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CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Most governments world over, Nigerian government inclusive, are bedeviled by the problem of good governance, the most hit is the precarious problem of corruption. As such, most of them record a downward trend in development. The menace also upsets ethnic imbalance such as the menace of Boko Haram, and exacerbates problem of national integration mostly among the developing nations Nigeria inclusive. Corruption upsets ethnic imbalance, and exacerbates problem of national integration in developing countries. For instances, if a corrupt but popular ethnic leader is replaced in his or position, it may upset ethnic arithmetic and the cohorts may revolt To win war on corruption, adherence to ethical standards in decision-making must be the foundation of the nation's policies. According to one who has lived in Nigeria, becoming corrupt in Nigeria is almost unavoidable, as morality is relaxed, because to survive people have to make money. Corruption is also destructive of governmental structure and capacity. Its diverts scarce public resources into private pockets, literally undermines effective governance, endangers democracy and erodes the social and moral fabric of a nation, It is catalyst to mediocrity, and promote ethnicity in a society such as Boko Haram. To achieve the best result from the anti-corruption programme, It is recommended that policies used in reducing corruption should take into cognizance the experience of other countries which have succeeded in their fight against corruption. Therefore, this study examined corruption and effects on Good Governance and sustainable economic development in Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the oldest and most perplexing phenomenon in human society, political corruption exists in every in the contemporary and it is not exclusively a problem of developing countries (Frunzik, 2000). Ancient political philosophers, Plato and Aristotle, stated that the classical concept of corruption as a general disease of the body politics. Plato in his theory of the "perverted" Constitution – Democracy, Oligarchy and tyranny – worried that those regimes stead of being guided by the law were serving the interest of the rulers. These fundamental general motions of the corruption all practically define corruption as dyes fundamental. For it is seen as destructive of a particular political order, be it monarchy, aristocracy, or policy, the latter a constitutionally limited popular rule, and thus the definition devoid any function within a political order.

This classic conception of corruption continued in modern times, and is central to the political though of Machiavelli, Montesquieu and Roseau (Frunzik, 2000). For Machiavelli, corruption was a process by which the virtua a of a citizen was undermined and eventually destroyed (Heieen, 1993). Since most men are weak and lacking in virtue of the good citizen except when inspired by a great leader, the process of corruption is ever-threatening. Also when virtue had been corrupted, a heroic leader must appear who in rebuilding the political order infuses this virtue into the entire citizenry. Montesquieu saw corruption as the dysfunctional process by which a good political order is perverted in a evil one and a monarch into despotism (Frunzik, 2000). According to Resseau, Political corruption is the necessary consequences of the struggle for power .The be argued that may had been corrupted by the social and political life. It is not the corruption of man, which destroy the political system, but the political system which corrupt an destroy man. There is an agreement between the view of Rosseau and Hard action that is power tends to corrupt absolutely and absolute power

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corrupt absolutely. Action is focused on the moral depravity which power is believed to cause in man, they no longer think about what is right action or manner, but they only think about which is expedient action or manner.

CORRUPTION CONCEPTUALIZED

Given the difficulty surrounding a precise definition of corruption we are constrained to have an operational definition of corruption. This is within the limit identified by Nachmias and Nachiminas (1999), that a conceptual definition must share the following essential attributes; A definition must have the features or qualities of which is defined. It must be inclusive of all things covered by it. At the same time it should be exclusive of all things not being denoted by it. Should not be circular that is, it must not contain it 'self any part of the things being identified. Given there guidelines for conceptual definitions, it may be difficult to defined corruption from his perspective as such, any operational definition that at attempts to capture a group of opinions and with a set of procedure may be advanced. Car Fredirch (1972) defines corruption as a kind of behavior, which deviates from the norm actually prevalent or behaved to prevail in context, such as the political. It is the deviant behavior associated with a particular motivation, namely that of private gain at public expense. So he stated the concept of corruption in a way that constitutes a break of law of standards of high moral conduct.

