A Synopsis of Corruption in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

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Abstract

Corruption permeates all aspects of human engagements. No society however civilized can claim to be devoid of the phenomenon of corruption. However, on comparative basis, developing societies of the world such as those in Asia and Africa seem to be worse hit. One of such societies battling with the menace of corruption is Nigeria. The paper therefore, sets out to explore the evolution, causes and incidence of corruption as well as its effects with a view to suggesting a way out of the quagmire. To achieve this, the paper utilized content analysis of data accessed from secondary sources to historicize and lay the causes of corruption especially as they relate to the peculiar nature of Nigeria. The paper contextualized the incidences of high profile corruption in the country especially in the fourth republic and the effects of such ruthless actions, activities and inactionand what they portend for Nigeria in her modest efforts to democratize its polity. The paper concludes that Nigeria's prosperity has been greatly hampered by extraordinary and massive corruption in the land so that there is a huge deficit in national progress, development and welfare of the citizens. The way forward is to strengthen anti-corruption institutions towards prevention and punishment of corrupt activities as well as ensure good governance in Nigeria.

Introduction

Corruption, like a virus is a global phenomenon that permeates races, cultures and boundaries. It ravages the progress of most societies where it is manifest. The phenomenon has been seen by many as the leading cause of underdevelopment especially in backwards states of Africa and Asia. Though corruption is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria's polity, the continuous realization that its recent manifestation will not just collapse the Nigerian state and indeed the African continent has induced new set of discourses and different levels of actions by individuals, governments, non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations alike.

The problem is not just social, it as political as it is economic and so, any attempt to explain the phenomenon would necessarily be informed by philosophical and moral presuppositions, explicitly or implicitly made. On this note, the paper utilized secondary data to look at the concept of corruption, explore its evolution in Nigeria, as well as the manifestations of the phenomenon. The paper also attempts to expose the causes of corruption in Nigeria, the negative effects on society; life and living as well as the various efforts of especially governments to address the malaise and suggests the way out of the national quagmire.

Evolution of Corruption in Nigeria

Three basic questions guide the evolution of corruption in Nigeria: were Nigerians born corrupt? In otherwords, is corruption inherent in Nigerians? Was there corruption prior to the creation of Nigeria? To address the foregoing questions is to engage in meaningful trace of the evolution of corruption and how Nigerians caught the "diseases" of corruption.

Studies such as that of Wraith and Simpkins (1963) insisted that corruption is very old. It has been with societies through history. The study pointed out for instance that,Britain, as early as the 9th century was marked by great corruption. Thecentury saw classical colonial rule that lasted until the end of the Second World War (WWII) in 1945. During the period before independence, a small band of British colonial officials aided and abetted corruption through their compatriots and European Christian missions and monopoly trading firms operating in Nigeria and elsewhere. According to Dudley (1973), this international bourgeoisie or usurpers of the Nigerian people's sovereign power and authority established a kind of praetorian or military rules underpinned by a mode of production, appropriation and accumulation that were dominated by the monopolistic and oligopolistic practices of major European trading firms.

By so doing, even then, the Europeans presided over a fraudulently corrupt society that accumulated surpluses for shipment to the metropole by manipulation purely at the expenses of Nigeria to the benefit of Europeans and their collaborators. This mode of authoritarianism, it will be recalled, generated a crisis of accumulation whereby in the Fanonian sense, "to be white was to be rich and to be black was to be poor" (Ejovi, Mgbonyebi and Akpokighe, 2013).

At the end of WWII, Nigerians who were attracted to this fraudulent accumulation had fast sharpened their skills and were gradually assuming the positions of Nigerianbourgeoisiesto replace the colonial masters. Soon, the

period of decolonization presented the Nigerian bourgeoisies new opportunities of private accumulation as they became ministers, chairmen and members of boards among others. Their new roles opened new doors for new forms of corruption and substantial private capital accumulation (Ejovi, Mgbonyebi and Akpokighe, 2013). It was at this period that the cliché "ten percent" or kickback from public contracts became the order of the day.

