

Grand Corruption and Development Crisis in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is Nigeria's biggest challenge. Revelations of grand corruption, the scale of the plunder of state assets, and their impact on Nigeria is so pervasive that it has led to development crisis. The existence of this phenomenon in virtually all aspects of the nation's socio-economic life is said to be one reason why poverty level remains irrespective of her abundant natural and human resources. The paper examines the plunder of state resources as the major challenge confronting the development of the Nigerian state. This is because corruption has hindered sustainable development and can be fairly described as being responsible for development crisis that has engulfed Nigerian state. The analysis of this paper is anchored on good governance model as a theoretical compass. The central premise of the compass is that commitment and collaboration of all actors is needed to tackle corruption. The findings revealed that political will is critical to integrating national development between all concerned. The paper relies on the sequential analytic approach. Sources of data were mainly from secondary sources and internet materials. The study concluded that state plunder is the bedrock of development crisis in Nigeria. It recommends stiffer penalties and strong democratic institutions capable of "just applications" of rules as deterrence to corrupt practices.

Keywords: Corruption, Development, Sustainable, good governance, poverty, deterrence.

INTRODUCTION

One thing that has held Nigeria back since independence is corruption exemplified by the plundering of state resources. Sadly, the nation's laws have not recognized the cankerworm for what it is. Closely linked to the leadership issue, corruption in the form of state plundering is seems to explain why successive government regimes in Nigeria have failed to their positions as mandate to serve, sacrifice and make positive impacts on the citizens and the society. Instead, the norm has been to regard such positions as a means of amassing wealth and looting the public treasury. Nwaneri (2018, p.8) quoted Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, as likening this menace in the country to cancer as well as used 'hydra' and 'octopus' as images to describe the level of graft in the country. According to him, "Nigeria have a cancerous situation, you fight one arm of corruption, another grows. A methodological name for corruption in Nigeria is hydropus" (Nwaneri, 2018, P.8). Soyinka may not be far from the truth, as the country over the years has seen its wealth withered with little to show in living conditions of the masses.

The Global anti-corruption watchdog, Transparency International (TI), ranked Nigeria low in its 2017 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released in February 2018. The ranking placed Nigeria in the 148th position out of 180. According to the CPI, Nigeria scored 28 out 100, which is lower than the average in the Sub-Saharan region.

Nigeria's placement indicates that the country has not made progress in its fight against graft, particularly in the misappropriation and embezzlement of state funds, despite claims by the successive government regimes to the contrary. In the 2016 rankings, Nigeria scored 28. In 2015, it scored 26. In 2014, the country scored 27 and 25 in 2013. In 2012, the country's score was 27 out of 100. This means that Nigeria has consistently featured at the top level of most corrupt states during the past six years. The frightening dimension that corruption has taken in Nigeria of late, has prompted calls for drastic measures need to be taken to combat it, as the various anti-graft agencies – Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, are fast bringing up the rear the anti-graft war.

In view of the above, corruption is a multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects” (Anduig & Fjeldstad, 2001). Corruption in Nigeria is a phenomenon which increases in quantity, intensity and in geometric formation (Akpan & Ezeugo, 2017).

The indigenous bourgeoisie in Nigeria, unlike their foreign counterpart has always depended on the state for its accumulation of capital. In order to maintain the access and control of state power, the political exposed elites used their control of the state to engage in primitive accumulation of capital through the corruptive plundering of the common wealth of the nation. Despite the abundance of natural mineral resources (solid and liquid), Nigeria is ranked among the poorest countries in the world (Atoyebi & Mobolaji, 2004). There is a noticeable increase in the deterioration of infrastructures and social services in Nigeria as a result of poor management of resources, poor governance and corruption.

Corruption by ministers, parliamentarians, state chief executives, directors and members of the politically exposed persons has severally been reported in Nigeria (Fawehinmi, 2001, Charles, et al 2005). Corruption undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to misallocation of resources, harms the organized private sector and hurts the poor (Nwaobi, 2006, Waziri, 2011). Corruption is the biggest killer disease in Nigeria. Apart from distorting the macroeconomic indices, corruption ensures that basics such as Medicare, water, schools, roads and other infrastructures are unavailable. It has led to a deplorable and depressing image of Nigeria among the comity of nations. Corruption has undermined sustainable development, distorts market fundamentals and erodes the dignity of man in Nigeria. It promotes inequality and social justice and undermine public expenditure management, good governance and poverty alleviation.