According to Lappset and Lenz (2000), corruption is efforts to secure wealth or power through illegal means for private gains at pubic expense; or misuse of public power for private benefit. Corruption is a behaviours, which deviates from the formal duties of a public role, because of privates gains – regarding personal, close family, private clique, pecuniary or status gains. It is a behavior, which violates rules against exercise of certain types of duties for private gain, regarding influence. Osoba (1996:109) adds that corruption is an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to moral and legal norms and which undermine the authorities to improve the living condition of the proper.

The oxford Dictionary of Current English defines corruption as an act of dishonesty especially using bribery or an immoral or wicked act. This definition focuses essentially on the moral aspects of corruption. Suresh (2005) gave two definitions or corruption one of the definitions or corruption is “giving something to someone with power so that he will abuse power and act favouring the giver” and the other definition given is “the offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward, which may influence the action of any person”. Rose Ackerman (1975), defines corruption as using public goods or capacity for private benefits. This definition of corruption is public office cent red, which concentrates on behavior which deviates from the normal duties of a public role because of private regards (personal, close family, private clique) Pecuniary of status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private regarding influences. Berhane, (2006) simply defines corruption as the misuse of entrusted public office to enrich one' self or for private gains. However, according to the article of the Africa Union convention on combating corruption (Article 4): Acts of corruption is the solicitation or acceptance directly or indirectly, by a public official of any article of monetary value,

or other benefit, such as gift, favour promise or advantage for himself or herself or for another person or entity, in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of his or her public functions.

GOOD GOVERNANCE CONCEPTUALISED

Politically, people may disagree about the best means of achieving good governance, but they quite agreed that good governance is absolutely imperative for social and economic progress (Oburota, 2003). Then what is governance and what makes governance a good or a bad one? This is perhaps a philosophical question which may attract endless and multifarious answers. Fundamentally, the question of good and bad is ethical/moral. According to Madhav (2007) good governance has much to do with the ethical grounding of governance and must be evaluated with reference to specific norms and objectives as may be laid down. Good governance” is a relatively new term that is often used to describe the desired objective of a nation-state's political development. The principles of good governance, however, are not new. Good governance is, in short, anti-corruption whereas authority and its institutions are accountable, effective and efficient, participatory, transparent, responsive, consensus-oriented, and equitable. These are the major characteristics of good governance as outlined by the United Nations.

The World Leaders at the 2005 World Summit concluded that good governance is integral to economic growth, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and sustainable development. The views of all oppressed groups, including women, youth and the poor, must be heard and considered by governing bodies because they will be the ones most negatively affected if good governance is not achieved. For good governance to exist in both theory and practice, citizens must be empowered to participate in meaningful ways in decision-making processes. They have a right to information and to access. Although widespread accessibility remains a barrier for many countries, one of those ways is through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications such as the Internet. E-governance has emerged as a viable means to address development issues and challenges because citizens find empowerment through access to information. For more on this subject, please see our page on Understanding ICT for Development

NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CORRUPTION

Corruption occurs in many forms and some studies, which have taken a holistic (broader) approach in the discussion of corruption, have divided into may forms and sub-divisions. All these forms and sub-divisions can be grouped into the nature of corruption. Amendsen, (2000) gave three nature and characteristics of corruption. These are;

- (1) Political corruption (grand)
- (2) Bureaucratic Corruption
- (3) Electoral corruption.

Political corruption takes place at the highest level of political authority. It occurs when the politicians and political decision makers, who are entitled to formulate, establish and implement

the laws in the name of the people, are themselves corrupt. It also take place when policy formulation and legislations is tailored to benefit politicians and legislators. Political corruption is sometimes seen as similar to corruption of greed as it affects the manner in which decisions are made, as it manipulates political institution rules of procedure, and distorts the institution of government. Bureaucratic corruption occurs in the public administration or the implementation end of politics. This kind of corruption has been branded low level and street level. It is the kind of corruption the citizen's encounter daily at places like the hospitals, schools, local licensing offices, police taxing offices and on and on. Bureaucratic petty corruption, which is seen as similar to corruption of need occurs when one obtain to business from the public sector though in appropriate procedure. Electoral corruption includes purchase of votes with money promises of office or special favour, coercion, intimidation and interference with freedom of election (Nigeria is a good example where this practiced is common. Voters are bought people are killed or maimed in the name of elections, losers up as the winners in elections and votes turn up in areas where vote were not cast).Corruption in the office involves sale of legislative votes, administrative or judicial decision, or governmental appointment. Disguised payment in form of gifts, legal fees, employment favour, to relatives, social influences or any relationship that sacrifices the public interest and welfare, with or without the implied payment of money is usually considered corrupt.

