investigate, prevent and prosecute offenders who engage in:

Money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting and any form of corrupt practices, illegal arms deal, smuggling, human trafficking, and child labour, illegal oil bunkering, illegal mining, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractices including counterfeiting to currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic, wastes, and prohibited goods (EFCC Act, 2004)

This paper agrees with Lipset (1995) that corruption involves a deviation from the laws and regulations with intent to abuse ones public office and obtain private benefits. Second, the resources exchanged in corruption result in material advantages, as when a favourable public decision is paid for with money. Corruption is therefore one form of influence of money on politics. Third, that corruption always involves clandestine transactions as it is an unacceptable form of transaction.

3. Manifestations of Corruption in Nigeria

Colonialism, western education, the development of urbanization and monetization of the economy with its attendant growth of individualism brought about dramatic changes in the Nigerian state. The consular court system disrupted the traditional administration which the white colonialists met. In its place was appointed the highly flawed indirect rule under which appointment of personnel was arbitrarily made. Often times, appointees were unknown people, different from the traditional heads and chiefs. Many of the appointed people were of questionable character and were usually intoxicated by power, leading them to abuse and misuse their positions. Corruption in the Indirect Rules system

soon got to the attention of the colonialists, as most of the warrant chiefs prospered materially through the process of bribery and corruption.

The military that overthrown the civilians who took over from the colonialists cited corruption, amongst others, as the reason for staging the coup. They gave instances of electoral corruption and malpractices involving the use of money to buy votes, employment of thugs to intimidate political opponents, hiring of assassins to eliminate political opponents, hijacking of electoral boxes and materials, and the printing of fake voter cards. Unfortunately, military regimes tended to be more corrupt than the regimes they seemed to have come to correct. The unfortunate thing however, as observed by Salawu (2007) is that the military that took over in 1966 from the civilian government hoping to wipe out corruption in the Nigerian political system ended up entrenching corruption on the nation. Despotism, which characterizes military regimes, destroyed a culture of accountability. The once cherished culture of probity in public affairs soon yielded to a place of graft and the standard of public morality continued to worsen.

Characteristically, military regimes upon taking power and in fighting corruption, sack or remove from office or dismiss some individuals allegedly found to be involved in corrupt practices, forcibly seize/confiscate corruptly acquired property through legislation (decree). Such actions were, however, regarded as arbitrariness as it lacks an acceptable culture of probity and tended to be abused.

A more serious attempt at tackling this problem was made under Muhammadu Buhari/Tunde Idiagbon regime (1984-85). Institutional efforts taken to deal with the problem of corruption by the past administrations include, the Corrupt Practices Decree of 1975; the Public Officer (Investigation of Assets) Decree No. 5 of 1976, which was supplemented by the Code of Conduct Bureau and Code of Conduct Tribunals as spelt out in the 1979 constitution. Others include the Shehu Shagari's Ethical Revolution (1979-83), the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) campaign under the Buhari/Idiagbon junta. The Babangida administration introduced what was then tagged the National Committee on Corruption and other Economic Crimes (NCCEC) in its bid to deal with the perennial problem of corruption. However, a more serious attempt at tackling the problem was made under the Buhari/Idiagbon regime (1984/1985)

In spite of the various efforts made and measures taken by successive military administrations to rid Nigeria of corruption, the phenomenon of corruption, as it presents itself in the Nigerian polity has assumed an endemic, alarming and systemic proportions to the extent that the pervasive mentality for the worship of 'worldly things'; money, properties, or assets acquisitions has become the order of the day. To some analysts, corruption in Nigeria is characterized by extensive and intensive corruption properly protected by the 'Official Secret Act' and 'Immunity Clause' strategically embodied in the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. These two features of the constitution informed the opinion of some Nigerians that the constitution indirectly encourages corruption. Moreso, the perceived life-style and sudden inexplicable acquisition of wealth by ex-military and

serving personnel, their relatives and accomplices, coupled with lack of transparency in governance, informed the conclusion that military regimes were institutionalizing corruption and corrupt practices and, thereby enthrone a culture of graft (Ribadu, 2006).