In a study on corruption and income inequality in third world democracies, Chang (2007) demonstrates why democratization results in greater income inequality in third world democracies. According to him, when third-world countries democratize by opening up elections before they have secured a system of accountability, the resultant corruption wildly distorts the income distribution and leads to greater inequality. Similarly, Simpson (1990) argues that inequality rises with democracy up to some threshold and then starts to decline. Inequality coupled with and fueled by pervasive corruption can turn into an ever-lasting nightmare for both politically exposed persons and ordinary citizens in new democracies like Nigeria, unless some external shocks (such as institutional reforms) successfully break down this vicious circle. Countries with higher initial levels of inequality are “doomed” and are held captive by inequality because greater initial inequality leads to conflictual democratization, which in turn furthers inequality (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012).

In contemporary time, the primitive accumulation and inequality especially in Nigeria is manifested in the blatant looting of the public treasury by the politically exposed persons thereby endangering national development. This study is therefore, an academic masterpiece principally concerned with the critical assessment of corruption and development crisis in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL DISCOURSES

Corruption & Development Crisis

Political corruption has been a recurrent subject since the tumultuous times of the Florentine Republic graphically described by classical scholars notable among the Greek historian Polybius (c.200-120 BCE), and Machiavelli (1947). Political corruption is the manipulation of the political institutions and the rules of procedure, and therefore it influences the institutions of government and the political system, and it frequently leads to institutional decay, and is therefore something *more* than a deviation from formal and written legal norms, from professional codes of ethics and court rulings. Political corruption is when laws and regulations are more or less systematically abused by the rulers, side-

stepped, ignored, or even tailored to fit their interests. For instance, President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines rewrote sections of the Philippine Constitution to legalise his looting of the nation's wealth (Carbonell-Catilo, cited in Johnston 1996:323), and back home, political corruption under President Olusegun Obasanjo's first (1999 – 2003) and second tenures (2003–07) took the form of large-scale grand-style electoral fraud (Osipitan, 2001), i.e, big spending on the elections necessary for Obasanjo and the party to win the 2003 and 2007 elections (Falola and Heaton 2008:271-275; Shaxson 2007:151). For example, monumental corrupt allegations that trailed Obasanjo's alleged third term bid in which ₦100 million was offered to each of the 109 Senators, ₦70 million for each member of the House of Representatives and ₦50 million for each member of the State Houses of Assembly (52). In recent political trajectory of the Nigerian state, political corruption has ranged from blackmailing the executive with threat of impeachment as a strategy of attracting financial inducement to misappropriation of constituency votes (Ibeanu & Egwu, 2009)

Conceptualizing the term corruption has long been ideologically, morally, culturally, politically and intellectually elusive. Many scholars have attempted to provide some form of definition to the concept (Dwivedi, 1967; Leff, 1970; Friedrich, 1972; Banfield, 1975; Gibbon, 1976; and Akindele, 2000). These scholars differed in their definitions of corruption. However, one thing that is common to all Corruption as a term is uncertain and indeed devoid of any strait jacket definition. It is a multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects (Anduig & Fjeldstad, 2001). This shows that corruption is a socio-political, economic and moral malaise and therefore undesirable. Hence current theorization on political corruption at both the conceptual and empirical levels in the contemporary literature conceive the phenomenon as pathological, "... a general disease of the body politic common to the ancients and the moderns" (Friedrich, 1989, p.18). The most obvious form of political corruption is traced roughly back to 3000 B.C. (Noonan, 1984, xi).

Yet the modern notion of corruption becomes thinkable at any point before the rise of the public/private split as evident in the subtitle *Private Vices, Public Benefits* in Mandeville's *The Fable of the Bees* (1714), and Kantorowicz's *Two Bodies doctrine* (1957). Put differently, our modern understanding of corruption and the emphasis on its occurrence in public domain is tied to the rise in early modern England of the legal and political doctrine of the King's Two Bodies fully realized by the time of the bourgeois revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. An implicit implication of the bias towards the division between the normal and pathological in the public/private split in the bourgeois political ontology (Canguilhem, 1991:125) is the focus on institutional structures rather than the individual actor (World Bank, 1997), and a construction of the corrupt individual as a rational maximiser, rather than as a moral agent.

