



Combating Economic And Financial Crimes By The Anti-Graft Agencies In Nigeria: Implications on the Nation's Economic Growth and Development

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ABSTRACT

The economic impoverishment of the ordinary Nigerians occasioned by gross dilapidation of the nation's infrastructure, poor health facilities, death-trapped roads, insecurity and overbearing hardship of the common man in the face of the government's huge annual budgetary provision year after year is indeed worrisome. This, no doubt, is attributed to endemic corruption in the Nigerian system. This study thus, evaluates the relevance of the establishment of the three key anti-graft agencies (namely; ICPC, EFCC and CCB) in Nigeria and the justification of the huge budgetary provisions for their operations, in view of the continuous prevailing fraudulent and corrupt dispositions of many public officers in recent times. Ordinary Least Square (OLS) multiple regression was utilized in analyzing the data for the variables of the study. The study finds that no significant relationship exists between each of the anti-graft agencies studied and Nigerian economic development. The implication of this finding is that the establishment of these anti-graft agencies has not contributed significantly in the economic growth and development of Nigeria; thus, the agencies have hitherto not justified the huge budgetary provisions by the government for their operations. The researcher recommends inter-alia that The anti-graft agencies in Nigeria should be structured with unlimited independence granted to them to bring to book any public officer found in any form of economic and financial crime no matter how highly placed.

Key Words: Economic and Financial Crimes, fraud, corruption, Gross Domestic Product, Nigerian Economy

INTRODUCTION

Economic and financial crimes take the form of fraudulent and corrupt practices; these have been adjudged the strongest weapon ravaging the economic advancement of Nigeria as it has stultified growth and national development, subverted the nation's values, and generated a culture of illegality and impunity in public service among other ethical lapses credited to it (Ribadu, 2004; Osisoma, 2012).

Section 46 of the EFCC Act 2004 defines "Economic and Financial Crimes to mean the non – violent criminal and illicit activity committed with the objective of earning wealth illegally either individually or in a group or organized manner thereby violating existing legislation governing economic activities of Government and its administration and includes any form of **fraud**, narcotic drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting, and any form of **corrupt malpractices**, illegal arms deal, smuggling, human trafficking and child labour, illegal oil bunkering and illegal mining, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractice including counterfeiting currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic wastes and prohibited goods e.t.c." (Ribadu, 2004).

From the foregoing, fraud and corruption are found to be the subsets of economic and financial crime. In this study, the key points of discussion center on fraud and corruption and are used to represent economic and financial crimes, the obvious differences in their scopes notwithstanding. Also, fraud and corruption are commonly used interchangeably by scholars irrespective of their conceptual differences. Therefore, fraud and corruption are taken to imply the same thing in this study.

With a quantum of fund from her oil, coupled with huge non-oil revenue at the her disposal, Nigeria should have joined the league of advanced economies of the world but for the greed and unfaithfulness of her leaders and public officers which manifest in the various forms of fraudulent activities and corrupt dispositions by these public office holders.

The reality and the obvious setbacks associated with this deadly economic cankerworm has long dawn on the Nigerian government hence, the establishment of some economic and financial crime control institutions (the anti-graft agencies) by the federal government. These fraud fighting agencies include the Independent Corrupt practices Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) among other government established institutions that checkmate crimes in the economy. These institutions were established by law and saddled with the mandate to fight fraud and other corrupt practices to a standstill.

However, the wave of economic and financial crimes in the Nigerian economy generally and the public sector in particular, in the face of these institutions, remain untamed. This is evidenced by fraudulent dispositions of some public officers as witnessed in the recent revelation of unaccounted US\$1.48bn by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) through a forensic audit conducted by the Price Water Company (PWC) (Onuoha, 2015) with no serious measures taken by these financial/economic crime control agencies to nail the culprits. This and other corruption saga in the economy without immediate summary litigation against the culprits raise doubt on the potency and effectiveness of these crime fighting agencies of government.

More than a decade of their establishments, frauds and corruption have seemingly become endemic in the fabrics of the Nigerian economy, especially the public sector. Hence, Osisioma (2012) observed that the Nigerian dilemma on fraud and corruption is best summarized by the UNDP Human Development Report (2009): "Nigeria surely has a scorecard; but it is an unimpressive one relative to its contemporaries in the 1960s and 1970s. What is different about Nigeria is that its poverty and human development performance are largely avoidable. Forty-nine years (as at the time of his publication) of managing its own affairs has shown that the country has immense potential, is blessed with human and natural resources, yet exhibiting significant deprivation in the midst of plenty. "... In many respects, the economy has shown traits of a complex colouration that defies conventional classification. It is a country of extremes - extreme wealth on the one hand and extreme want on the other - which makes it possible for some 20 per cent of the population to own 65 per cent of its national wealth" (UNDP, 2009 in Osisioma, 2012).

Expectedly, with these anti-graft agencies of government, a stiff contention against all forms of economic crimes and fraudulent/corrupt practices in the economy should be the order of the day but the obvious is that these institutions have been criticized for poor performance judging by the increase wave of corruption and fraudulent practices pervading the economy today, particularly the public sector (Olurankinse and Bayo, 2014). According to them, there are different school of thoughts and varying degree of discordant voices in regard to the poor performance of these institutions. Some school of thoughts are of the opinion that the institutions were established to antagonize and silence government critiques and oppositions. This is evident in their selective and self-styled prosecution of crime offenders. Besides, other school of thoughts believed that the institutions are like a toothless barking dog that can only bark but could not bite. They based their argument on the fact that they do not have the political will to prosecute some offenders, simply because they were not strengthened/ empowered legally enough. To worsen the situation and as a testimony, in the recent past, the chairman of the EFCC lamented and cried out that the commission is incapacitated to pay their lawyers who are to prosecute crime offenders due to lack of funds (Olurankinse and Bayo, 2014).