TYPES OF CORRUPTION

Due to the nature of corruption, it has to be typified into various levels. In the work of Odekunle. (1991), he put forward that corruption could take any of the following typology.

MONETARY CORRUPTION

This can be defined as that type of corruption in which the exchange relation in carried out by way of successful transfer of the steering medium of money, in particular, a transfer of a sum of money in return for a service of commodity, which bypasses the legal procedure to acquire that service or commodity (Deflem, 1995). In the case of monetary corruption, the exchange relation is in communication-theoretical terms, empirically motivated by the corruption through inducement.

BUREUCRATIC CORRUPTION

This refers to that type of corruption in which the exchange relation is carried out by way of a successful transfer of the steering-medium of power, in particular, a transfer of a position of power (an office) in return for power-supportive behavior (loyalty), which by-pass the legal procedure to acquire the position. The corruptor assumes the role of an "administration" and suggest undertake the exchange because of the prospected realization of collectively defined goals through the transfer of power. The incentive to engage in this exchange, however, needs an additional basis of confidence in comparison to monetary corruption (Hbermas, 1987).

FORMS OR ASPECTS OF CORRUPTION

For further discussions about the forms of aspect of corruption, the researcher will take the definition of Leslie

plumier as a take-off point, which is "use of public office for private gain" This definition is both simple and sufficiently broad to cover most of the corruption that we face, and it is also widely used in literature. Public office offers many opportunities for private gains.

BRIBERY/BRIBES

Bribery is the payment (in money or kind) that is taken is a corrupt relationship. Bribes are one of the main tools of corruption. The Oxford English Dictionary gives the meaning of bribes as "a reward given to prevent the judgment or corrupt the conduct". A bribe consists of an offer of money by an outside party of secure desired action from government officials. Bribe can influence the choice of private parties to supply public goods and services and the exact terms of those supply contracts. According to Robert Thobabeen (1991), buying contracts can be called "kick backs". According to the World Bank report (2011) bribes can influences the allocation of monetary benefits (For evasion, Subsidies, Pensions, or Unemployment, Insurance). Bribes can be used to reduce the amount of taxes of other fees collected by government from private parties.

EXTORTION

The concise of bribery is exhortation, and extortion is the abuse or threat of power in such a way to secure response in payment of money or other valuable things. Exhortation according to the dictionary English is the act of practice of extortion (while extortion is defined as either to wrest or wring from a person, extract by torture, mitigation, or abuse of legal or official authority, or in a weaker sense by importing, overwhelming arguments of any powerful influence) or wresting especially money, from a person by force on by undue exercise authority of power.

MISUSE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY AND FUNDS

Control of property provides opportunities for mismanagement and corruption. An extreme from is the large scale "spontaneous" Privatization of state assets by enterprise managers and other official in some transition economics. According to Lesile, (1999) the process of privatization, which is ultimately implemented by the state, provides new opportunities to state officials.

EMBEZZLEMENT

It is the theft of government financial resources. Officials may pocket tax revenues of fees (often with the collusion of the prayer, in effect combining theft with bribery) steal cash from treasuries, extend advances to themselves that are never rapid, or draw pay for fictitious "ghost) workers a pattern well document in reports of audit authorities.

INFLUENCE PEDDLING

When individual with access to place are sometimes tempted to trade on the influence of high ranking government officials. There is money is to be made through sale of access, the arrangement of contracts and timely intervention to secure favourable disposition of regulatory decisions and government

contract. The use of this kind of connection for personal gain in usually described as influence peddling.