Viewed from the above public/private dichotomy, the ecology of political corruption is the highest levels of political authority, occurring when politicians and political decision makers entitled to formulate, establish and implement laws in the name of the people, are themselves corrupt. This creates a principal-agent problem defined in this context as the failure of the agents (the Legislators) to act on behalf of the principals' interests (the masses). In other words, not every legislature is, *ipso facto*, a democratic institution. Though Nigeria's legislature has metamorphosed from the Legislative Council of 1914, the Central Legislative Council of 1922, the Parliament of 1960, the bicameral National Assembly of 1979 (Bugaje, 2003, Nwagba, 2007), to its present state this is a paradox that has characterized Nigeria's legislature.

Similarly, given the lack of accountability as expected in democratic administration (Mabogunje, 1999), self-seeking and self-serving has become the political norm rather than the exception in Nigeria. This individualistic behavior is reflected in rent-seeking tendencies by public officer who use the state to extract personal fortunes by exploiting resources of the country (Evans, 1992, p.149;) and the political class that depends on the state for "power, status, rents and other forms of wealth" (Callaghy, 1990, p.258). This makes the state itself and its agents the principal exploiter of people and sources of insecurity (McNulty, 1999, p.61).

A typical Nigerian would define corruption as government officials looting our treasury. One could view everything starts and ends in government offices (Akpan & Ezeugo, 2017). It will surprise you that almost everybody is campaigning against corruption in Nigeria? The main reasons Nigeria are not making progress we say authoritatively that those in government are just stealing public money. Corruption in Nigeria is not the exclusive preserve of politicians, civil servants, and captains of

industry. Among the “common people” there is an instinctive honing of stealing skills and over look of our common goods.

According to Onoh (1990), Nigerian history is a long catalogue of injuries inflicted by Nigerians on themselves and for a patriot, the reading of that history is nothing but an act of emotional torture and self-punishment. Nigerians naturally explode when they occupy positions of authority at any level either in private or public sector. They join the bandwagon of selfish leaders after suddenly finding themselves in the corridor of power, rather than use their positions to repair its ills, they confirm to the enrichment craze.

Corruption is a household phenomenon in Nigeria. It ranges from “misuse of public power” and “moral decay” to bribery and transfer of tangible resources for private benefit. For (Agbese, 1982), “corruption is a phenomenon so difficult to define, yet it percolates every structure of the society. When we use our position in society to secure certain advantages for private benefit, corruption continues to impede development which is detrimental to the entire society.

Gupta et al (2002) argues that corruption inevitably nullifies the egalitarian effects of democracy by increasing income inequality through the distortion of income distribution in a direct and self-explanatory way, since illegal benefits derived from corruption by definition accrue disproportionately to those who control and/or have access to political power, while the costs are externalized to ordinary citizens.

Corruption delegitimizes public institutions and depletes public trust in their ability to ensure development. Corruption is responsible for the continual ranking of Nigeria by United Nations development Programme (UNDP) as one of the countries with low Human Development Index (HDI), with diverse levels of poverty, food insecurity, poor nutrition and sanitation, low literacy, health crisis, high mortality, dearth infrastructure, among others (Antigha and Agba, 2009). Corruption is also threatening and is capable of terminating Nigeria’s nascent democracy (Fagbadebo, 2007).

Development Crisis

Development has come to mean different things to different scholars to the extent that it has become difficult to state precisely what development means. Indeed, no nation has actually achieved a complete mastery of all the obstacles on its path to social bliss and there may never be (Alozie, 2017). Nnoli (1981) argues that development is integrally related to the process of eliminating the obstacles in the way of a people to transform their physical, biological and social-economic environments for the benefit of all of them. These obstacles which are not common among all societies also vary from time to time. Development involves training in the art of using local resources and creative human energy in problem solving rather than a wholesale imitation of the path to a good life that some societies have achieved. In his further analysis, Nnoli (1981, p.37) further contends that:

Development refers to man’s progressive qualitative and continued self-improvement. Since man extends and reproduces himself through labour, he improves himself economically, socially and culturally through the cooperative use of his labour with others in the transformation of his immediate physical and human environment. It is in this way that he is able to tame the wilderness and build very complex structures, organizations and institutions for his own welfare. Therefore, development or man’s qualitative self-improvement occurs when his labour conditions improve. Such an improvement varies directly with the elimination of all human and non-human impediments to the creative application of human labour.

