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CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA(1999-2016): A CHALLENGE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **INTRODUCTION:**

Several countries across the globe have suffered serious problems arising from corruptions and corrupt practices of both the leaders and the led. In Nigeria, it is not over-statement to say both leaders and led are corrupt as corruption has now become a pandemic in Nigeria, it's an evil that affects even generations to come.

Corruption is a moral perversion and has been said to involve the abuse of conventional rules for private benefit. In another perspective, corruption is defined as conduct which does not conform with the prescribed duties of a civic rule just to achieve personal gain regarding or that of close relatives, clique, financial or status gain, it is a conduct which is contrary to laid down rule. Corrupt behaviors include, falsification of academic records, over-invoicing contract figures, money laundering, malpractice in the examination, rigging in elections, rent-seeking tendencies, nepotism, fraud, embezzlement, extortions, favoritism. It is a concept, a harmful phenomenon to growth and economic of development of a nation.

Since the coming to power of the president Buhari led government on May29, 2015, the administration has put in place so many steps to redress the corrupt practices and repair the bad leadership in the system which will take the form of reshufflement in custom services, revitalizing the two anti-corruption commissions, and being aggressive on the on-going recovery and confiscation drive on the looted money, properties and prosecution of corrupt individuals in both the public and the private sectors of the economy.

A corrupt individual better referred to as a sociopath who will often require the attentions of psychologist or behavior therapist for behavioral change interventions. The steps have yielded a

lot of positive outcomes as a lot of corrupt practices are being uncovered involving serious misappropriations, diversion of funds, embezzlements and unpatriotic tendencies.

The degree of bribery and other corrupt tendencies have been escalating before the coming to power of the present administration in May, 2015 which has culminated into retrogressing economic development in country and thus inform the desire to critically examine such challenges so as to serve as a blue print to the government and particularly the specific agencies and at the same time mitigates the resurgence of corruption in the future.

It is quite instrumental to say, the evil started with the emergence of an entity called Nigeria. It is pertinent to note that corruption has been at its top in Nigeria because most Nigerians measure status by flamboyant affluence and ostentatious consumption. The triggers of corruption in the country are many which have socio- economic dimensions. Some authors stress the relation between corruption and ethnic differences, and social diversity (Lipset and Lenz, 2002). Studies have also shown that corruption manifest significantly due to poverty, bad governance, selfishness, and desire to acquire more wealth by leaders which make Nigerians committing corrupt practices.

Other contributing factors that trigger corruption in the country and which hinder and affect economic development of Nigeria comprise of the broad disparity in the sharing of national income, public enterprises become an avenue of accumulating resources, weakness of the legal system and the anti-corruption agencies although there is slight improvement in this particular factor , lack of sense of patriotism and nationalism, material inclinations, obsession for quick wealth by the general public are the key causes for the recurrence of corruption in the country.

Corruption in Nigeria seriously reduced the quality of life generally and even the quality of goods and services manufactured in the economy because most of the producers of goods and services are prone to corrupt tendencies so as to increase profit margin.

Corruption has been an impediment to development in the country as resources meant for improving the livelihood of the people are squandered. Thus, without any iota of doubt, the incident has crippled the nation and dismantled what is regarded as esteemed national norms.

To the utmost dismay, the leaders who are in the mantle of stirring the dealings in the country are the culprits in this act. This opinion is collaborated by Usman (1980) who maintained that such moral perversion are the severe impediments to meaningful development in the country and therefore inhibits infrastructural development. Public offices have become the major sources of private benefits, policies are twisted for personal aggrandizement . It is against this backdrop that this study sets to examine corruption in Nigerian and its challenge to economic development..

Due to the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, Nigeria was named among the 23 countries provoking the commitment of international society in fighting money laundering, this gave rise to the formation of anti-corruption agencies which are now saddled with the task of fighting corruption in Nigeria that are ICPC in the year 2000 and EFCC in 2003. These agencies have continued to revive investments and economic development and readdressing misappropriation of resources meant for the development of the society to private benefits.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Given the perspective above, and so as to clear any iota of ambiguity, the scope of the study is to examine corruption and its challenges to economic development in Nigeria for the period 1999 to 2016. The following questions will also be answered within the scope of the study:

  ➢ What are the effects of corruption on economic development in the Nigerian economy?
  ➢ How do the anti- graft commissions recover looted resources from the corrupt people?
  ➢ What are the success and challenges of EFCC and ICPC in fighting corruption in the country?
  ➢ What are the root causes of corruption in the country?