For instance, just before independence, Nnamdi Azikiwe, the premier of Eastern Nigeria had been exposed by the Foster-Sutton Tribunal of Inquiry of 1956 for abusing his position to divert sums of money that belonged to the region into his personal account. In a similar fashion, the CookerCommissionof Inquiry(1962) into six Western Nigerian public corporations exposed the manner in which Obafemi Awolowo and his colleagues in the leadership of Action Group (AG) enriched themselves and the party from funds that accrued from the Cocoa Marketing Board, a public corporation (Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette, 1964).

The quantum of corruption that was occurring all over the regions before independence and at independence suggested that, the contest between colonial powers and Nigerian so called nationalists was a fierce contestation for private accumulation of national wealth using national sentiments and not a genuine national struggle to allocate scarce resources to Nigerians.

The Manifestation of Corruption in Nigeria

As soon as independence was gained in 1960, there was a military coup in 1966 that sought and overthrew the civilian administration of Tafawa Balewa and NnamdiAzikiwebecause misrule, ineptitude and corruption. Within the same year, there was a counter coup and Yakubu Gowon became the Head of State. Under Gowon, there were several efforts to cleanse the system of corruption but soon, the civil war broke that provided new opportunities for misappropriation of salaries and allowances of soldiers killed in the line of duty. There was massive looting of public and private property bythe military. It was at this period that the Benin Central Bank branch was looted. The end of Nigerian civil war ushered Nigeria into oil boom and provided a wide window for unexpected national income. This over-abundance reignited opportunities for fraud and corruption in the scheme of national dealings.

For instance, there was a dramatic allegationof corruption against J.S Tarka, the Commissioner of Communication in anaffidavit by his countryman, Godwin Daboh and against Joseph Gomwalk, the military Governor of Benue-Plateau state by a school teacher, AperAku (Ejovi, Mgboyebi and Akpokighe, 2013).

There were corruption allegations against many public officers pertaining to direct transfers from state treasury into private accounts, racketeering and the collection of government dues, and fraud pertaining to the award of contracts and sales and purchase of government interest.While this has continued to be the nature and character of corruption in Nigeria down from the first republic to the fourth, major issues that characterized some administrations down to President Mohammadu Buhari's administration are worthy of mention.

The General Ibrahim Babangidamilitary administration was said to have 'legalized' and entrenched corruption in Nigeria. This administration was accused of embezzling the

Gulf War wind fall estimated at $12.4 billion. Under his administration, vehicles and cash gifts were routinely disbursed to force compliance during the administration. It was alleged that the attempt by a journalist, Dele Giwa to expose Babangida's money laundering activities and his drug dealings led to his assassination with a parcel bomb.

Another major manifestation of corruption in Nigeria occurred under General Sani Abacha's watch as President over Nigeria, between 1993 and 1998. French investigations revealed that various sums were paid in bribe to different categories of government officials to ease oil and gas transactions in Nigeria. The investigation led to the freezing of about $100 million in various accounts of the suspects (Igbekiowubo, 2004). After Abacha's death in 1998, the Swiss Bank Commission reported the freezing of other accounts belonging to Abacha amounting to over $600m and £16m respectively. Since then, various sums alleged to have been carted away by the Abacha regime have been negotiatedand some returned to the national treasury.

The difference between Olusegun Obasanjo's time in government in 1976 and 1999 was that his later reign was more perverse with corruption. It was during his return in 1999 that the Siemens bribery scandal occurred. Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States investigation blamed his erstwhile deputy, Alh. Abubakar Atiku and he was eventually from entering the US forseveral years.

There was also an allegation that Mamberic Corporation, a Japanese construction firm agreed to pay a $54.6m criminal penalty for allegedly bribing officials of Nigerian government to facilitate the award of $66m liquefied natural gas contract at Bonny in Brass, Local Government Area of Bayelsa.It was still during the Obasanjo's tenure that there was Transcorp shares scandal and thePresidential Library donations scandal among others.