However, development crisis in Nigeria is traceable to the colonial era. Devastating colonial legacies were inherited by the emerging Nigeria elites (Olanrewaju, 2015). The seed of development crisis which has today spread like wildfire in Nigeria was laid during the period of colonialism, the period that was characterized by different crisis such as marriage of inconvenience (Amalgamation of 1914), disarticulation of the economy, the colonial economic structure also created a fertile ground for public corruption through the imposition of tax system as well as exploitative scheme of the European that was highly institutionalized in the country. Development crisis in Nigeria has become a recurring phenomenon and despite the atmosphere of crisis created during the colonial era, the leadership problem has become a major issue in the post-colonial Nigeria. The fundamental question is this,

since Nigeria's predicament cannot be attributed to colonialism alone, what are the other factors responsible for the country's development crisis?

Basically, Nigeria cannot be explained outside the impact of colonialism, neocolonialism and dependency. Nigeria development crisis can be explained from colonial legacy and corrupt leadership. The concept of leadership believes that corrupt and mismanagement on the part of leadership has been the bane of development in Nigeria (Achebe, 1983). Colonialism served as a deterrent to development not only in Nigeria but Africa as a whole. More so, colonial economic structures created a fertile ground for public corruption, the seed of corruption which has today spread like hurricane across Africa was laid during colonialism (Ajayi & Oshewolo, 2013).

Institutionalized that has led to development crisis as funds earmarked for development projects often end up in private pockets. In the public sector, tales of corruption came from the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary in various guises.

The Impact of Corruption on Development in Nigeria

The act of corruption is as traditional and historic as the society we live in. It is rapidly growing in proportion, dimension and nation building. It has undermined the growth of democratic institutions, the credibility of the financial system, the rule of law and constitutionalism, distorts market fundamentals, erodes the dignity of man and generally brings developmental crisis in Nigeria. As Annan (2004) put it, corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development. National development is a product of human rationality in decision making and resource governance whereas irrationality breeds corruption and development crisis (Otinche, 2016).

To strengthen the framework of good governance theory, the international development literature describes how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources (UNDP, 1997). According to them, the challenge for all societies is to create a system of governance that promotes, supports and sustains development. United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) believes that developing the capacity of good governance is the primordial way to eliminate corruption and poverty. This makes the central purpose of development the creation of an enabling environment in which all can enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. Bad government and bad governance have similar characteristics: corruption, whimsical and expedient Decision-making, shortsightedness, disregard for the concern of many and decisions (UNDP,2013). Accordingly, good governance is among other things, participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective and equitable. Good governance ensure that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are heard in decision-making over the allocation of development resource (Nayef, 2009).

Supporting the above, it is on record that over 80 million of country's estimated 190 million population are said to be living in relative poverty conditions. The reason is that successive governments merely engaged in glorifying poverty alleviation programmes. The 2010 Human Development Index report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ranked Nigeria 142 out of 169 countries. Ironically, it was the same period that Nigerians witnessed the deflation of an excess crude account that stood at \$20 billion in January 2009 to \$460 million in July 2010 with virtually no positive impact on their lives and living conditions. The various interventionist programmes of successive administrations rather than alleviate poverty which they were meant for, only succeeded in entrenching it. A recent report by The World Poverty Clock shows Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world. India has a population seven times larger than Nigeria's.

Good governance therefore provides a sustainable platform for rapid socio-economic transformation. It encompasses the various processes through which public resources and problems are effectively and efficiently managed and harnessed in response to the critical needs of the different people in society irrespective of class, party, religious and ethnic affiliations. While nothing the importance of good governance (Anan, 2004) rightly observed that without good governance, development the rule of law, legitimate power responsive regulation and predictable administration, no amount of funding, or charity will set any people on the path of prosperity.

It was in line with the realization of the nexus between good governance and development, that the UN General Assembly, in 2015, in a gathering of Heads of State adopted the Sustainable Development Goals focused on expanded effort to create a better future for the entire world. The

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member's states will be expected to frame their agendas and policies (Ford, 2015).

In the specific case of Nigeria, this study holds that good governance means that, processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal for national development eschewing corruptive practices.

The continuous outcry of the citizens on the evils of corruption and its consequences on national development motivated this study. The major findings of the study revealed that to a large extent corruption leads to development crises in Nigeria.