The remaining parts of the study are structured as follows: Section two is literature review, section three is the research methodology applied for this study where a structured questionnaire is designed for only 40 respondents selected among the staff of the two anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria (EFCC and ICPC), section four is the data analysis and section five summarizes the results, make some policy recommendations and draw conclusions.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A lot have not been written on corruption and its challenges to economic development in Nigeria, many researchers failed to undertake empirical research to define the incidence of corruption in Nigeria, the few that exist were conducted many years ago.

The extent of squandering resources which is six times up to the quantity of resources dedicated to revamping of western Europe after the shocking world war II simply explain the insensitivity of the elite class towards the progress of the country (Ribadu, 2006). Corruption is the single greatest challenge to economic growth and development, it cripples growth by circumventing the rule of law and destabilizing the base on which socio-economic development depends (World Bank, 2003). It negatively affects good governance and public policy, leading to rent-seeking tendencies and resources misallocation and mismanagement (Transparency International, 2012). Researches have shown that the country portrays relatively high level of corruption which constitutes a major challenge to all efforts aimed at effectively allocating resources to enhance developmental projects.

Resources that could have been channeled to infrastructural and developmental projects are critically washed-out through kickbacks, over invoicing of contract amounts, nepotism etc. which translates into the reason why the interventions and aids which are given by wealthier and developed countries are put on hold or sometimes out rightly rejected or cancelled when discovered that these funds are to be squandered and end up in corrupt hands (Ogunlana, 2011). It is among the main unsettled challenges in Nigeria that cripples development. Corruption is the oldest key economic and political shortcomings for Nigeria. The rate of corruption in Nigeria is highly disturbing as the list of corrupt tendencies and the people involved is too much. Though, the present democratic administration of Muhammadu Bahuri is launching a serious fight against corruption by empowering the two anti-graft agencies, with the rate at which stolen resources are being confiscated and monies recovered the effort is now gradually yielding a positive impact.

The choice of this topic is apt so as to compliment the efforts of the present government to find out the challenges of corruption on economic development in Nigeria as well as the capability of anti-corruption government agencies in tackling the menace, and finding out key causes of corruption in Nigeria thereby proffering lasting solutions for economic development.

HYPOTHESES

1)Ho: The two ant-graft commissions Economic (EFCC) and ICPC are not capable of fighting corruption in Nigeria.

H1: The two ant-graft commissions Economic (EFCC) and ICPC are capable of fighting corruption in Nigeria.

H1: 2) Ho: The magnitude of corruption in Nigeria is not because of bad governance.

H1: The magnitude of corruption in Nigeria is a because of bad governance.

3)Ho: There is no correlation between corruption and economic development.

H1:There is correlation between corruption and economic development.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study will be guided by the following objectives:

1. To ascertain the success and challenges of the two commissions that fight corruption in Nigeria which are EFCC and ICPC.
2. To identify the root causes of corruption from 1999 to 2016 and what should be the strategy to be implemented for mitigating the menance.
3. To identify how corruption affects economic development in Nigeria.

2. **LITERATURE REVIEW**

There exist so many literature on corruption due to its effects on economy but only little contribution exist on challenges of corruption on economic growth and development, it is because data were not readily available. To bridge the knowledge gap, some relevant selected literature of studies conducted by schorlars and foreign bodies such as transparency international, world bank, as well as domestic anti-corruption agencies have been reviewed, also with a view of placing this study on a solid base.

However, in the investigations conducted by schorlars such as Ogunro Tolu & (2012), Ngunro (2000), and Adewale (2011) have come with a similar perspective on corruption by providing definitions and impacts of corruption in Nigeria, to them , corruption is the abuse of official positions for private gains. They also postulated that the poverty of any kind stimulates corruption and squandering of public funds.

In another investigation by Osunyinkanmi (2007), the concept corruption is synonymous to the following concepts such as kickbacks, nepotism, fraud, settlement, bribery etc. In his point of view, the kickback in ten percent was the basis for corruption in the country during the IBB military regime of 1989. The schorlar also affirmed that that the former civilian president from 1999-2007 Obasanjo must be commended for masterminding the fight against corruption in the country. Adewale, (2011) also found out that corruption is the practice of misappropriating the wealth that could have been channeled for infrastructural developmental projects in the country to private benefits. Thus, channeling the country's funds for private thereby encouraging the shrinkage of funds to foreign countries for fraudulent investment Nigeria for abroad thereby deflating the country's GDP.

In another perspective Secretary of State, US (1998), he conceptualized corruption from cultural angle, to him, it is in the attitudes of nigerian people to be corrupt. This argument is however debunked by the manifestations of corrupt practices in some countries from the former USSR States which underscores corruption as a universal incident rather than a cultural one. They view corruption as a global practice. This view was corroborated by Akindale (1990) who postulated that menance exist everywhere, which means it has no national limit.