The situation of corruption in Nigeria has presented an anomie situation in which anybody can get away with his/her loots no matter the amount of money involved and the material costs to the nation. The ThisDay Newspaper reported that the level of leakages in Nigeria has attracted an annual rate of \$25.76 billion loss to fraud related crimes in the last five years and that on a daily basis too; the country is losing about \$70,575,342 to corruption and other related crimes (Salawu, 2007). Given its alarming rate, particularly because of its damaging implications, the phenomenon constitutes a national question which needs to be examined in all its ramifications. In other words, every effort should be exerted to stem its spread and growth. It must be tackled head on no matter whose ox is gored.

This ugly picture has become insurmountable since independence and every strategy fashioned to address or tackle the menace has not yielded the desired outcome. Most of the national earnings particularly from the oil sector since independence have been gulped by different forms of corruption. The level and rate of corruption and, lack of accountability have remained an impediment to Nigeria's developmental drive and responsible for the increasing level of poverty in the country.

This unpalatable situation of corruption x-rayed above informed President Olusegun Obasanjo's stern focus on corruption. To this end, the government established two agencies - Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission, (EFCC) to achieve the purpose. The sentiment echoed by El-Rufai was that, corruption has reached an endemic level in Nigeria and that despite measures taken to stem its spread; it has continued unabated (Odekunle, 2006). He (Odekunle) stated further that every effort evolved at addressing the scourge have always been frustrated by the evolution of even more effective and sophisticated methods of corruption (ibid). In 2001 alone, Nigeria was said to have lost more than N23b (Alanamu et al, 2008). Oby Ezekwesili – Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) was quoted by Newswatch (2004) to have said that “the unit (BMPIU) had saved N125b from over bloated contracts. The figure is considered an equivalent of 30 percent of the capital budget for fiscal year 2004” (Salawu, 2008).

4. Perspectives on Corruption

There are several perspectives on corruption; namely, the idealistic, functionalist and Marxist, Moralists, Social censure and Social Constructionist perspectives

- (1) The idealistic theory, according to Nkom (1982) is based on the assumption that the ideals which people have determine the way they live and the way their

- society is organized. The school believed that corruption should be seen in terms of the nature of social and moral values prevailing in the society. Metiboba (1996) subdivided this perspective into traditionalist and modernist. The Modernists, he says, adopt western social values and attitudes associated with colonialism. He opined that the traditionalist, adopt traditional practices such as gift-giving, ethnic loyalty and other parochial tendencies.
- (2) The Functionalist school of thought sees corruption as a deviant behaviour which stems from the social structure of the society and exerts a definite pressure upon certain individuals in the society to engage in non-conforming or conforming conduct. Flowing there from is the fact that a society in which there is an exceptionally strong emphasis upon specific goals without a corresponding institutional means or procedures, will inevitably lead to what Durkheim called "anomie" normlessness or deviation". In Nigeria, material acquisition has become the ultimate goal and the society does not appear to be concerned with how one "makes" it. All that is important is that one has "arrived" (Alanamu et al, 2008).
 - (3) Marxist – contends that it is not people's consciousness that determine their wellbeing but the way the society organizes the production, distribution and exchange of goods and services that determines their material conditions.
 - (4) The Moralists school see "corruption as an immoral and unethical phenomenon that contains moral aberrations from moral standards of society, causing loss of respect for and confidence in duly constituted authority" (Gould, 1991; cited in Khan, a). Corruption is therefore seen as deviation from formal rules for personal aggrandisement.
 - (5) Social Censure believes that proper understanding of corruption "should take into consideration the capacity of the state to produce a particular form of social relations and shift the theoretical emphasis to the interplay of law, ideologies and political economy" (Khan, a)
 - (6) Social Constructionists opined that actors involved can be studied by relating them to contextual information on their social positions, interests and stakes in the system (Khan, a)

5. Causes of Corruption

The general framework for analyzing the causes of corruption can be discerned from three (3) levels; International, National and Individual levels (Khan, a).

- a. International Level-the competitiveness of the International markets, according to Khan (b), gives multinational companies an incentive to offer bribes to gain an advantage over other competitors in the system. The Siemens scandal, the National Identity Card saga and Halliburton case are some of the corruption cases involving international companies in Nigeria.