As has been rightly observed, the impacts of corruption on a nation's socio-political and economic development are myriad. For instance, there have been concerted efforts over time to sustain the Nigerian project. Parts of these efforts include resistance of attempts by some political players to derail the process in their bid to perpetuate either themselves or their cronies in power through undemocratic means. But the Boko Haram insurgency ravaging the North-East leaves no doubt that it is not yet Uhuru for Nigeria. The crisis has claimed several lives and properties as well as brought economic activities in the zone to a halt. There is also rising spate of killings across the country as a result of issues between herders and farmers. While some people have insisted that the insurgency has a political undertone and portends great danger to Nigeria's corporate existence, the killings as a result clashes between herdsmen and farmers have been tagged "ethnic cleansing."

The negative consequences of corruption are many, and among them are:

- Poor Investment
- Rise in Poverty
- Poor National Development
- National Crises

With respect to Nigeria, it has been contended that it is difficult to think of any social ill in the country that is not traceable to the embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, particularly as a direct or indirect consequence of the corruption perpetrated by the callous politically exposed persons since independence.

Poor Investment

As has been rightly observed, corruption in Nigeria has come to the forefront of development thinking. Tight fiscal situations at home have made donor countries focus more on the impact of their aid to Nigeria, raising concerns among bilateral and multilateral aid agencies over the effect of corruption on economic performance (Edgardo, et al, 1998). Unemployment in Nigeria would have been eradicated to some extent if only investors were attracted to it. Companies that would have invested in Nigeria are afraid because they do not know if the corrupt practice will ruin their industries in time. Because of this, they refuse to invest in Nigeria.

Rise in Poverty

Nigeria scores high in the corruption perception index and scores low in the Human Development Index, implying that because the incidence of corruption is high, investment in citizens welfare is low. Further, World Bank (2001:102) observed that corruption affects the lives of the poor through several channels, including the diverting of resources from vital social services that benefit the poor, such as education and health clinics. Poverty, it was noted, "is the result of economic, political, and social processes that interact with each other and frequently reinforce each other in ways that exacerbate the deprivation in which people live.

Poor National Development

Nigeria has had series of development plans. Nigeria is permanently hunted by the specter of development since independence. The myth of growth and development is so entrenched that the country's history passes for the history of development strategies and growth models from colonial times up to date. No term has been in constant flux as development. This seems the only country where virtually all notions and models of development have been experimented (Aremu, 2013). Corruption leads to abandonment of projects that could have accelerated national development in all facets. Examples are Ajaokuta and Aladja Steel Project, Itakpe-iron ore, the Inland rolling mills and machine tools in Oshogbo, the paper projects. There is also re-cycling of project, 10% kick back syndrome at the three tiers of government (Teriunmun, 2015).

Institutions that promote economic governance in Nigeria are many. The functioning and effectiveness of a market-based economy such as Nigeria relies on several institutions. It requires an institution to regulate the supply and flow of money and the financial system (Central Bank); to allocate capital to firms and individuals (Banks and Stock Exchange); to insure against commercial risks (insurance firms); to insure individual bank depositors against loss of up to certain amount (deposit insurance); to enforce contractual obligations (courts); and to collect revenue for the government (fiscal authorities).

The performance of our national institutions of economic governance is a mixed one. However, the reform of the financial sector has strengthened public confidence in the banks especially and opened opportunities for our banks to extend their reach to other parts of the region.

How to spread the benefits of growth and development to all – in other words to achieve equitable growth is a major public policy challenge. In Nigeria, little effort has been made in that direction. The key instruments for sharing include unemployment insurance, access to affordable housing, and access to health. Corruption has held their effectiveness down.

National Crises

So many crises in Nigeria today are as a result of corruption. The insecurity in Nigeria brought about Boko Haram is a consequence of corruption. Gurr (1970) contends that relative deprivation is a necessary condition for violence, relative deprivation being a perceived discrepancy between man's value expectations and their value capabilities. He maintains that value expectations are goods and conditions of life to which people believed they are rightly entitled, while in other hand, according to him, values capabilities are the goods and, conditions they think they are callable of attaining and maintaining, given the social means available to them. He suggests some variables that affect the intensity of emotional responses to the perception of deprivation. The first proposition is that man see between what he seeks and what seems to be attainable, the greater his anger and consequent disposition to aggression.