This study is therefore developed to evaluate the essence of the existence of these anti-graft agencies/institutions in the face of the glaring devastating effect of economic and financial crimes in

Nigeria as it evaluates the implications of the operations of these agencies on economic development of Nigeria. The study covers periods from 2005 to 2014; that is ten years. It utilizes the Nigeria's federal government's budgetary provisions on the activities and operations of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) for the ten years. Thus, the operations of the anti-graft agencies are proxied on federal government budgetary provision to the three highlighted agencies of ICPC, EFCC and CCB while the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is used as a proxy for economic development.

Statement of Problem

The limited resources at the disposal of the government vis-à-vis the glaring lapses in the nation's socio-infrastructure status against the backdrop of overridden level of fraudulent/corrupt practices in the public sector has become a thing of worry to both government and the citizens ever than before, particularly in view of the teething effect of the recent global economic downturn on world economies (Nigeria inclusive) and other present harsh economic climate confronting Nigerian economy like Naira devaluation, fall in oil revenue, etc; prudent management of available public resources thus becomes inevitable if the economy must survive.

Nevertheless, fraudulent and corrupt practices have long been features of Nigeria's economic and political landscape; systemic corruption which engenders low levels of transparency and accountability by public officers has been identified as the major source of development failure (National Planning Commission, 2005 in Nna and Jacob, 2012). The effects and implications of this ugly scenario in Nigeria's social, political and economic development are myriad. Achebe (1983) in Chukwuemeka, et al (2012) observed that generally, as much as sixty percent of the wealth of Nigeria is regularly consumed by corruption. The Transparency International specifically reported that over 500 billion dollars has been removed from the coffers of the Nigerian government through corruption between 1960 and 2009 (Chukwuemeka, et al 2012). As a consequence, Derin (2007) in Chukwuemeka, et al (2012) asserts that corruption in Nigeria constitutes a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation as it diverts resources away from activities that are vital to poverty eradication and economic and sustainable development. This has warranted a significant reduction in the quality and quantity of goods and services available to the public as evidenced by poor infrastructures, poor quality of education standards, poor health facilities and high cost of living and rising social insecurity. Hence, Osisioma (2012) asserts that fraud has stultified growth and national development, subverted the nation's values and norms, and generated a culture of illegality and impunity in public service while Okoye (2011) opined that fraud has become one of the greatest threats to the world economy. Fagbadebo, (2007) in Nna and Jacob (2012) believed that the evil which corruption portends are many: it stunts growth and development, creates political instability, destroys the social economic life of the nation, undermines the legitimacy of the state, makes fiscal planning almost impossible, places the wealth of the nation in the wrong hands and leads to an uneven distribution of the amenities and prerequisites of life.

Premised on the above, one can be sure that huge funds that would have warranted massive developmental boom and outstanding economic growth if properly utilized have hitherto gone into the hands of fraudsters in the disguise of government officials; the consequence of this on our nation's economy cannot altogether be wished away.

The concern of this study thus bothers on the real essence of the existence of and the justification of the jumbo annual budgetary provisions and allocations to the various anti-graft agencies of government in view of the prevailing incidences of economic and financial crimes in the economy, particularly the public sector, as typified in the case of the recent forensic audit on the activities of NNPC which reported a missing (unremitted) sum of \$1.48bn (Onuoha, 2015) with no serious measures taken by the financial/economic crime control agencies to nail the culprits. One therefore wonders whether these crime fighting agencies of the government are better regarded as "toothless dogs" that only bark but cannot bite as asserted by Olurankinse and Bayo (2014).

It is in the light of the above highlights, that the study therefore seeks to establish the relevance or otherwise of the existence of these anti-graft agencies, as it evaluates the implications of the agencies' existence on the Nigerian economic development. On the other hand, many studies on the subject area

focused on the effect of fraud and/or corruption on the economic development of Nigeria; little or no attention has been paid on the real contribution of the various anti-graft agencies on the economic development of the Nigerian nation. A closely related attempt in this regard was the study conducted by Olurankinse and Bayo (2014); however, their study assessed the effectiveness of the external control institutions (anti-graft agencies) on public fund management, taking Ondo state as a reference point. Thus, there is an obvious research gap in the area of the real impact of the operations and activities of these economic and financial crime control institutions on the general economic development of Nigeria. This study thus targets to bridge this gap.

Hypotheses

To clearly approach this study, the following hypotheses have been put forth:

- H0₁:** There is no significant relationship between ICPC's operation in Nigeria and the nation's economic development.
- H0₂:** No significant relationship exists between the activities of EFCC and economic development in Nigeria.
- H0₃:** The establishment of CCB in Nigeria has no significant implication on the economic development of the nation.
- H0₄:** The joint effect of the operations of the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria on the nation's economic development is not significant.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Economic and Financial Crimes (Fraudulent and Corrupt) Practices: Meaning and Nature

Economic and financial crimes generally has been viewed as the non – violent criminal and illicit activity committed with the objective of earning wealth illegally either individually or in a group or organized manner thereby violating existing legislation governing economic activities of Government and its administration and includes any form of fraud, narcotic drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting, and any form of corrupt malpractices, illegal arms deal, smuggling, human trafficking and child labour, illegal oil bunkering and illegal mining, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractice including counterfeiting currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic wastes and prohibited goods etc.” (Section 46 of the EFCC Act 2004 in Ribadu, 2004).