Studies conducted by Rose (1990), Tanzi (2006) put forward that governments of some nations for political or other motives encourage bribery and other acts of corruptions by sometimes involving themselves directly in corrupt tendencies, this very common in Nigeria especially before the coming of the present administration.

According to Agbenebo, Ekpo (1985),, corrupt tendencies naturally result in to disequilibrium in the economy by weakening efficiency, hard work and commitments . It encourages diversion of funds meant for the development of infrastructure to personal benefit. Thus, according to Taylor (2010), corruption occurs when decision-makers, who should formulate, implement and interpret the laws and policy for the people, are corrupt. It takes place also when public policy is designed to benefit rent-seekers which is a sort of bureaucratic corruption. Summarily, he classified corruption in bureaucratic, electoral, nepotistic etc. Many view this as an inherent human tendency to favour family, friends, and closed relatives. Nepotism is an aspect of corrupt tendencies in which an official favors his/her relatives and members of his family. It arises when one is immune from certain rules and regulations or given special consideration in the award of contracts or government resources (Amundsen, 1997; and Girling, 1997). This category of corrupt tendencies are acceptable norms and culture in Nigeria.

In the perspective of Andrig; et al (2013) are of the view that corruption is a "complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes various forms and contexts"

Similarly, Tanzi (1998) is of the opinion that while it is not easy to define corruption, however, the crisis that follows corruption is easy to identify. To guard against the confusion in the definition of corruption, this dissertation gives an unambiguous definition of corruption as collaborated and postulated by many authors. The concept of corruption is like a virus, crippling economic development, distorting the efficiency in production, distribution of resources.

Balasa (2001) who views corruption as an "intimidating challenge to sustainable development", an impediment to health care, provision of education, alleviating poverty, and a great challenge

to the realization of development goals of reducing extreme poverty by fifty percent by the year 2015. He also defined corruption as abuse of official status for private benefits or personal aggrandizement.. Public office is abused by way of rent seeking tendencies for personal gain when an official extorts, solicits, or accepts a bribe. Public office is also abused when a person offesr bribe to manipulate processes and public policy for selfish interest and profit.

(Basu, 1992). A public office holder can be corrupt if he extorts money for services that he is under official task to do or otherwise. Corruption is a compromise of principles arising directly or otherwise from the compromise of public goals to that of the individuals.

In an eclectic postulation, C.B.N (2006) classified corruption into seven distinct types: extortive, investive, nepotistic, defensive, supportive, transactive, and autogenis. Autogenic corruption is self-driven and particularly involves only the person in the act, a good example is what happens in cases where a person has a privy information in trading that will make him gain exceptional benefit by manipulating for example stock. Defensive type of corruption involves a scenario where a person demanding a urgent service is forced to give bribe so as to prevent delay or negative outcome affecting his interests. Extortive corruption is attitude of a person requesting gratifications in exchange for official services he renders. Investive corruption involves the offer of goods or services without a immediate linkage to a particular benefit at the present, but for the future when the benefit may be required. Nepotistic type of corruption involves favoring the family or relations in dealing with official duties or in violation of the acceptable criteria. The supportive type of corruption does not entail money but actions taken rather to strengthen the relationship for corrupt purpose. Lastly, transactive type of corruption involves to scenario where the two parties are willing conivance in the corrupt act to their mutual benefit.

(Greenaway,1994), in his study views corruption as a gratifications, financial malpractices, inducement, ten percent rule, brown envelopes, dash, tips, emoluments, greasing, softening, 419, deals, sub-payments, betrayal of trust, side payments, irregular payments, payment under the table, undocumented extra payments, facilitation payments, "let's keep our secret secret," "highly classified" transactions, customary gift-giving, tribute culture.

The manifestation of bribery and corruption in Nigeria appears in the form of abuse of official status supported by weaker legal system and bad governance, disregard to the rule of law, lack of accountability and discipline, inflating of figures of contracts, piracy and thefts, rigging election results, falsification of documents, tax avoidance and evasion, illegal oil thefts, bunkering, diversion of resources, hording of essential commodities, smuggling of prohibited goods, and other foreign exchange crimes. A worsening scenario is the counterfeiting the legal tender causing unplanned increase in money supply which consequently creates inflation and other economic hardships which further escalates social crimes, bribery and corruption as well.