It is very disappointing that in the latest corruption perception index released by Transparency international Nigeria is ranked 148 most corrupt countries in the world (Vanguard News, 2018). Corruption in Nigeria wears many kinds of unattractive and dirty clothes. The situation has made some people feel a lot of pains as the money which would have been used to develop infrastructures in the country are been channeled into pockets of a small group of persons.

What can we say about the \$2.1 billion arms deal? The money which was budgeted for the purchase of arms in the fight against insurgency in the country suddenly developed wings and let Nigerians at mercy of their enemies (Uzochukwu, 2018). In his anger, the former President Olusegun Obasanjo has described the National Assembly as a den of corruption (Jola, 2016). The corruption perceptions Index ranks counties and territories based of how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A country or territory's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries and territories in the Index (Trading economics, 2018).

Corruption delegitimizes public institutions and depletes public trust in their ability to ensure development. Corruption is a clog in the wheel of progress in Nigeria and has incessantly frustrated the realization of noble national goals, despite the enormous natural and human resources.

Institutions for Democracy and Development

One of the greatest challenges of nation building is the challenge of institution building. Corruption has eroded these. This shows that the act of creating the organization itself is not as important as its proper functioning and overall effectiveness. In this regard, Nigeria needs to create or strengthen institutions that would help achieve the national goals of democratic governance and sustainable development.

When we refer to the courts or the ICPC or Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) as institutions that fight corruption; we imply that these organizations not operate and apply enforce a set of rules but also aim to create a system of values that rejects the abusive of public position for private gain. Today, there are three institutions that are dedicated to fostering integrity in the public sector: the Code of Conduct Bureau [CCB], the ICPC and EFCC. Together the ICPC's mandate include reviewing public sector systems and procedures with a view to eliminating pitfalls for corruption, public enlightenment and mobilization against corruption and enforcing the law in these areas. By contrast, EFCC has mandate to combat 419 crimes, money laundering, and terrorist financing and fraud in the financial sector.

Yet, there is also growing sense among the public that there is an overlap in functions between the ICPC and EFCC. However, those knowledgeable with the statues creating the ICPC and EFCC argue that the main area of overlap is in the definition of economic crime as including corruption. The anti-corruption bodies have met the criteria of inspiring public confidence in their work. That public confidence will be raised much higher if the functions are delineated in a way that are can easily be grasped by the public.

There are multiplying instances of election-related violence tearing apart the social fabric in several African countries. Nigerians have also needlessly shared much blood in the past. If Nigerians are beginning to realize the futility of shedding blood in elections disputes, this owes much to our judiciary, which has provided reasoned judgment on several cases. Nonetheless, the responsibility for conducting free and fair elections and accepting results should not be left to the judiciary alone. Democracy cannot be built solely on court orders or judgment of electoral tribunals. The table below captures the Nigeria’s ratings on corruption between 1996 and 2018:

Table 1: Empirical Analysis of TI Corruption Perception Index Rankings of Nigeria from 1996 to 2018

Year	Rankings
1996	54 of 54
1997	52 of 52
1998	81 of 85
1999	98 of 99
2000	90 of 90
2001	90 of 91
2002	101 of 102
2003	132 of 133
2004	144 of 146
2005	152 of 158
2006	150 of 163
2007	32of 147
2008	121 of 150
2009	130 of 150
2010	134 of 178
2011	143 of 183
2012	139 of 176
2013	144 of 177
2014	136 of 175
2016	136 of 148
2018	148 of 175

Source: TradingEconomics.com/Transparency International

Table 2: Properties Owned in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

S/No	Name of Property Owned in Data Based	Location of Property
1	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Apartment EGG1/114, Emirate Gradens UAE
2	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Apartment EGG1/115, Emirate
3	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Apartment DFB/121B, 1204
4	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Flat 3604, MAG 214, UAE
5	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Villa No. 148, Moeeni the lakes Emirate Hills, UAS
6	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Boulevard, 3901, UAE
7	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	2 flats of Burij Side Boulevard (The Signature) UAE
8	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Room 1903, Hotel Downtown, UAE.

Sources: Sahara Reporters, New York (2018) March Friday 9, 2018

Table 3: Properties owned in the United Kingdom (UK)

S/N	Name of Property Owner	Location of Property
1	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	Flat 4 Varsity Court, Horner Street, WIH 4NW, London
2	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	52 Ayleston Avenue, NW67 AB, London.