From the foregoing, fraud and corruption are found to be the subsets of economic and financial crime; hence, the central points of discussion in this study center on fraud and corruption; these are used to represent economic and financial crimes, the obvious differences in their scopes notwithstanding.

Also, fraud and corruption are commonly used interchangeably by scholars irrespective of their conceptual differences. Okunola, Lawal and Kehinde (2014) argue that though the two concepts (fraud and corruption) are often used interchangeably, there is a need to make a distinction between them, at least for the sake of clarity and for better appreciation of their import in the study. They assert that Corruption is mostly associated with public sector and public officials in view of Joubert's definition of corruption as the practice of misuse of public positions (Joubert, 1993 in Okunola, et al 2014). Conversely, Rossouw and Arkhuysn (2000) in Okunola et al (2014) are of the view that fraud is a phenomenon that is not limited to the public sector. They maintained that public officials, any employee or even outsiders, can be perpetrators of fraud. In view of this, the distinction between corruption and fraud is that corruption implies a third party involvement while fraud does not necessarily imply third-party involvement. In the case of corruption, employees violate duty to principals, they abuse their positions by either accepting or demanding a bribe offered by or demanded from a third party (Coleman, 1989 in Okunola et al, 2014).

Thus, Fraud is a type of criminal activity, defined as: 'abuse of position, or false representation, or prejudicing someone's rights for personal gain'. Put simply, fraud is an act of deception intended for personal gain or to cause a loss to another party.

Chizea (1991) sees fraud as any premeditated act of criminal deceit, trickery or falsification by a person or group of persons with the intention of altering facts in order to obtain undue personal monetary advantage.

Distinctly, fraud means ‘wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain’ or ‘a person or thing intended to deceive others, typically by unjustifiably claiming or being credited with accomplishments or qualities. A more detailed definition of fraud is given as ‘an act or course of deception, an intentional concealment, omission, or perversion of truth, to (1) gain unlawful or unfair advantage, (2) include another to part with some valuable item or surrender a legal right, or (3) inflict injury in some manner; where willful fraud is a criminal offense which calls for severe penalties, and its prosecution and punishment (like of a murder) is not bound by statute of limitations. (Kalubanga, Kakwezi and Kayiise, 2013).

Chamber English Dictionary (2002) in Owolabi (2010) describes fraud as an act of deliberate deception with the intention of gaining some benefit, in other words it is the act of dishonestly pretending to be something that one is not.

Similarly, Webster’s collegiate dictionary of current English defines fraud as: “deceit, trickery, specifically: intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right”. This definition more specifically focuses 419ners, or con-men and other forms of commercial dishonesty (Okoye and Gbegi, 2013).

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners defines fraud as “any illegal acts characterized by deceit, concealment or violation of trust. These acts are not dependent on the application of threat of violence or of physical force”.

Boniface (1991) describes fraud as “any premeditated act of criminal deceit, trickery or falsification by a person or group of persons with the intention of altering facts in order to obtain undue personal monetary advantage”. Ojo (2008) opines that fraudulent practice usually involve the perpetration of some forgery or falsification of documents or illegal authorization of signature.

Black (1979) in Okoye and Gbegi (2013) defines fraud as all multifarious means which human ingenuity can devise, and which are resorted to by one individual to get an advantage over another by false suggestions or suppression of the truth. It includes all surprises, tricks, cunning or dissembling, and any unfair way which another is cheated. Under common law, three elements are required to prove fraud; a material false statement made with intent to deceive (scanter), a victim’s reliance on the statement and damages.

Adeyemo (2012) asserts that fraud arises when a person in a position of trust and responsibility digresses from agreed standards, breaks the rules to advance his personal interest at the expense of the interest of the public.

For Abdullahi and Mansor (2015) fraud is an attempt of subverting the rule of the game using trick to take public funds and using them for one’s personal interest.

However, the criminal code section 380 sub-section one stated that everyone who, by deceit, falsehood or other fraudulent means, whether or not it is a false pretence with the meaning of this Act, defrauds the public or any person, whether ascertained or not, of any property, money or valuable security or any service. This means that fraud is criminal deception intended to financially benefit the deceiver (Okoye and Gbegi, 2013).

On the other hand, corruption according to Tanzi (1998) is the abuse of public power for private benefit. Olurankinse and Bayo (2014) noted that the word corruption is derived from a Latin word “Corruptus” which means to break or destroy. It literarily means to break away or depart from morality, ethics and civics virtues. Hence, World Bank (1997) and UNDP (1999) in APEC (2006) opined that corruption is most commonly defined as the misuse or the abuse of public office for private gain. It can come in various forms and a wide array of illicit behavior, such as bribery, extortion, fraud, nepotism, graft, speed money, pilferage, theft, embezzlement, falsification of records, kickbacks, influence peddling, and campaign contributions (APEC, 2006).

Section 2 of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission Act 2000 in Olurankinse and Bayo (2014) defines corruption to include bribery, fraud and other related offences. The authors further highlighted that the cause of corruption is multifarious but generally, corruption is caused by Greed, lack of positive values, porous system, weak enforcement and oversight mechanism, excessive materialism, societal pressure, lack of virile welfare structures, insecurity of employment tenure,

indiscipline, inordinate desire for wealth accumulation, poverty of the mind, nepotism and lack of genuine fear of God. Okoye and Okoye (2014) assert that corruption is a disease, which eats into the cultural, political and economic growth of any country and as well destroys the functioning of various organs of the government.