Goodluck Jonathan's time in office between 2010 and 2015, like those of his predecessors was characterized by corruption. The President did not only seemed to have lacked knowledge of happening in his administration, even when his attention was drawn, he dismissed suchallegations. One of such incidents was that outcry by Lamido Sanusi, the erstwhile Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria of missing $206m that was supposed to be remitted by the Nigeria oil company, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in 2013.

Through the administration demised the initial allegations and instead fired the governor, by 2015, audited reports of both PwC and Deloitte showed a shortfall from their remittances up to the tune of $1.48b (Aguntasoolo, 2015). There was also $250m security contracts scandal in the Niger Delta, the Malabu oil scandal, the stealing of over N8b by workers of CBN, the $2.2b illegal withdraw from Excess Crude Oil Accountand the missing $11.6b from Nigeria LNG Company (Izeze, 2015). Other high profile corruption cases reported were related to the former Petroleum Minister, Mrs Alison Madueke. Channels News Television reported in December 2021 that EFCC uncovered $72.8m from Mrs Madueke. This is in addition to the final forfeiture order by a Nigerian Court of her assets worth $3m and another assets recovery of $144m filled by the US Department of Justice for assets allegedly obtained with proceeds of corruption (Reuters, 2022).

Corruption manifested in security and health procurements. Particularly the scandal in weapons procurement and the looting of N3 trillionsecurity vote in the guise of fighting insurgency in the Northeast- a crime for which the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Sambo Dasuki continues to stand trial and of course, the diversion of about N1.9b funds meant to fight Ebola among others (Ovuorie, 2014).

Though revolutionary methods such as the whistle blowing policy and fearless head-on accusations and trails are secured by the Buhari administrations, it can be at best be described as an effort of putting old wine in a new bottle. In other words, there have indeed been a lot ofefforts at fighting corruption under Buhari's watch but with less visual results. For instance, the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on humanitarian crisis in the Northeast pointed to an indication that the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal was involve in a N200m scandal for clearing of invasive plant species in Yobe state.

There was also a disturbing case code named the "Maina Gate" which started under Jonathan's presidency but believed to have been condoned by the Buhari administration because of the alleged reinstatement and protection the perpetrator Adulrasheed Maina against prosecution for an alleged embezzlement of $5.6m and €3.8m of pension fund. Under the same administration, the Ayo Salami Panel which was set to investigate EFCC between 2015-2020 revealed that, the Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu fraudulently abandoned 14 cases worth N118b among other accusations. Related, the Panel claimed that EFCC could show evidence for an equivalent of N48b it recovered from public between 29 May, 2015-Novenber 22, 2018 (Sanusi, 2022).

The continuous incidences and manifested of corruption has remained a cardinal principle of state and national policy and the epidemic still saps the vitality of our National economy and the creativity of the good people of Nigeria.

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria

The incidence of corruption in Nigeria is predicted by variety of factors. Based on ideological beliefs of Maduagwe (1996), corruption in Nigeria is as a result of the weak legal system, affluent culture of a people, weak nature of her institutions, ostentatious living styles and pressure from extended family system among others. It may be observed that Maduagtwe'scause of corruption are only associated to individuals, the paper has introduced national and international cause of corruption to ensure a more balanced study. In other words, this study attempts three general frameworks for analyzing the various causes of corruption: the individual, the national and international levels respectively.

a. Causes of Corruption at Individual Level

At the individual level, corruption can be caused by pressure from extended family or community expectations. There is a general expectation from those who occupy certain positions either in private or public life to patronize extended family members, contribute to community project (cause) and even support to maintain the affluent lives of their traditional rulers. Often, the efforts to keep up with the family and community expectation causes most individuals to indulge in corrupt

activities since their legitimate sources of income can hardly sustain the public pressure.

Even beyond extended family and community pressure, there are value system and norms that seem to exit to encourage people to be corrupt especially among religious circles and some traditional societies. It has been observed that even members of the society do not see something wrong in taking fraudulently corrupt proceeds to build or contribute to religious causes or even 'purchase' chieftaincy titles that hitherto were only awarded to individuals of very high integrity and repute and those who distinguish themselves in various fields of endeavor.