Source: SaharaReporters, New York (2018), March Friday 9, 2018

Table 4: Properties owned in the United States of America

S/N	Name of the Property Owner	Location
1	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	4507 Stella Street, Bellavid estate, Kissime, Florida, USA.
2	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	2747 Club Cortile Circle, Kissime, Florida, USA
3	Mr. Ike Ekweremadu	2763 Club Cortie Circle, Kissime, Florida, USA.

Sources: SaharaReporters, New York (2018), March Friday 9, 2018

To this end, the political violence and developmental crises witnessed in Nigeria is as a result of unrepentant believed that the politically exposed person in charge of our commonwealth has decided to corner the whole proceeds to themselves. The question is: How many houses or properties does American senator have in Nigeria. Therefore, good governance is an approach that is committed to creating a system founded in justice and peace that protects individuals' human rights and liberties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the myriads of problems, Nigeria has made appreciable progress in the last sixty years. For instance, the country, has against all odds, remained a united entity. It has also made appreciable progress in some areas. But against the backdrop that most past Nigerian leaders were railroaded into positions of leadership without any demonstration of ability to comprehend the problems of the nation, the consensus is that only leaders with vision can inspire and mobilize the citizenry for nation building. It is also agreed that Nigeria is presently at a point that calls for turning things around with a new generation of leaders, and that the citizenry must not allow the old variables to bug them down. Leadership, it was argued, is not a tea-party, so those who aspire to lead must have knowledge, character and principles to engender success, progress, peace and stability. While it is indisputable that advancement is not easy to come by, the 2019 elections provided an ample opportunity to end the era of endless blame-game on pathetic leadership crossroad, so that the nation can take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

We also recommend stiffer penalties for every corrupt person and a strong and unbiased democratic institutions cable of just application" of rules as deterrence to corrupt practices. We also recommend good governance as the primordial way to eliminate corruption and poverty.

CONCLUSION

It is ironical to state that a nation is corruption free. Many people are overtly and covertly corrupt. As in most Third World countries, the dividing line between political and economic activity is very blurred. The conclusion of the study concurs with the position of Terisa Turner, who argued thus:

The relationship between foreign businessmen and local actors from the national private and public sectors is called a 'commercial triangle' in this study, because it involves three parties to a buying or selling transaction. These parties are first, the businessman who represents the multinational corporation; second, the local middleman from the national private sector; and third, the state official who assists the foreign businessman in gaining access to the local market ... If a contract materializes, the state official is usually rewarded with a payment arranged by the go-between or middleman (Turner, 1978, p. 167).

This has resulted in the emergence of a number of extremely wealthy 'capitalists' whose wealth, in large measure, comes from their ability to network transnational corporations with political leaders and provide those companies with means of circumventing indigenization regulations. Very often these Nigerian 'economic leaders' appear to own and control major economic enterprises without, in fact, having any real authority within them (see Robison 1990 for a discussion of similar arrangements within Indonesia).

As Biersteker (1987, p.268) explains, 'several foreign executives commented that they deliberately have "no management role by their board of directors'. Their role, of course, is not to manage day-to-day business activities, nor to formulate company policy, but to ensure an ongoing positive relationship between the company and relevant politicians and bureaucrats. They are the political partners in a political/ economic marriage, ensuring that businesses, which otherwise would encounter countless delays and obstructions in dealing with government, receive prompt attention and favourable consideration. Inevitably, there is a positive, affirming relationship between these major wealth holders and political and administrative leaders. Both benefit from the patronial relationships between them. Since those holding political power are, by definition, closely involved with such wealth holders, it is less than rational for politicians to institute stringent legal proceedings against them, even if those being prosecuted belong to other patron-client networks.

The crisis arises when those who make and enforce laws engages in acts of corrupt practices. This calls for ethical re-orientation, national rebirth and institutional re-engineering to strengthen development in Nigeria. It is important for citizens to strive to regain loss integrity in order to rebuild the country's image and invest whatever in the country than developing other lands with what belong to us.

Governance has remained a critical aspect of modern political discourse as it touches on virtually every aspect of national life and efforts aimed at improving the lives of the people. Governance therefore involves an integration of efforts of individuals who have been elected or appointed to carry out the will of the state or realize the objectives for which the modern state has been constituted. Good governance for instance binds the state to the pursuit of those policies and programmes in any political system have usually affected the content of socio-economic transformation or national development.

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