2. Corruption and Governance

“Good government” plays an important role in the development process, and “requires the highest standards of integrity, openness and transparency”. The main requisites for good governance include: (1) political legitimacy for the state through democratic elections and transfer of power and an effective political opposition and representative government, (2) accountability and transparency in the sharing of information, (3) separation of powers, (4) effective internal and external audit, (5) effective means of combating corruption and nepotism, (6) competence of public servants, (7) impartial and accessible justice systems; and (8) the absence of arbitrary government power. Action towards curtailing corruption is perceived as a commitment towards creating good government. As such, discussion of corruption is almost always conducted within the framework of good governance (APEC, 2006). Corruption and governance lie on a continuum but occupying opposite poles. Whereas governance, with its end goal of creating a good government, aims to serve the interest of the people, corruption, through the use of public office and resources, serves the narrow interest of family and allies. Good government is bound by rules aimed to create a transparent and accountable government; corruption plays discreetly and sometimes directly on these rules to make decisions which will benefit those who have access to power and the highest bidder (APEC, 2006).

Thus, more insidiously, corruption has a far reaching negative effect on the national psyche which eventually goes back to undermine the whole system of good governance itself. Systemic corruption breeds a culture of corruption and skews the people’s perception of what is right and wrong. For a number of countries where it has been effectively institutionalized, where wealth and power have become the measure of success, corruption has become socially acceptable, sometimes even aspired to. Energies of a large number of people are channeled towards occupying positions in the government to partake of the fruits of a corrupt system (APEC, 2006).

3 Effects of Fraud and Corruption on Economic Development of Nigeria

Fraud has its root firmly entrenched in the social setting and the extent of growth depends on our wrong sense of value we choose to cultivate in terms of acquisition of wealth. Similarly, as observed by APEC (2006), corruption has a far reaching negative effect on the national psyche which eventually goes back to undermine the whole system of good governance itself. Dada, Owolabi and Okwu (2013) opine that fraudulent practices among Nigerians are major challenges facing the development of the country. On the other hand, Uchenna and Agbo (2013) assert that fraud losses continue to pose a significant problem to many industries despite significant advances in fraud detection technologies. Therefore, the high propensity to defraud of the average Nigerian is the direct product of our materialistic society. In fact, frauds constitute a threat to the continued corporate existence of an organization (Ikpefan, 2006). Consequently, Archibong (1993) cited in Ikpefan (2006) noted that the long-term survival and growth of any organization depends on how the issue of fraud and fraudulent practices in any organization is handled.

Ogbeidi (2012) in Nageri, Umar and Abdul (2013) examined political leadership and corruption in Nigeria since 1960; he opined that it is an incontrovertible fact that corruption has been the bane of Nigeria’s development. Thus, without mincing words the phenomenon has ravaged the country and destroyed most of what is held as cherished national values. Unfortunately, the political class saddled with the responsibility of directing the affairs of the country have been the major culprit in perpetrating this act. (Nageri, Umar and Abdul, 2013)

According to Wurim (2013), fraud and other financial crimes constitute a very serious threat to the survival of the Nigerian nation state. It is very widespread and manifests itself in virtually all aspects of national life. The nation, organizations and individuals have lost huge funds to fraudulent practices. (AbdulRasheed, et al., 2012 in Wurim, 2013).

Savuth (2012) in Kalubanga, et al (2013) argued that fraud and corruption pose serious threats to the ability of the organization to achieve its operational objectives. They can hamper the implementation of programmes and projects.

Owolabi (2010) highlighted huge parameters put in place in financial sector of the Nigerian economy and affirms that the parameters constitute symbol of adequate preparation of the financial sector to jump-start the Nigerian economic development. However, he points out that the major feasible impediment to the attainment of this laudable objective is fraud.

In illustrating the effect of fraud, Okoye and Gbegi (2013) assert that in the developed economies of the West, evidence emerged (which was at first difficult to believe) that the criminal manipulation of Company balance sheets created a much more favourable picture about their finances than was the reality. The Enron Company which unexpectedly went bust is probably the best known example of accounting books manipulation in our time.

According to NDIC (2004), seven commonest types of fraud and forgeries cases are prominent (mainly in banking operations) which include: forged cheque, granting of unauthorized loans, posting of fictitious credits, suppression of cash/cheques, fraudulent transfer and withdrawals, cheques and cash defalcation, loss of money to armed robbers and outright theft of money.

Consequently therefore, it has been argued that unethical behaviour, which is precursor to fraud and criminality, can be destructive where no proactive action is taken and may lead to collapse of the entire system. (Okunola, Lawal and Kehinde, 2014).

4 Characteristics/Causes of Fraud and Corruption

In fraud literature, the key features and causal factors that enable fraudulent practices in organizations have been summarized in the works of Cressey (1950) where three elements are identified as being the root factors why frauds are committed. These include Pressure/motive, Opportunity and Rationalization, which have been referred to as “The Fraud Triangle”. This has been amplified by Wolfe and Hermanson (2004) in their “Fraud Diamond” theory, in which case an additional element of capability has been identified.

However, scholars have given different interpretations to these highlighted elements. For instance, Lister (2007) sees pressure/motive to commit fraud as “the source of heat for the fire”. However, he holds that the presence of these pressures in someone’s life does not mean the individual is given to committing fraud. Lister further classified Pressure/Motivation into three types; viz: Personal pressure to pay for lifestyle, employment pressure from continuous compensation structures, or management’s financial interest, and external pressure such as threats to the business financial stability, financier covenants, and market expectations. He considers opportunity (the second side of the fraud triangle), as “the fuel that keeps the fire going”. Here he holds that a person cannot commit fraud except that he has the opportunity even with the motive to commit fraud. He also gave some examples of opportunities that can lead to fraud like high turnover of management in key roles, lack of segregation of duties, and complex transactions or organizational structures. On “Rationalization”, the third component of the fraud triangle, Lister sees it as “the oxygen that keeps the fire burning”. He believes that even though auditors and fraud dictators may not be able to assess the personal value systems of each individual in the organization, they can assess the corporate culture.