There are also instances that poor reward system like low remuneration for public servants, and greed account for corrupt behaviour. In Nigeria for instance, both private and public workers feel short-changed by their employers. The situation of workers in the public sector however seems to be worst as there exist common evidence that workers and pensioners are owned salaries and pensions running to months. Thus, some public servant tends to craft fraudulent and corrupt ways of survival. There are however, a category of individuals that are corruption, however high their remuneration/benefits. Such individuals do so because of greed or their desire greed or to live ostentations life styles-one which is often beyond their level of income.

Weak legal system in Nigeria also accounts for immense individual corruption in Nigeria. Where laws exist to punish corrupt individuals, the enforcers of the law such as the police and the judiciary are either unwilling, financially incapacitated, or play ethnic or religious cards or are corrupt themselves and cannot play their role of prosecuting or handing fare judgements to offenders. It must also be noted that sometimes where laws exist, they are so obsolete that they provide an option for fine that is sometimes, less that 0.05 percent of the corrupt proceeds (See EFCC v Yakubu Yusuf in 2013).It is therefore seems as though some laws exist in Nigeria to encourage corruption.

Stiff bureaucraticbottlenecksalsocause corruption in Nigeria for both individuals and organizations. Getting things done in Nigeria is characterized by stiff bureaucratic bottlenecks and aggravated by non-computerization of governance and business processes. Individuals and firms tend to use money to facilitates their engagements with officers in such offices of responsibility. Common daily examples of these kinds of unwholesome activities include unofficial payments to facilitate the processing of international passports, driver's licenses, clearance papers at the port, certificates of business registration, release of contract papers and payments for release of gratuity and other entitlements and even access to public or private officials among others.

There is also the availability of corruption facilitation institutions. As vague as this may sound, there are institutions that collaborate with individuals and other institutions to launder money such as banks and bureau de change outfits. For instance, in the 1980s, the discredited Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was used as a conduit pipe for some Nigerian official to launder corrupt proceeds (Moyosore, 2015). Another central cause of individual corruption in Nigeria can be explained around excruciating poverty of people in terms of possessing material resources in addition to poverty of the mind due largely to poor education and illiteracy and

unemployment of youth population. There is evidence thata great percentage of the Nigerian population lack access to basic needs of life such as housing, food, clothing and education. The consequence of the situation becomes manifest in any slight opportunity of such population to create means of saving their situation and those of their relatives by primitive accumulation of public resources. In fact, the aggressive manners in which such individuals indulge in corruption to stay out of the poverty circle is often unprecedented.

b. Cause of Corruption at National Level

Corruption happens at the national level out of desperate quest of public office holders to satisfy citizens to retain their public office during elections. To this end, resources meant to be distributed fairly to the benefit of all citizens are fraudulently diverted by those in power unofficially to the benefit of a few favoured sections, sectors or communities. This kind of corruption is manifest in awards of huge contracts to favoured contracting firms, to beneficial communities who may not deserve the awards but for the influence of government functionaries.

Corruption at the national level also happens through arms of government like the executive (budget office, ministries Departments and agencies), the legislature (the National Assembly consisting of the senate and the House of Representatives) and the Judiciary. Leading examples of such manners of corruption is padding of budgetary allocation by the various organs of government in the 8th Assembly (2016), there were accusations and counter accusations about budget padding up to the tune of NI7b in favour of the leadership of the legislature. An exercise which cost the former Director General of Budget Office his job and the Chairman of Appropriation Committee, Abdulmumin Jubrin his position as Chairman of the Committee.

Though no convictions have been secured, there are accusations against the judicial system in Nigeria bothering on corruption. Recently, several judges believed to have been taking bribes to stifle the cause of justice against suspected corrupt individual caused a raw between the executive and the judiciary. Trials are still ongoing but the ostentatious life style of some judges suggest that they are corrupt. No wonder, it is common to see judges lobby to chair election tribunals in some states or to be judges over some high-profile cases.In 2016, the EFCC had confirmed that it recovered N270m believed to be proceeds of corruption from raiding the houses of some Federal judges even though it was widely criticized for doing so for different reasons (Punch, 2016).