- b. National Level- the development strategy of the government may increase opportunities and incentives for corruption. Three types of relationships exist at this level; that is, the relationship between the government (elected and appointed officials) and the civil service; between government and the judiciary and, between government and the civil society/private organisation or individuals. What comes to mind here is, connivance and privileges. This could be when awarding contracts or giving concessions for economic reasons or granting of rights (such as privatisation of government owned businesses).
- c. Individual Level - This deals with business regulation, management of foreign aids, outright diversion of public resources, collection of mobilization fees without execution of the project or abandonment of projects when the amount for the project has been paid or poor execution of the project, a culture of affluent and get rich syndrome, unbridled competition between and among different classes of individual and the tendency to acquire more so as to gain advantage and retain one's position or aspire for a higher position. This explains why politicians spend a lot of money during elections period.

Many reasons could be adduced for the endemic nature of corruption in Nigeria. Some of the factors responsible for corruption in Nigeria are;

- i. Weak institution of government, a culture of affluent and get rich syndrome which has become part and parcel of public officials coupled with the extended family pressure, village and ethnic loyalties and, unbridled competition between and among the ethnic groups and a dysfunctional legal system.
- ii. Lukewarm attitude of the enforcers of the law (police, judges etc) forced some officials to be corrupt because they believe they could go unpunished and get away with their unwholesome acts. Those in this group are called the sacred cows, the untouchable, the cabals etcetera. It goes with varied appellations.
- iii. Some cultural and institutional factors could lead to corruption. For example, nepotism and strength of family values/ties are linked to the feeling of obligation. Nye (1967) was of the view that corruption is atimes caused by motivational behaviour which is a response to social pressures but which violate the set goals and objectives of a social system. In Nigeria for instance, individual rights are often subordinated to groups' interests and allegiance to ethnic interests is considered more important than public accountability or national interest. Consequently, individuals who became successful in the public sector are expected to share benefits with selected few (their accomplices and associates).
- iv. Sometimes, poor reward system, low remuneration for public servants and greed account for corruption related behaviour or actions. The reward system in Nigeria is, perhaps, the poorest in the world. Some states in the federation owed workers between two-six month salaries as at June, 2015. Yet, these members of the society are expected to be honest, productive and train their children in a most

- honourable manner without getting their salaries. Corrupt acts become the alternative means to achieve their objectives and make ends meet because they cannot depend solely on their meager salaries for a decent living (Obuah, 2010)
- v. Some people, individuals or firms engage in Corruption usually occasioned by bureaucratic bottlenecks. For example, businesses are likely to pay ransom or spend money in order to facilitate faster processing of their applications or documents. Individuals frisked at police check points in Nigeria are likely to pay bribe in order to avoid wasting their precious time. Similarly, individuals who apply for passports or driver's license in Nigeria are likely to pay bribe to speed up the issuing process (ibid). Sometimes, the process takes several months. The money paid serves as a means of avoiding the cost of delay. This act is usually called PR.
 - vi. Where there exists a principal-agent rent seeking relationship between bureaucrats and their superiors, especially where such relationship can provoke contests for positions that entitle them to appropriate transfers. In addition, the absence of transparent financial institutions in an economy can serve as an impetus corruption related behaviour or transactions or activities. In the 1980s, the discredited Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) served as the conduit pipe for many Nigerian officials to launder money derived from corrupt transactions into overseas banks (ibid).

6. Effects of Corruption

- i. Corruption perpetuates social, economic and political inequality (khan,b) and thus, aggravates mass poverty as poor people on the average pay higher proportion of their incomes in bribes. This, in economic parlance, retards economic growth. The misappropriation and mismanagement of public resources by successive regimes, has rendered millions of Nigerians poor, unemployed and uneducated. This can be described as oil that worsens factors related to overall human development. In the words of Osoba (1996), it is an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities to improve the living conditions of the people (Aluko, 2009).
- ii. Corruption also diverts public expenditure from sectors that benefit the poor the most, away to the sectors and project where kick-backs can readily be obtained by public officials. In effect, distorted priorities of public policies and diversion of public resources which could have been productively employed to increase productivity bring about effectiveness and efficiency of government performance becomes the order of the day. This also endangers the fiscal viability of the state as substantial portions of government revenues do not reach government coffers. Because the system creates avenue for leakages. Corruption, it is averred, can bring about skewing of the composition of public expenditure from social services that are important to the poor (Audu, 2008).