On their own part, Okoye and Gbegi (2013), while characterizing fraud by the following elements: (i) Intent to commit a wrongful act or to achieve a purpose inconsistent with law or public policy; (ii) Disguise of (purpose): falsifications and misrepresentations employed to accomplish the purpose; (iii) Reliance by the offender on the ignorance or carelessness of the victim (s); (iv) Concealment of the violation; see the fraud triangle as explaining three factors that are present in every situation of fraud and define the elements as: (i) Motive (or pressure) – the need for committing fraud (need for money etc). (ii) Rationalization – the mindset of the fraudsters that justifies them to commit fraud; and (iii) Opportunity- the situation that enables fraud to occur (often when internal controls are weak or nonexistent). Therefore, breaking the fraud triangle is the key to fraud deterrence. Breaking the fraud triangle implies that an organization must remove one of the elements in the fraud triangle in order to reduce the likelihood of fraudulent activities. “Of the three elements, removal of opportunity is most directly affected by the

system of internal controls and generally provides the most achievable route to deterrence of fraud". (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/fraud_deterrence in Okoye and Gbegi, 2013).

Commer (2008) observed that motivations for corporate fraud include: Personal greed; Possibility of getting away; Low prosecution rate; societal pressures; Opportunity; Staff morale problems and Anti-institutional posture.

For Kalubanga, et al (2013), there are five basic elements which are required for something to be termed fraudulent: (1) a representation about a material fact, (2) that is false or misleading, (3) made intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, (4) which is believed and acted upon by the victim, (5) to the victim's damage.

Vona (2008) opines that the motive to commit fraud is often associated with personal pressures or corporate pressures on the individual. He asserts that the motive to commit fraud may be driven by the pressures influencing the individual, by rationalization, or by sheer opportunity; hence a person's position in the organization contribute to the opportunity to commit fraud. He also believed there is a direct correlation between opportunity to commit fraud and the ability to conceal the fraud. Thus, understanding the opportunity for fraud to occur allows auditors to identify, which fraud schemes an individual can commit, and how fraud risks occur when the controls do not operate as intended by management.

Albrecht et al. (2008, 2010) in Kassem and Higson (2012), however, mentioned that pressure/motive can be financial or non-financial and they gave examples of perceived financial pressures that can motivate fraud like; personal financial losses, falling sales, inability to compete with other companies, greed, living beyond one's means, personal debt, poor credit, the need to meet short-term credit crises, inability to meet financial forecasts, and unexpected financial needs. They also gave examples of non-financial pressure, such as; the need to report results better than actual performance, frustration with work, or even a challenge to beat the system. They believed that even with very strong perceived pressures, executives who believe they will be caught and punished rarely commit fraud. They also mentioned some examples of rationalizations that executives can use to commit fraud, like; "we need to keep the stock price high", all companies use aggressive accounting practices, or it is for the good of the company. As for perceived opportunities to commit fraud examples include; a weak board of directors, a lack of or circumvention of controls that prevent/detect fraudulent behavior, failure to discipline fraud perpetrators, lack of access to information, and the lack of an audit trail.

Murdock (2008) in Kassem and Higson (2012) also argued that pressure can be a financial pressure, non financial, or political and social pressure. Non-financial pressure can be derived from a lack of personal discipline or other weaknesses such as gambling habit, drug addiction. While, political and social pressure occurs when people feel they cannot appear to fail due to their status or reputation.

For Rae and Subramaniam (2008), pressure relates to employees motivation to commit fraud as a result of greed or personal financial pressure, and opportunity refers to a weakness in the system where the employee has the power or ability to exploit, making fraud possible, while rationalization is a justification of fraudulent behavior as a result of an employee's lack of personal integrity, or other moral reasoning.

Hur-Yagba (2003) opined that there is a general consensus among criminologists that fraud is caused by three elements called: Will, Opportunity, Exit (WOE) i.e. the will to commit frauds by the individual, the opportunity to execute the fraud and the exit which is the escape from sanctions against successful or attempted fraud or deviant behavior.

Ikpefan (2006) on his part presents the following as the core causes of fraudulent practices in organizations with particular reference to the banking industry: (i) Lack of Experienced and Adequate Personnel (ii) Internal Audit and Control (iii) Inadequate Book Keeping/Accounting Procedure (iv) Poor Credit Administration (v) Inadequate Job Rotation/ Segregation of Duties (vi) Ineffective Bank Management (vii) Poor Knowledge of the Job (viii) Clearing Fraud (ix) Society Expectation (x) Delay Justice (xi) Other Miscellaneous Issues

Olurankinse and Bayo (2014) highlighted that the cause of corruption is multifarious but that generally, corruption is caused by Greed, lack of positive values, porous system, weak enforcement and oversight mechanism, excessive materialism, societal pressure, lack of virile welfare structures, insecurity of employment tenure, indiscipline, inordinate

5 Types/Classification of fraud and Corruption

Chizea (1991) observes the following are typical manifestation of fraud: cash thefts from the tills of bank by staff, forgeries of a customer's signature, use of forged cheque to withdraw money from his account with the bank, unauthorized and illegal transfer of fund from a customer's account, opening and operating of fictitious (ghost) account for illegal transactions, lending to fictitious borrowers through fictitious account opened at a branch, suppression of cheque by disloyal staff, payment against unclear effects, granting loans without adequate information and security from borrowers or lenders. The list continues.

Financial fraud in an entity, according to Okoye and Gbegi (2013) can be divided into three categories: Those perpetrated by chief executives; by political office holders and; by public servants and employees of entities. Fraud perpetrated by chief executive is management fraud while those perpetrated by political office holders and public servant/employees are regarded as condonable fraud and staff fraud respectively.