It is needless to point to a lot of discussions concerning the quantum of bribes offered and taken by judges in the case between Federal Government of Nigeria and the thirty-six Governors of the federation over sharing of excess crude funds and the contestation between state governors and local governments over local government autonomy.

Causes of Corruption at International Level

Competitiveness, the quest for materialism and high profits propel corruption at international level between governments, multinational firms and organizations and even high net worth individuals. This kind of corruption comes mostly inform of bribes to facilitate or speed up processes within the system in favour of governments or multinational organizations. There have been many cases of corruption

around visa processes,operational license for multinational companies, tax rockets, under payments into government coffers and stealing of crude oil among others.

Some of the most celebrated cases of international corruption are the "Halliburton Gate", the "Siemens gate", and the National Identity Card saga. There was also the crude oil theft scandal under President Goodluck Jonathan and eventually under Muhammadu Buhari, the $15mprivate jet Arms scandal among others.

Effects of corruption in Nigeria

The cost of corruption on a country like Nigeria is huge, profound and enormous. While the effects of corruption in Nigeria may not vary from those in other countries, it is important to note that due to peculiar situations of countries, the degree of the effects may differ. In Nigeria for instance, the dynamic impact of corruption is felt almost at every layer of the population-the most fragile being the poor. The following therefore are the consequent effects of corruption in Nigeria:

i. **Corruption leads to excruciating poverty**
Corruption reduces any chances to increase human investment and capital. Hence, cases of corruption in Nigeria are widely associated with poorpublic finance management which results in increasing number of barriers from public provisions that decreases the ability of people and firms to so business or sustain themselves.

ii. **It decreases Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**
As a result of corruption, FDI inflow into Nigeria has significantly decreased. Foreign direct investments provide real growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and jobs, the absence suggests slow growth and indeed explains the dwindling fortunes of Nigeria.

iii. **Leads to low standards of living**
Corruption in Nigeria leads to low standards of living. Governmentsand individuals in charge of resource allocation deplore oil wells and indeed other resources of the nation to the benefit of a few privileged ones who continue to live in affluence as the "rest" live inpenury. This explains the reason while about 63% of Nigerians, that is 133m people live inmultidimensional poverty(National Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

iv. **Corruption create conditions for political instability**
Corruption in Nigeria creates uncreative conditions for political instability. This is because, unrestricted corruption makes the state an unlimited allocator of wealth to individuals and groups. This character of the state makes it possible for "do-or-die"politics to take root with politicians struggling to out-compete one another sometimes in the most violent manner.

As it may be recalled, corruption has been advanced as a reason for different coups staged at different times by the military for overthrowing democratically elected or even other military juntas in Nigeria (Anger, 2014). It leads to blanket criminalization and stereotype of Nigerians especially abroad. For fear of poverty and perhaps greed, Nigerians especially youth engage systematically in different unwholesome ways of sustaining themselves. One of the most prominent illicit means of survival in Nigeria today is advance fee fraud ("419") or "YahooYahoo" (the most advanced level of the crime is sometimes referred as "Yahoo Plus"in localparlance).

v. Corruption promotes the existence of an "underground or illegal" economy

Owing to selfish corrupt disposition of public officials and indeed lack of commitment to national cause, there are many leakages that exits to support bribes to infiltrate the security system and gain access to wealth. There are those illegitimate business people who get official protection to perpetrate underground economic dealings that are detrimental to the progress and prosperity of the nation. Some of these underhand dealings are currency counterfeiting, adulteration and substandard products dealings, importation of contraband products, crude oil theft, fuel theft, contracts and job racketeering, and illicit drug dealing among others.