- iii. Corruptions can also cause reduction in quality of goods and services available to the public, as some companies could cut corners (thereby producing sub-standard goods to increase profit margins. Put differently, it generates allocative inefficiency (Khan, b) by permitting the least efficient contractor or most costly supplier with the highest ability to bribe those who award government contracts or awarding contracts to cronies or companies where they have interest. Cumulatively, these acts undermine the reputation and make government agencies ineffective and inefficient and impact negatively on the wellbeing of the people.
- iv. Corruption also impacts negatively on efficient mobilization and management of human and material resources. It can also alienate modernity-oriented civil servants and cause them to reduce (or withdraw) their service and to leave the country for greener pasture (the 'brain-drain' episode is tied to corruption) as many Nigerians believe it is profitable to work outside Nigeria's shore.
- v. Corruption is a cause of low investment with a resultant effect of reduced economic growth both at foreign and at the domestic level. An economy undermined by corruption has the effect of discouraging foreign investment and public donors. The resultant effect of this is shortage of fund for productive investment. Simply put, corruption hinders direct foreign investment.
- vi. Corruption has a negative impart on human rights of the citizenry. A country with a corrupt government will have no regard for people's fundamental human rights as guaranteed in the constitution. Hence, it desecrates the rule of law and distorts the entire decision-making process, undermines the credibility and legitimacy of government. Even, those who tried to expose corrupt activities find themselves to blame as they can be dealt with and the culprits walk away without being punished. This has encouraged the acceptance of the saying "join them if you cannot beat them"
- vii. It has also caused political decay and economic downturn in Nigeria and, depending on the scale; it has led to social conflict and violence as competing groups vie for state power which is the source of distribution of resources and other amenities in the country. This made politics all-comers job and is seen as surest means to affluence, earn respect and recognition,

7. Solutions

The following recommendations are some of the probable solutions to this scourge of corruption:

- a. Introducing or launching national reorientation programmes to educate people on the negative impacts and the need to eradicate corruption in all facets of Nigerian's public life. MAMSER, National Orientation Agency, War Against Indiscipline, War Against Indiscipline and Corruption are some of the steps, programmes, agencies and measures taken to tackle corruption. Why these efforts did not yield fruit or failed to achieve the desired outcome in the past is that the leaders who introduced these programmes distance themselves from its tenets and doctrines. Leadership, as the dictum says, has to be by example and as such the doctrines of such programmes must be enforced right from the top to the bottom.

The conclusion that these efforts failed because there was no political will to checkmate, control and eliminate corruption in Nigeria's public life is absolutely true

- b. Moral Regeneration: This involves value re-orientation which de-emphasize the use of money or wealth for recognition and relevance and, political contests. The influence of money as a factor in politics must be curtailed and discouraged, People should be encouraged to vote for people's qualities rather than money. Religious leaders' consistency and vigour in their campaign against corruption must be intensified, encouraged and promoted. The indispensability of the role of the agents of socialization, in this regard, should not be underplayed. This is because they are the vehicle for mobilization of potential human resources and agent of change of behaviour and value re-orientation.
- c. The government must introduce an equitable wages and incentive system and improve other conditions of work so that the level of poverty could be reduced and the quality of life improved. This will inevitably reduce civil servants' vulnerability and susceptibility to corruption. This must go hand in hand with prompt payment of the workers monthly wages and salaries.
- d. Prosecution of erring individuals or people found to be involved in any corrupt practice and if found culpable should be punished. This goes with forfeiture of assets and property acquired illegally. If deemed expedient by the court, anybody convicted must be also be given long term imprisonment. This will serve as deterrent to others. This requires strengthening and tightening of prosecution techniques. Since corruption is a relationship of 'give and take' both the giver and the receiver must be prosecuted. No one receives bribes, if nobody offers it. e.
- e. Government should go beyond the mere pronouncement of anti-corruption policies. It should rather provide good governance and an enabling environment for democratic ideals to thrive.
- f. Societal efforts must be geared towards the abolition of the "winner-takes-all syndrome" as this is what makes political contests a matter of life and death.
- g. The people should be given the right sense of values which should be inculcated in the people so that they could respect others for their honesty and not just for their wealth. This will help to develop a positive social attitude and enforcing a code of public ethics. This could lead to strengthening and checking abuses of power and privileges.
- h. Strengthening the police in the war against corruption should include training and retraining of management and staff officers in fraud and other financial crimes investigation and forensic accounting, adequate remuneration and motivation. The investigation process should go in tandem with current realities as it methods must be capable of tracking, discover, expose and prove beyond reasonable doubt any corrupt allegations.