Condonable or staff fraud can be perpetrated by circumventing internal control arrangement or by breaching internal control regulations. Mainoma (2009) in Okoye and Gbegi (2013) assert that condonable fraud occurs where the employee diverts the employer's property which was given to enhance the performance of the employee. The use of employer's photocopying machines and computer facilities for persona gains or benefits is an example of condonable fraud. This class of fraud is tagged condonable because any effort to eradicate it is expensive and counterproductive. In this case, the employer will condone the class of fraud and thus allow the fraud and the organization to co-exist. However, condonable frauds are difficult to eradicate but they can be minimized. Staff frauds are perpetrated by employees involved in the theft, misappropriation or embezzlement of the employer's funds, stock of goods or other assets. The type of fraud is characterized by: inclusion of ghost names in payroll, over booking of hours worked and overpaying of allowances, keeping inadequate records and therefore incurring loss, misappropriating unclaimed wages, pilferages of currency notes from the bundles, misappropriation of revenues collected. The third category, leadership fraud is analogous to management fraud in the private sector and undermines the entire fabric of public accountability. Since it is mitigated from above and may be executive from outside the organization, it operates outside the internal control system (Oshisami, 1994) in Okoye and Gbegi (2013). When it is executed within the organization, example, defalcation and misappropriations, it may be caught within the web of internal control, i.e. when this is not deliberately shifted by the leadership. Whatever the reason, it often creates problems for the internal audit and may be arrested by external audit. Some common example of management/leadership fraud includes: Fictitious transaction; Wrong project evaluation; Wrong project award; Erroneous reporting of level of project executed; Loans to relatives leading to bad debts. (Okoye and Gbegi, 2013).

Okoye and Gbegi (2013) affirm that the most prominent of frauds in banks and agencies of government detected in Nigeria in the recent times includes: Fraudulent transfer and withdrawals; Use of unauthorized overdraft; Posting of fictitious credits; Presentation of forged cheques; Conversion of banks money into personal use; Granting of unauthorized loans; Abuse of medical scheme; Insider abuse; Illegal conversion of pension funds in various agencies and ministries; Ghost workers fraud resulting into millions of naira paid into private pockets; Abuse of political office leading to contract over billings and over invoicing.

Duffield and Grabosky (2001) highlight the following categories of fraud:

- Fraud committed against an organization by a principal or senior official of that organization. Examples of this include offences against shareholders or creditors by errant "high-flying entrepreneurs" or corrupt practices by senior public officials.
- Fraud committed against an organization by a client (an "outsider") or employee (an "insider"). This category includes embezzlement, insurance fraud, tax evasion and other fraud against government.
- Fraud committed against one individual by another in the context of direct face-to-face interaction. This would include classic "con games", frauds by sales staff, and predatory activities against clients or customers by unethical investment advisers, shady roof repairers and others who prey directly on a consumer.
- Fraud committed against a number of individuals through print or electronic media, or by other indirect means. This would include Nigerian advance fee frauds (Smith, Holmes & Kaufmann 1999), share

market manipulation, and deceptive advertising or investment solicitations pitched at a relatively large number of prospective victims.

UNDP in APEC (2006) classifies corruption into two types: spontaneous and institutionalized (or systemic). Spontaneous corruption is usually found in societies observing strong ethics and morals in public service. Institutionalized corruption, on the other hand, is found in societies where corrupt behaviors are perennially extensive or pervasive. In these societies, corruption has become a way of life, a goal, and an outlook towards public office.

Obua (2010) classified corruption into political, bureaucratic, electoral and corporate corruption. **Political Corruption:** This is the sale by government officials of government property for personal gain. It involves the use of public office by politicians both for financial gain and purposes of remaining in office. It is further facilitated by the creation of rent seeking projects. **Bureaucratic Corruption:** This involves the use of public office for pecuniary gain. Bureaucratic corruption is common in Nigeria because the government plays crucial roles in the development process, especially intervening in the domestic economy. It is also common where there is instability in government and lack of tenure, which drive bureaucrats to engage in rent seeking opportunities for personal aggrandizement. Socio-economic conditions, such as poverty and inequality, cultural norms and practices, such as kinship loyalty not only impinge directly on public officials but also shape their behavior.

Electoral Corruption: Electoral corruption occurs when people, whether endowed with political clout or not, illegally try to buy influence through illegal payoffs such as illegal funding of campaigns, illegal campaign contributions, bribes, buying of votes for cash or other inducements (i.e. paying voters to vote, thereby influencing their choices), promise of contracts or other favors etc. Electoral corruption may also take coercive forms, such as paying thugs to intimidate or threaten supporters of a candidate in order to compel supporters to vote for the candidate who employed the thugs or stop them from voting entirely. Electoral corruption can lead to outright rigging of elections; expectation of reward once victory is achieved, or encouraging quid pro quo deals (Etzioni, 1988 in Obua, 2010). It can include weak credible opposition politics, and the undermining of democratic values, especially where there is a conflict between the politicians' interests and those of the public. **Corporate Corruption:** Corporate corruption occurs in the relationship between private business corporations and their vendors or clients. It can also take place within a corporation when officers use company's resources for private aggrandizement, at the expense of the shareholders (Bhargava, 2005 in Obua, 2010).

Corruption in the government involves three broad layers. First is the corruption within the broader political system. This includes the demands of electoral politics, the extensive use of patronage in political appointments, and the existence use of "pork barrel" funds. Second, is the corruption within the public sector, which is usually focused on three major problems: spotty performance of mechanisms for identifying and sanctioning employees engaged in corrupt and illicit behavior, considerations of pay and employment, and government procurement. Third is the corruption within specific agencies, which involves grand corruption (involving widespread syndicates and millions of pesos); and petty corruption (which involves smaller amounts of money, such as grease money to facilitate the delivery of goods and services. (APEC, 2006).