(Goodling, 2003), is in the view that government efforts at combating Corruption in the country failed despite the promulgation of several laws, the legitimate measures used to overcome the menace of corruption in the country such as the recovery of public property Act of 1984, the Code of Conduct Bureau, Criminal Code and the newly formed anti-corruption commissions (EFCC and ICPC). Before 1966, Criminal Code was the only primary source of law dealing with corruption in Nigeria.. But consequent upon the narrow nature in dealing with corruption and bribe-taking, it was replaced by a Decree in 1966 that was Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous provision).
This however failed to address the problem of corruption. The rules were contradicting, therefore allowing chances that guilty individual would escape the wrath of law on manipulative ground.

In the perspective of the research conducted by Rotimi, et al, (2013) they applied the method of ordinary least square (OLS) to examine whether there exist significant relationship between corruption and economic growth in the country. The study found out that it hinders and affects the economic growth in the country. The study did not state whether the effect is positive in their findings and therefore make the result vague, although in a logical sense such relationship ought not be positive.

Also in yet another study by Adewale(2011), the scholar examined the impact of corruption in Nigeria by applying experimental research design approach for the data analysis and found out that there is a negative relationship or association between corruption and economic growth in

Nigeria. The relevance of this finding is for the government or its agency to come up with a n re-orientation agenda or program of making people understand the significant need to weed out corruption in the entire sectors of the economy from agriculture, industrial, service sector etc to even informal sectors

In another development, Mnhuda (2013) examined the association or relationship between corruption, poverty and increase in GDP in Nigeria, it was discovered that there is an existence of cointegration chance indicating a relationship between corruption, poverty and increase in economic growth in Nigeria after applying multiple regression in the data analysis.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PERSPECTIVE OF CORRUPT PRACTICES IN NIGERIA FROM 1999-2016

Although, corruption in Nigeria is as old as Nigeria, the phenomenon became a norm and institutional under General Ibrahim Badamasi regime. Consequent upon this, it was observed that during General Ibrahim Badamasi regime, corruption had become a culture in the country and all cases of corrupt practices were handled with carelessness thereby crippling destroying all efforts of the previous regimes (Ogundiya (2009). Chief Obasanjo place a solid foundation for the fight against corruption in the by signing the bill into law for the formation of anti-corruption institutions leading the emergence of the two commissions that presently launcing a serious war on corruption in the present dispensation of Buhari despite the fact that the Obasanjo's regime was characterized with high level of corruption in which the country was estimated to have lost over four billion dollars to corruption.

In 2008 CPI report released, mentioned that Nigeria was ranked 121 among 180 countries examined. On the scale of 10.0, the country got 1.6 in 2002, 1.4 in 2003, 1.6 in 2004, 1.9 in 2005, 2.2 in 2006, 2.2 in 2007, 2.7 in 2008.(transparency international, 2008) This record and trend became an embarrassments to the country's officials travelling abroad and the citizens of Nigeria leaving in other countries over the world.

It is instrumental to restate that the experience of fourth republic pointed that corruption has become a institutional and a norm. The front page of major newspapers always inundated with news about economic saboteurs and corruption. All the executive, legistelature and judiciary their state institutions are culprits. Corruption triggers drawback in the Nigeria's national assembly in the Obasanjo administration. Adolphus Nwabara, Chief Enweren and Okadigbo Chuba, were impeached because of there involvement in corruption. In another development, the first female speaker of the house of representative, Madam Patricia Dubunmi was asked to resign as a result of allegation of over invoicing of contracts amounting to 628 million Naira just for the renovating her residence and procurement of twelve official cars. Also, the upper chamber committee pronounced Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the then vice president under Obasanjo administration, guilty for diverting the whopping sum of $145 million belonging to PTDF (Ogundiya 2012).

Consequent upon the escalation of corrupt practices the international community put so much pressure on Nigeria and the Obasanjo's administration to implement corrective measure against any form of corruption and financial offences. The country was then promised some financial incentives leading to $18 billion which was up to 60% of Nigeria's obligation in 2005.

Consequent upon the anti-corruption measures, James Ibori (Ex-Governor of Delta state) was detained by the EFCC on 129 count charge involving laundering over ₦9.1 billion. Orji Uzur Kalu was also suspected of using his squandered ₦3.1 billion to fund an Airline company and two commercial banks in Sierra Leone and Gambia. He also purchased some real estate properties in the USA and UK (Ademola, 2011).