PATRONAGE

The assignment of government positions to political supporters has long been a practice in politics. While civil service regulations at the national and state level may effectively curtail the number of patronage job, political appointment remain at the top levels of government and provide a legitimate way for elected politicians to influence bureaucracy through the appointment of legal executive officials. The process becomes corrupt when appointees are expected to pay for their jobs.

NEPOTISM

In this context is the granting of public office on the basis of family ties. This is good example of a point where different cultures have different altitude towards some form of corruption.

SHARED EXPERIENCE

In this, the patron does not have common experience with someone he or she wishes to promote, but rather a common interest (for example, they are both come from the same republic and / or are of same ethnic group; they both favour a large increase in defense expenditure in contrast to what others want, they are the same gender).

CORRUPT

Firstly, the "corrupt" In Nigerian are the politicians, our leaders and elites who constitute condition conduits for the monetary exploitation and general marketing of dishonesty in the dealing with the Nigerian challenges. They lack of integrity of honesty (especially susceptibility to bribery) and use position of trust for dishonest gain. They encourage moral perversion; impairment of virtue and moral principles. They induce the masses, individuals, public official and corporate bodies by improper means (as bribery) to violate their moral and civil duties. They constituted conduits of corruption. These set of group are the "true corrupt persons" who practice corruption as a religion, worship the social menace (corruption) and project it is height of pride in our system.

Our leader and elites belong to the corrupt group. They use corruption as a way of survival, climbing to power and staying on top. They adopted and advanced and propelled corruption to high places. They use power as their disposal to institutionalize corruption as common practice. Most of Nigeria's past leaders belong to the corruption circle. They are simply the true cliques of corrupt Nigerians. Most of out past of present leaders and some of our public officials, politicians, private corruptions and government agencies etc. The dishonesty of out leader and their public officials and political colleagues accout to why more than E1.5bn of Nigerian leaders" ill-gotten gains has been found in British bank accounts and even more are lodged in super-secret Swiss bank. Already almost E1million is currently frozen as a result of investigations into the former governor of Plataue State Joshua Dariiye. These accounts to our top rank in the committee of corrupt nations, out of the 146 counties, only Bangladesh was rated, more corrupt than Nigeria. Anti-corruption campaign

group, Transparency international (TI) researched and concluded that oil wealth is often a breeding group for corruption. According to Peter Eigen, the Chairman of Transparency international, "in oil-rich countrie (including Nigeria), public contracting in the oil sector is plagued by revenue vanishing in to the pockets of Western oil executive, middlemen and local officials. Our politicians, oil companies, the banks churches constitute notable insituation of corruption today. These individuals and institutions are notable places of functional bribery where the greasing of one's palms have become or normal norm. The presidency is no exception and he always been indicted in may reports from home and abroad.

CORRUPTED

The corrupted Nigerians are the general masses in their quest to survive, have to now the line of corruption as exemplified by our leaders. With little or no basic amenities and infrastructure provided for the masses, our masses seen to embark on corrupt practices in order not to feel to cheated in the Nigeria project. This explains why the taxi driver, the government worker, the market men and women and may of our population resort to bribery and other corrupt practices in other to gain fair grounds. Poverty is what has driven the masses including the police, the customs, corrupt agencies and military officials to go scouting for other means of getting along with the bad economy. The police, army and custom officials take bribes and extort on out high ways and within towns in order to strike even with pockets. Our masses have been corrupted against their will by our corrupt leaders. Our leader appoint innocent men for political positions and such people up joining corrupting train.

CO-OPTED

The co-opted in the corruption circle are our innocent youths who were born and had to succumb to corruption as a way of life. These kids were born and they innocently grew up to copy our corrupt society. They learned corruption through the everyday life of our society(in schools, churches and mosques and home etc.). To them this is normal because they were born into it. They are forced to bribe lecturers and teachers in school. There were born to copy their society and learn the popular get-rich-quick ideology, which is norm in our Nigeria of today. They therefore cook up corrupt ambitions that can lead them onto wealth. They copy their parents and leaders and are therefore co-opted into the corruption circle through assimilation into established group or culture, politics etc. They are bribed to play thuggery during electionnering, they are taught short-cuts in the course of their growing-up, hence they grow up t passionately accepting corrupt practices as a way of getting along with life.

CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

To Lesile Holmes (1993), the causes of corruption can be divided into three categories. These are: Cultural, Psychological and System related.

CULTURAL FACTOR

In many countries certain types of corruption are more or less acceptable often depending on the scale in the traditional political culture. Some counties have more of a reputation of

corruption particularly because of traditional attitude towards kinship, family etc. For example Leiken, (1997) writes of the Africa that "In post colonial Africa, neopartirmonia regimes become the rule, and the state emerged as an extension of rule's household, patronage, ethnic and kinship ties, and bribes because major mode of governance". Corruption funded patronage of kinsmen and crimes have exacerbated regional, tribal, religious and ethnic divisions. The other cultural factor is a weak tradition of the rule of law and low level of respect for the law. Several of the Asian state were formerly colonies and "the law" has been seen by some citizens are theirs" and therefore not respected in the same way that is might not be in a long established independent such as many Western States.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR

There are a number of psychological factors that help to explain some type of corruption. Taking into account the internal factors of individuals, some individuals are "naturally evil and will commit criminal acts, including corrupt ones in any type of system. The external factors, individuals relationship to the group is also important. According to Holmes (1995), the power of the both peer-pressure and peer-comparison can be great, for instance in the words of one artist "when the best of people take bribes, inst it the fool who doesn't? In Other words if individuals see others around them benefiting from corruption, they may well chose to indulge too.

SYSTEM RELATED FACTORS

One of the factors that distinguishes post communist states from transitional societies elsewhere is that they have been undergoing multiple and simultaneous transition since the collapse of communist power in 1989-1991. In addition they had to introduce fundamental economic, legal, ideological and social change. Many also had a redefine their boundaries and indentifies. And realing themselves in international military and trading block. The sheer scope of attempted change is one of significant reason why most pos- communist state have suffered legislative lag in the past decade. This lag has meant that laws have often been either in essence non-existence or else vague and contradictory. This situation is ripe for both corruption and organized crime.

CONDITIONS FAVOURBLE FOR CORRUPTION

Beside the causes of corruption there can also be opportunities for corruption because of the institution structure. These opportunities are more important for accelerating widespread and high level of corruption. Apart from the institutional structure which create opportunities for corruption, there are also conditions which are favourable for corruption. Klitgaard (1998) brings three dimensions of institution structure that he considered most critical in bearing on the opportunities for corruption. These are;

1. The monopoly power of officials
2. The degree of discretion that official is permitted to exercise.
3. The degree of which there are systems of accountability and transparency in an institution.

Wikipedia (The Free Encyclopedia) gave the following conditions that are favourable for corruption; these are;

1. Democracy absent or dysfunctional
2. Information deficits
3. Lack or government transparency in decision making.
4. Opportunities and incentives.
5. Large investment of Public capital
6. Poorly paid government officials.
7. Social conditions
8. Deficit of law
9. Weak Rule of Law.
10. Weak legal profession.
11. Imperfect Electoral Process and Weak accountability and lack of timely financial management

CATEGORISATION OF NIGERIANS UNDER THE CORRUPTION CIRCLE

The big question which many people run away from looks us in the face and troubles us in the mind is " who is corrupt and who is not"?.Is it only the Osuji's, Osomos, Wabaras, Baloguns etc. that are corrupt in the government of Nigeria? The are include givers and takers of bribe and the suborder of corruption going by this, we will have an endless of corrupt Nigerians, but is will be unfair to say all Nigerians are corrupt in this context. We have great and incorruptible Nigerians both in high and low places but (where we like it or nor) we are all hibernating in a country saddled with a very corrupt system of governance. This then calls for caution in the way in the way anti-corruption war is being fought. The anti-graft war cannot be effectively fought without core stratification and understanding of "corruption" and it associated norms in the practical context of Nigeria. While supporting the war against corruption it is important to understand the "who is who" in the corruption circle in Nigeria in order that (according to former President Obasanjo in his nation broadcast) " we must match our words with sincere, honest, transparent and serious action". Categorizing the corruption ladder is very important. To fully buttress this issue in this piece, the researcher has chosen to categorize the Nigeria Population in the light three categories namely; the corrupt, the corrupted and the co-opted.