Therefore, as much as the criminal economies may be worth billions, government is likely not a beneficiary in taxes or rate nor are the people. If anything, costs of these illicit transactionare sometime borne by both government and individuals, directly or indirectly.

vi. Corruption leads to other social cost apart from poverty

It is apparent that all societies have rules, laws and regulations to guide society and protect public interest. There are such rules and regulations relating to building codes, traffic control, environmental and banking regulations. Bending these rules and regulations through corruption has direct effect on social norms as this can result in building collapse, accidents, disorder and even deaths.

Despite the Building Code in Nigeria, Daily Trust Newspaper collated the number of buildings that collapsed in Nigeria and pegged the figures at 83 buildings with 305 deaths and 449 injured casualties between 2013 and 2021. It is needless to reflect on the dare psychological consequences of losing loved ones and the loss of capital and indeed complete livelihoods in a nation where 63 percent of the population live below poverty level.

Connivance of banks, traffic, customs, immigration and various authorities with illicit business population or public officials to facilitate the plunder of the state has been the ultimate engagements of some Nigerian since the return to civilian rule with manifest social costs to the citizens.

vii. Corruption as a cause of underdevelopment

Corruption causes underdevelopment to the extent that it reduces the amount of resources available to be used for developmental projects/programmes. For instance, in Nigeria, funds allocated for construction of roads, building of hospitals, educational facilities and social welfare of Nigerians are diverted fraudulently to serve the interest of a few who have the means at the expense of millions who are to benefit from such project/programmes. Between 1999-2007, former President Olusegun Obasanjo allegedly spent $16b on power without generating more 5000MW of electricity. The situation is similar to Buhari's eight-year expenditure of $19b on refineries without any results in terms of crude oil refining.

Efforts at Tackling Corruption in Nigeria

Nigeria has been struggling totackle corruption through 'traditional', legal and governance based measures, emphasizing the reform of public procurement, public financial management, the establishment of agencies and reviews of laws of the land. The most visibly discussed attempts have been the creation of Code of Conduct Bureau (1979), Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offices Commission (ICPC) (2000), Economic and financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) (2003) and Public Procurement Act (2007) and sundry other reforms such as Budget Transparency Initiative among many other miscellaneous acts targeted atfighting corruption.

Before the birth of the EFCC and ICPC, Kayode (2013) recorded that about $400bwas corruptly stolen from Nigeria between 1960 and 1999. The coming of EFCC and ICPC has increase guard on national resources.

In 2012 alone, the scholar reported that:

> a total of 7,737 petition were received and processed by the commission. This represent six percent increase over petitions received in the preceding year. Out of these, 2,385 were referred to other agencies for necessary action and 2,746 were rejected for lack of merit. A total of 97 criminal convictions bordering on money laundering, illegal oil banking, pipeline vandalism, bank fraud, forgery and breach of trust, among others were also secured.

According to the report, a combined total asset worth over N9.7b were also recovered and forfeited by various individuals and organizations. Since then, other recoveries and convictions of governors and other high net worth individuals and politicians have been secured and most cases are still awaiting judgement.

There is indication that over 3,800 cases in 2019 were still stockwith the Nigerian judiciary. This explains whythe Mohamadu Buhari's administration indicated its resolve to resort to corruption prevention and other means of exposing corrupt individuals and recovering the nation's stolen worth rather than the reactive means which seems to be less result oriented.

One of such strategies is the introduction of Treasury Single Account (TSA) which is expected to promote efficiency, transparency, accountability and most of all prevent corruption. However, the judiciary and the legislature and even some units of the executive have been exempted from operating it. Another of such strategieswhich has begun to yield fruits is the Whistle Blower Policy which was introduced in 2016 to help curb mismanagement of public funds and financial malpractice. The policy provides for citizens who furnish government with tips about corrupt practices and financial crimes to be rewarded with between 2.5-5% of money recovered.

Following the policy, Onyeji (2018) reported that, the Federal Ministry of Finance were in receipt of 5,000 tips from the public as at August 2017 and by October 2017, Ibrahim Magu announced that through the policy, EFCCrecovered N527b, $53m, £21m and €547,730.