Following this development, another politician (Turaki Saminu) one time Governor of Jigawa state was also suspected of misappropriating ₦36 billion of public funds to purchase oil blocks belonging to federal government.
Consequent upon all these mismanagements and scandals that had tarnished the good image of Nigeria and which consigned the country into economic crisis, the former boss of EFCC (Ribadu) pointed out that the amount over that had been squandered from the common wealth

by the leaders is six times the total value of funds used in revamping the ravaged western Europe after the world war II

Th ICPC monitor (2008), and EFCC magazine (2008) disclosed some corrupt incidences in the eight years of the fourth republic of Obasanjo administration. Which are as follows: -

i. The National Assembly In June, 1999 deliberated on increasing their housing emoluments to N18 million ($140,000) per annum in a closed session shortly after a campaign by civil servants to institute a ₦4,000 about ($30) as monthly minimum wage.

ii. Salisu Buhari in July 1999, the then speaker of the house of representative under Obasanjo resigned when it was discovered that he tempered with his academic record and age. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was jokingly charged to pay a penalty of ₦2,500 only about (US$20) and cleared by pardoning him the following year.

iii. Consequently, in the month of June 2000, due to the high incidence in the country, ironically the National assembly passed a bill to form independent corrupt practices other related offences commission (ICPC), which was subsequently inaugurated in September, 2000.

iv. An investigation by the government discovered evidence of over invoicing contracts and nepotism in the National Assembly, contracts were awarded to companies in which the law makers had personal interest, Okadigbo Chuba the then senate president and his deputy were shamelessly involved.

v. Obasanjo was suspected by law makers of bribing them to circumvent justice on the then speaker of the lower chamber of the national assembly, Na Abba Ghali in October, 2000.

vi. In another development, in February 2002, ICPC, issued its first indictment involving a high judiciary official, accusing a high court judge, Justice G. Abdullahi of soliciting a ₦1.2 million (US$9,000) bribe from a businessman to circumvent justice..

vii. National Assembly in August, 2002 was leveled of seventeen different indictable offences involving of inefficiency, dishonesty outright disregard to the laid down rules and regulation.

So many corrupt incidences happened in the fourth republic which continue tarnishing the image of country and which has made Nigeria remain what it is today. It is based on the above cited cases of corruption that the country's economy still remain monocultural in nature by relying in only petroleum sector as the major source of foreign exchange while agricultural sector which was supposed to be the backborne of the economy has been relegated to the background.

The growing inequality in the country as a result of over dependence on oil sector, still remain the critical challenge in fighting corruption in Nigeria. Rich are getting richer and poor are getting poor, crime rate is escalating almost every day with attendant consequences of terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery etc.

CHAPTER THREE:

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter involves the method adopted in conducting the research, In more details, in this part the researcher selects suitable method of data collection, the selection of the sample, sample size, the instrument of data analysis of the research findings. So as to satisfy the objectives of this dissertation, a qualitative method is adopted. A feature of qualitative method is that it is mostly suitable for small size of samples, while the outcomes are not quantifiable and measurable . Its fundamental benefit, which also serves as its basic difference with quantitative method, is that it offers a descriptive analysis of a research work, without compromising the scope of the research work.

Inductive method is adopted in this research where by researcher begins fron specific to general, this can be used to make generalized theories or conclusions. The main reason for the use of the inductive method is that it takes into consideration the situation where research effort is quite active, it is also good for small size of samples.

Given the nature and sensitivity of corruption, it is not appropriate to administer questionnaire to the general public, limited number of questionnaires have been designed only for the staff of EFCC and ICPC who are in the battle field of fighting corruption in Nigeria.

However, the main shortcoming of the inductive method is that it leads to generalized conclusions with only a limited number of samples, thus, making the reliability of results from the research vague (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005).

TECHNIQUE OF DATA COLLECTION

In this research, questionnaire administration is used. The main advantage of questionnaire administration is that it focus on the research objective and very effective gathering required data, unlike interview in which necessary skills is needed to eliminate non-response rates (Fisher, 2005, Wilson, 2003).

SAMPLE SELECTION

A non-probability approach of purposive sampling is adopted to select   the sample of this research work. Because of the sensitive nature corruption only a limited number of the staff of anti-corruption commissions selected based on the purposive sampling methodology so that the problem of bias and ignorance will be minimized to the great extent, the basis for there selection is based on knowledge and experience as wee as expertise on the research subject, and have sufficient work experience in fighting corruption and therefore become partners in progress. Therefore the samples are drawn from the two organizations (EFCC and ICPC) whose job is to fight corruption in the country.

SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of this research work is 40 staff of the two anti-graft commissions saddled with the task of fighting corruption in Nigeria, 20 samples from EFCC and the other 20 from ICPC so that a reliable answer to our research questions could be realized and objectives be achieved as respondents are knowledgeable about the phenomenon under investigation.

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