CORRUPTION AND THE GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN NIGERIA

There are several example of high profile corruptively in Nigeria. Few examples will suffice. In June 1989, Alhaji Mohammed Bashir alleged that he paid \$500,000 into the account of chief of General staff, vice Admiral Augusts Aikhomu, at standards character Bank, Zurich. The purpose of the payment, according to him, was to facilitate his company (First Nigeria Oil Limited) getting 40 percentage equity shares of pan ocean oil limited. He went to the public to make the allegations when his bid failed. Rather than set up a panel to investigate the matter, the government of Ibrahim Babangida arrestd and detained Bashir, accusing him blackmailing government officials. In 1991, the reporter of financial times, London, ions expelled from Nigeria for revealing what \$12 millon received by the country from the Gulf oil windfall was missed by president Ibrahim Babangida. Three years later, Pius Okigbo's report officially confirmed the story. At that tiem, \$12 billion would have been sufficient for the natin's

budget of eight years. In 1996, the Nigeria National shipping Line (NNSL) sold one its ships named MV River Mada. It was bought by the Madeteranian Shping company, a Greek Shipping Company register in Eyprus for \$785,000. The ship was renamed Axion ii by new owners and in 1998, the National Maritime Authority repurchased the ship for \$4.5 million and renamed it MV Trainer. In 1997, the former minister of finance, Chief Anthony Anienih revealed that of \$13.7billion external loan procured by Nigeria to service various projects, \$336.2 million was lost to non-existent (ghost) projects. In 1998, the former Managing Director of a subsidiary of Odu'a Group Mr. Adeoluwa Oyerinde of Lagos Airport Limited revealed that he gave #4million bribe to the former Military Administrations of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun and Osun state (Col Ike Nwosu, Colonel Ahmed Usman, Lt Cdr Anthony Udofia and Lt Col Daniel Akintode respectively).

In 1999, Muyiwa Adeleke alleged that the Debt Management Department of Central Bank of Nigeria attempted to fraudulently transfer \$27million from public funds into private accounts aboard. According to him, it is believed that a syndicate made up of officials of the Central Bank and Ministry of Finance stole an estimated \$50million between 1992 and 1997 through various accounting tricks including reversal of entries many times over. In the year 2000, the former Senate President, Dr Chuba Okagigbo was removed on charges of financial irregularities in the management of the Senate's fund. Immediately after the removal of the Senate President, there were calls for the people and removal of the speaker. In a dramatic turn of events, the speaker accused the Presidency of giving #4million to legislators to remove him. The cash was shamelessly displayed beside the mace (the symbol of authority) on the floor of the house. There was neither an investigation nor proof of the source of the money. Other examples include the allegation against Dr. Makanjuola of the Ministry of Defense who was taken to court and dramatically discontinued by the Minister of Justice. There is also the identify card scam involving the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Alhaji Hussiani Akwanya, who was sacked from the cabinet and other who were arrested the Late chief Sunday Afolabi (former Minster of Internal Affairs), Doctor Muhammed Shata (former Minister of internal Affaris) Mrs Turries Akerele (permanent secretary), Dr Okewsilieze Nwodo (fomer Governor of Enugu State and Secretary, PDP). In 2012, Several cases were reported such as Pension Scam running in 100 billion of Naira, Hon. Faruk Lawal bribery scandal with Femi Otedola which run into 600 Million dollars.