6 The Anti-Graft Agencies in Nigeria

The major financial/economic crimes control institutions of government in Nigeria otherwise called the anti-graft agencies are the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commissions (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Code of Conduct Bureau, among others.

A. Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)

The ICPC was established by the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act of 2000. The Commission is a body corporate, endowed with perpetual succession. It has a common seal and is juristic (that is, may sue and be sued in its corporate name). (ICAN, 2014)

Composition of ICPC

As provided by the Act establishing ICPC, the Commission shall consist of a Chairman and twelve (12) other members, two of whom shall come from each of the six geo-political zones, thus:

- a) A retired Police Officer not below the rank of Commissioner of Police.

- b) A legal practitioner with at least 10 years post call experience.
- c) A retired Judge of a Supreme Court record.
- d) A retired Public Servant not below the rank of a Director.
- e) A woman.
- f) A youth not being less than 21 or more than 30 years of age at the time of his or her appointment.
- g) A Chartered Accountant.

The Chairman of the commission shall be a person who has held or is qualified to hold office as a Judge of a superior court of record in Nigeria. (ICAN, 2014).

Appointment of Members

The Chairman and members of the Commission who must be persons of proven integrity shall be appointed by the President upon confirmation by the Senate and shall not begin to discharge the duties of their offices until they have declared their assets and liabilities as prescribed in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (ICPC Act, 2000 in ICAN, 2014).

The Chairman shall hold office for a period of five (5) years and may be re-appointed for another term of (5) years. Other members hold office for (4) years and can be re-appointed for another four (4) years. (ICAN, 2014).

Removal of Members

The Act provides that chairman or any member can be removed from office by the President acting on an address supported by two-thirds (2/3rd) majority of the Senate.

The Commission shall have a Secretary appointed by the President who under the general direction of the Chairman shall be responsible for keeping the records of the Commission and the general administration and control of the staff of the Commission.

Immunities

An Officer of the Commission when investigating or prosecuting a case of corruption shall have all the powers and immunities of a Police Officer under the Police Act and any other laws conferring power on the Police or empowering and protecting law enforcement agents.

Duties of the Commission

ICAN (2014) highlights the following as the duties of ICPC:

- a) Where reasonable ground exists for suspecting that any person has conspired to commit or has attempted to commit or has committed an offence under the Act or any other law prohibiting corruption, to receive and investigate any report of the conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit or the commission of such offence and, ensures that appropriate measures are taken to punish the offender.
- b) To examine the practices, systems and procedures of public bodies and where, in the opinion of the Commission, such practices, systems or procedures aid or facilitate fraud or corruption, to direct and supervise a review of them.
- c) To instruct, advise and assist any officer, agency or parastatals on ways by which fraud or corruption may be eliminated or minimized by such officer, agency or parastatal.
- d) To advise Heads of Public Bodies of changes in practices, systems or procedures compatible with the effective discharge of the duties of the public bodies as the Commission thinks fit to reduce the likelihood or incidence of bribery, corruption and related offences.
- e) To enlist and foster public support in combating corruption.

Offences and Penalties

- Offence of accepting gratification: Any person, who corruptly asks for, receives or obtains any property or benefit of any kind for himself or for any other person or agrees or attempts to receive or obtain any property or benefit of any kind for himself or for any other person, is liable to imprisonment for seven (7) years.
- Offence of giving or accepting gratification through agent: On conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment for seven (7) years.

- Acceptor or giver of gratification to be guilty, notwithstanding that, the purpose was not carried out or matter not in relation to principal's affairs or business: On conviction shall be liable to imprisonment for (seven) 7 years.
- Fraudulent acquisition of property: Any person found guilty, shall on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for seven (7) years.
- Fraudulent receipt of property: Any person who receives anything which has been obtained by means of act constituting a felony or misdemeanour inside or outside Nigeria, which if it had been done in Nigeria would have constituted a felony or misdemeanour and which is an offence under the laws in force in the place where it was done, knowing the same to have been so obtained, is guilty of a felony and the offender shall, on conviction be liable to imprisonment for seven (7) years.
- Penalty for offences committed through postal system: If the offence by means of which the thing was obtained is a felony, the offender shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for three (3) years, except the thing so obtained was postal matter, or any chattel, money or valuable security contained therein, in which case the offender shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for seven (7) years.
- Deliberate frustration of investigation being conducted by the Commission: Any person who, with intent to defraud or conceal a crime or frustrate the Commission in its investigation of any suspected crime of corruption under the Act or any other law destroys, alters, etc any document shall on conviction be liable to seven (7) years imprisonment.
- Making false statements or returns: Any person who knowingly furnishes any false statement or return in respect of any money or property received by him or entrusted to his care, or of any balance of money or property in his possession or under his control, is guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to seven (7) years imprisonment.
- Gratification by and through agents: Any person who corruptly accepts, obtains, gives or agrees to give or knowingly gives to any agent, any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing, forbearing to do any act or thing, shall on conviction be liable to five (5) years imprisonment.
- Bribery of public officer: Any person who offers to any public officer or being a public officer solicits, counsels or accepts any gratification as an inducement or a reward, in the course of official duties shall on conviction be liable to five (5) years imprisonment with hard labour.
- Using office or position for gratification: Any public officer who uses his office or position to gratify or confer any corrupt or unfair advantage upon himself or any relation or associate shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for five (5) years without option of fine.
- Any public officer who in the course of official duties, inflates the price of any good or service above prevailing market price or professional standards shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and liable on conviction for a term of seven (7) years and a fine of one million naira (N1,000,000.00). (ICAN, 2014)

B. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

The EFCC was established by Act No. 5 of 2002, effective from 14 December, to combat economic and financial crimes in Nigeria. The Commission is empowered to prevent, investigate, prosecute and sanction economic and financial crimes and is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of other laws and regulations relating to economic and financial crimes such as The Money Laundering Act 1995, The Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act 1995, The Failed Banks (Financial Malpractices in Banks) Act 1994, The Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 1991, and Miscellaneous Offences Act. (ICAN, 2014; Olurankinse and Bayo, 2014).