With the political will of the administration, the Code of Conduct Bureau has been wrestling some politically exposed individuals in government for not declaring assets. One of the most celebrated cases of the code of conduct Bureau is with Abubakar Saraki (The former Senate President). But overall, the entire efforts of successive administrations and antigraft agencies in Nigeria has done little or nothing to achieve the desired results for Nigerians. Corruption has continued to stand tall "as though it is a respected monument in Nigeria"

Following the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) carried out by Transparency International, corruption rose by 28% in 2016 and decreased a little to 27% in 2017.The figure is higher when compared to Obasegun Obasanjo's administration which recorded 16%, UmaruYar'Adua 25% and Goodluck Jonathan's 25% respectively (Ademolekun, 2018).

Conclusion and Recommendations

There is consensus that corruption is an old phenomenon that has pervaded nearly all facets of human life and traversed communities and nations.The menace manifests in different ways requiring of different strategies to tackle it. While the causes of the phenomenon may vary from society to society, one thingis always the same-the negative effects of corruption which can be deep and far reaching. The slow strides of development in Nigeria have been attributed by many to primitive corruption and looting of national assets. The effects resonate in lack of access roads, lack of functional healthcare system, poor educational system, energy crises, huge housing deficit and general poverty among other things.

Many approaches have been taken already in fixing corruption in Nigeria but the phenomenon seems endemic, the study therefore, proposessome social normative strategies adopted from Hoffman and Patel (2017) to aggregate the following recommendations for tackling corruption in Nigeria:

There is need for highlighting and empowerment of trend-setters(both real and fictional) to drive behavioral change. Corruption can only be reduced if leaders live by examples. The trendy behaviour and actions of political actors play a major role in influencing public trust or inspiring citizens'behaviours. As major trend-setters, therefore, political actors must measure up to higher standards of integrity, honesty and transparency for others to imbibe.

Decision makers should imbibe the principle of self-satisfaction. Self-satisfaction implies being content with what one has. When Nigerian leaders or decision makers are satisfied with their official benefits and use same appropriately, the issue of embezzlement and money laundry may be over.

Strengthening and updating anti-corruption institutions to face the changing nature of financial crimes. Government of Nigeria must strengthen the operations and update various laws establishing anti-graft agencies in a manner they will be bold and capable of dispensing their duties without fear or favour and without any legal impairment.

There is need for general empowerment of citizens to enhance economic growth and development.There is a general concern that poverty is a major cause of corruption anywhere in the world. Therefore, to reduce corruption, Nigerian governments at all levels and other development partners must work towards policies that will create employment to better life and living of individuals and groups. The private sector must also partner with relevant governmental agencies in creating

conditions favourable for small and medium scale enterprises that will lead to overall economic growth and development.

In human societies, the strict punishment or sanctioning of crimes does not only reprimand offenders, it discourages other potential criminals against such crimes. The justice system in Nigeria must therefore be reviewed by government in a manner that only those who pass integritywill preside over the cause of justice against corrupt individuals. There is also the need to create specialized courts to try corruption cases. When such courts punish offenders irrespective of the creed, religion, status and ethnicity, much more individuals will desist from corruption.

Communal, religious and government approaches towards reorienting and regenerating morals within religious, cultural and official circles will discourage celebration of corrupt individuals. The situation where individuals get rewarded with chieftaincy titles, prayers and portfolios as well political patronage accentuates corruption. Instead, corrupt persons should be disbanded by the very groups they cherish must.

Finally, the greatest anti-dote to corruption is perhaps good governance system. Good governance will ensure that whatever measures put together by government are seen to be good enough to promote good governance, accountability and transparency. This is the only framework that allows for reasonable degree of symbolic coherence between policy frameworks and their implementation. It is good governance that redistribute available resources fairly, creates functional institutions, commits to sustainable development, gives employment and fair wages, punishes anybody whenever there is a need. Above all, it is good governance that builds confidence in individuals, groups and organizationand dissuade citizens from engaging into in any anti-national interest.

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