CONSEQUENCES OF CORRUPTION ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

Many studies have been conducted that show the evil or negative consequences of corruption. Corruption has taught Nigerians a dangerous and wrong lesson that is does not pay to be honest, hardworking and law abiding. Through corrupt means many political office holders acquire wealth and properties in and outside Nigeria and many display their wealth, which is beyond their means, but the society does not blink. This has mad politics a big business in Nigeria, because anything spent to secure a political office is regarded as an investment, which matures immediately one gets into office (Guardian, 2002). Thus the evils, negative or effects of corruption could be given as follows:

1. Corruption breeds nepotism and inefficiency.
2. Corruption leads to possible distortion of information.
3. Corruption can tarnish the image of a country.
4. Corruption makes public policies ineffective.
5. Corruption upset ethnic balance, and exacerbates problem of national integration in developing countries.
6. Corruption reduce private investment.
7. Corruption discourages honest efforts and valuable economic activities.
8. Corruption affects investments, economic growth and government expenditure choices.
9. Corruption is politically destabilizing, as it leads to social revolution and military takeover.
10. corruption causes and promotes large scale crime and fraud.
11. Corruption destroys ethical and democratic values.
12. Corruption destroys the legitimacy of a government.
13. Corruption promotes wide spread poverty and large scale unemployment.
14. Corruption makes economic planning difficult if not impossible.
15. Corruption creates unfair, unjust and inequitable environment in which the Rule of Law is undermined.

THE EVILS OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

Many studies have been conducted that show the evils consequences of corruption. And corruption has taught Nigerians a dangerous and wrong lesson that it does not pay to be honest, hard working and law-abiding. Though corrupt means, many political office holders acquire wealth (which is beyond their means), but the society does not blink. This has made politics a big business in Nigeria, because anything spent to secure a political office is regarded as an investment, which matures immediately one gets into office (The Guardian, July 14, 2002).

Corruption wastes skills as precious time is often wasted to set up unending committees to fight corruption, and to monitor public projects. It also lead to aid forgone. Some foreign donors do not give aid to corrupt nation. For instance, International Monetary fund has withdrawn support from some nations that are notoriously corrupt. Also, the World Bank has introduced tougher anti-corruption standards into its lending policies to corrupt countries. Similarly other organization such as taking tough measures against international corruption (OECD, December 1997). Corruption is politically destabilizing as it leads to social revolution and military takeovers. Most "post-coup rationalization" in less develop worlds points to corruption. The general Buhari's post-coup broadcast to Nigerians in 1983 is a case in point (Welch, Jnr, 1987). But hiding under the excuse of corruption to topple a legitimate government in Nigeria politics in future. This is because of the previous military leaders in Nigeria were as corrupt, if not more corrupt than the civilian politicians they replaced. Corruption was even blamed for the first 1966 military coup in Nigeria (and that of Ghana too). However, the post-electoral crisis in the Western region and the fear of Northern domination of the affairs of Nigeria were other reason (Wallerstein, March 14,1966; & Kilson, January 31, 1966). Corruption causes a reduction in qualify of goods and services available to the public, as some companies could cut corners to increase profit margins. Corruption effects

investment, economic growth and government expenditure choices, it also reduces private investment (Mauro 1997). Bribery and corruption, the culture of late payment, delays or refusal of payment for services already done, are according to the bishop of Guilford, David Peck, Scaring away British investors from Nigeria. He notes that those who fail to pay companies for services done seem to forget that the life blood of any companies is its cash flow. And right points out that the price of corruption is poverty (Daily Trust, July 9, 200). Because of the widespread of "Piety" and "Grand" corruption, the international business community regard the whole of Africa as a: sinkhole that swallows their money with little or no return" (Callaghy 1994). With the recent changes in the political economy of East Europe, the attention of the business would has been turned to this area where reap quicker result from their investments.

One African diplomat could not say it any better: "Eastern Europe is (now) the sexiest beautiful girl, and we (Africa) are an old tattered lady. People are tired of Africa, so many countries, so many wars" (Newsweek Educational Programme-Fall (1994, "conflict in Africa") As we have seen, what is happening in Africa is a blueprint of the problem facing Nigeria. The nations "unworkable economic policies, blatant corruption" in fact, the "fossilized system" of government has brought almost everything to a half (Adams, may/june, 1995). Thus, corruption discourages honest effort and valuable economic activities and it breeds inefficiency and nepotism. Corruption leads to possible information distortion as it cooks the books, and a high level of corruption can make public policies ineffective (sen. 1999, P.135; also see Reuters Jessical Hall on World com, June 27 2002). Above all, corruption can tarnish the image of a country. As we have seen, Nigeria suffers more than most nations from an appalling international image created by its inability to deal with corruption and bribery.