- i. Anti-corruption body and transparent monitoring unit should be established in all public institutions, empowered and made functional in such a way as to detect and report corrupt officials for prosecution.
- j. Strengthening the constitutional institutions set up to fight corruption—e.g Code of Conduct Bureau, Code of Conduct Tribunal, Public Complaints Commission. This may require amendment of the enabling acts and make their existence relevant and proactive and, operations effective, efficient and result oriented. With this, their existence and public resources expended on them could be justified.
- k. Increase awareness on the economic, political, social and legal cost of corruption and corrupt practices on individual and the society at large. Campaigns of honesty, probity and accountability must be intensified, encouraged, promoted and institutionalized.
- l. An open system of government (Khan, b) this is linked to accountability and has come with the name “Freedom of Information Act”, where there is a constitutional and legal structure for disclosure and to make available all official documents when it is demanded for or required. This platform enables the existence of a free media and open avenues to investigate and expose corrupt practice at whatever level and no matter the status of who is or those involved.
- m. Above all, the country needs committed leadership, a re-oriented public service, a vibrant judiciary and an organised and vocal civil society. There must be a synergy between and amongst these structures of the state. The need for collaboration requires that institutions, departments, groups, and individuals whose activities border on fight against corruption work closely together. This calls for a complex web of interrelated institutional remedies. The collaboration is essential if the ravage, destruction of life and property caused by corruption are to be brought under control.

(8) Conclusion

Reflective of the manifestations of corruption in the political, social, administrative and economic life of the Nigeria state is the decaying infrastructure, inadequate medical services, falling standard of education, neglect of the basic/ fundamental needs of the people, loss of resources (human and material). Added to the above is the routine road

blocks by conventional and mobile police. It could also be seen in the way and manner elections are conducted vis-à-vis electoral malpractices either by politicians, political parties, and electoral officials. Administrative bottle-necks which make it expedient for corrupt acts to thrive. Inflation of contract sums so that certain group of individual or

people could be compensated for their assistance before the contract was awarded. Ethnic clandestine and similar biological and primordial relationships are favoured.

It is obvious that bad governance is the bane of national development. In order to break this cycle, accountability and transparency have to be guaranteed and the people have to be involved in issues that affect their lives and immediate environment. Transparency and accountability in governance will help to increase sense of national community.

A failed, corrupt and inept leadership coupled with unfavourable domestic socio-political environment have plunged development performance in Nigeria into the abyss. An informed civil society is necessary to balance the power of the Nigerian State. This could be a solution for ending the brazen abuse of powers and privileges by public officials and stimulate a psychological reorientation towards meaningful development. A genuine monitoring of government policies and programmes could lead to the detection of corrupt practices.

An effective action against corruption has to involve effective sanction, greater political transparency as a means of removing secrecy under which corruption flourishes. Much is yet to be seen from the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. Above of any social problem deserves a societal focus, attention and efforts. To this end, all members of the Nigerian society has the responsibility to educate, mobilize, enlighten and sensitizing it members towards a tradition of honesty, excellence, truth, reputation, good name and other moral virtues that would Nigeria a better place for all.

Conclusively, it is noteworthy to acknowledge that it is impossible to eliminate corruption entirely but its magnitude and cases can be minimized or reduced. This stage could be referred to as negligible or tolerable corruption level.

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