According to one who has lived in Nigeria, becoming corrupt in Nigeria is almost unavoidable, as morality is relaxed, because to survive people have to make money. Corruption upsets ethnic imbalance, and exacerbates problem of national integration in developing countries. For instances, if a corrupt but popular ethnic leader is replaced in his or position, it may upset ethnic arithmetic and the cohorts may revolt. The social brow that followed the Moshood Abiola's 1993 elections rebuff is one of the many cases bolting Nigeria's political landscape. Southerners (mainly Yoruba's from his ethnic southwest) rioted as they felt they were mistreated by the Northern oligarchy. Similarly some politicians from the Northern part of the country seem to have forgotten the atrocities committed by General Buhari, Babangida, and Abubakar during their respective regimes (they refused to testify before the Oputa panel), because they are their home boys. Any attempt to bring them to justice would lend their cronies to ethnic and social conflicts and possible loss of innocent lives. Corruption is also destructive of governmental structure and capacity. The NEWS, in its July 11, 1999 issue "The face of a liar", broke the news of forgery and perjury committed by the former speaker of the house of Representative, Alhaji Ibrahim Salisu Buhari. Through corrupt means amassed wealth (The made working for NEPA), and bribed his way to the fourth highest position in the land. This scandal dominated to political agenda of Nigeria for sometimes. It s a national shame that a crook was in charge of

the House of Representative, the body that makes the laws of the land. What type of laws could he have made for Nigeria? Former president Olusegun disappointed the world by granting Alhaji Salisu Buhari a state pardon, despite his apparent campaign to transform Nigeria into a corruption-free society (Obasanjo's Inaugural Speech, May 29, 1999). The Buhari gate as the scandal was later called, nearly destroyed Nigeria's democratic experiment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Having examined the issue of corruption and the challenges and good governance in Nigeria, it is obvious that the effects of corruption in Nigeria are not doubt detrimental to societal welfare and development, same applies everywhere in the world. Hence researcher has drawn a logical conclusion on the corruption, which are, Greed and self-maximization, The drain in public resources and the denial of right of the citizens due to corruption will make citizens to rise and revolt against the government, It lead the political instability, Corruption diverts scarce public resources into private pockets, literally undermines effective governance, endangers democracy and erodes the social and moral fabric of a nation, It is catalyst to mediocrity, and promote ethnicity in a society such as Boko Haram. To achieve the best result from the anti-corruption programme, It is recommended that policies used in reducing corruption should take into cognizance the experience of other countries which have succeeded in their fight against corruption. According to the World Bank (2011), the institutional strengthening is a key part of country's anti-corruption strategies. One of the most important institutions is a professional and well motivated civil service. The selection and promotion in civil service should be merit based rather than patronage. Pay of the civil servants is also very important, as pay is one of the major causes of corruption.

The other important institution that needs to be reformed is the judicial system. Enforcement of anti-corruption legislation requires and efficient, accountable judiciary reform of the judicial system should concentrate on the independence of the arm of government. The Budget Reform is the other factor for combating corruption. Government should undertake only what it can do well within is resource constraints. Government should develop a well functioning budget process, allocate strategically and enable programs and projects to be implemented effectively and efficiently. Good financial management system is also a powerful instrument for preventing, discovering or facilitating the punishment of fraud and corruption. A look at the legislative branch of Nigeria exhibits that the majority of deputies of our parliament are powerful businessmen. They are elected by bribing people and getting into the parliament, their goal of course is not to serve the public, but for their personal and selfish benefit by paying less tax, creating new businesses, etc. People taking some little amount of money for electing those deputies will have much more to pay in the future because of the above mentioned factor. Hence, one of the most important factors of combating corruption in Nigeria is for free and fair elections to be conducted.

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