Composition of EFCC

According to the EFCC Act (2002), the Commission shall consist of the following members:

- (a) (i) A Chairman, who shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Commission.
- (ii) A serving or retired member of any Government security or law enforcement agency.
- (b) A Director-General who shall be the Head of Administration.

- (c) The Governor of the Central Bank or his representative.
- (d) A representative each of the following Federal Ministries, not below the rank of a Director:-
 - (i) Foreign Affairs.
 - (ii) Finance.
 - (iii) Justice.
- (e) The Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.
- (f) The Director-General, National Intelligence Agency.
- (g) The Director-General, Department of State Security Service.
- (h) The Director-General, Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (i) The Commissioner for Insurance.
- (j) The Postmaster-General, Nigerian Postal Services.
- (k) The Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission.
- (l) The Comptroller-General, Nigeria Custom Services
- (m) The Comptroller-General, Nigeria Immigration Services.
- (n) A representative of the Nigeria Police Force, not below the rank, of Assistant Inspector-General.
- (o) Four eminent Nigerians with cognate experience in finance, banking or accounting. (ICAN, 2014)

Duties of the Commission

According to Part II of the Act, the Commission is responsible for:

- a) The enforcement and the due administration of the provisions of the Act.
- b) The investigation of all financial crimes which include advance fee fraud, money laundering, counterfeiting, illegal charge transfers, futures market fraud, fraudulent encashment of negotiable instruments, computer credit card fraud, contract scam, etc.
- c) The co-ordination and enforcement of all economic and financial crime laws and enforcement functions conferred on any other person or authority.
- d) The adoption of measures to eradicate the commission of economic and financial crimes.
- e) The adoption of measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate or seize proceeds derived from terrorist activities, economic and financial crime related offences or the properties, the value of which corresponds to such proceeds.
- f) The adoption of measures which include coordinated preventive and regulatory actions, introduction and maintenance of investigative and control techniques on the prevention of economic and financial related crimes.
- g) The facilitation of rapid exchange of scientific and technical information and the conduct of joint operations geared towards the eradication of economic and financial crimes.
- h) The examination and investigation of all reported cases of economic and financial crimes with a view to identifying individuals, corporate bodies or groups involved.
- i) The determination of the extent of financial loss and such other losses by Government, private individuals or organisations.
- j) Collaboration with Government bodies both within and outside Nigeria, carrying on functions wholly or in part analogous with those of the commission concerning:-
 - The identification, determination, of the whereabouts and activities of persons suspected of being involved in economic and financial crimes.
 - The movement of proceeds or properties derived from the commission of economic and financial and other related crimes.
 - The exchange of personnel or other experts.
 - The establishment and maintenance of a system for monitoring international economic and financial crimes in order to identify suspicious transactions and persons involved.
 - Maintaining data, statistics, records and reports on persons, organisations, proceeds, properties, documents or other items or assets involved in economic and financial crimes.

- Undertaking research and similar works with a view to determining the manifestation, extent, magnitude and effects of economic and financial crimes and advising Government on appropriate intervention measures for combating same.
- k) Taking charge of, supervising, controlling, coordinating all the responsibilities, functions, activities relating to the current investigation and prosecution of all offences connected with or relating to economic and financial crimes, in consultation with the Attorney-General of the Federation.
- l) Carrying out such other activities as are necessary or expedient for the full discharge of all or any of the functions conferred on the Commission under the Act.

Powers of EFCC

According to ICAN (2014), under paragraph 6 of the Act, the Commission has power to:

- a) Cause investigations to be conducted as to whether any person has committed an offence under the Act.
- b) Cause investigations to be conducted into the properties of any person, if it appears to the Commission that the person's lifestyle and extent of his properties are not justified by his source of income.
- c) Enforce the provisions of:
 - i. The Money Laundering Act 1995.
 - ii. The Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act 1995.
 - iii. The Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts) Financial Malpractices in Banks, Act 1994 (as amended).
 - iv. The Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 1991 (as amended).
 - v. Miscellaneous Offences Act.
 - vi. Any other law or regulations relating to economic and financial crimes.

Offences and Convictions

A summary of the various offences committed and the penalties stipulated under part IV, of the Act is:

- a. Offences which relate to financial malpractices5 years imprisonment or a fine of fifty thousand naira (N50,000) or both imprisonment and fine.
- b. Offences associated with terrorism.....Imprisonment for life.
- c. Offences committed by public officers Between 15 and 25 years imprisonment.
- d. Retaining the proceeds of a criminal conduct.....Not less than 5 years imprisonment or to a fine equivalent to 5 times the value of the proceeds of the criminal conduct or to both fine and imprisonment.
- e. Offences in relation to economic and financial crimes.....Imprisonment for a term not less than 15 years and not exceeding 25 years.

Paragraph 20 of the Act says 'for the avoidance of doubt and without any further assurance than this Act, all the properties of a person convicted of an offence under this Act and shows to be derived or acquired from such illegal act and already the subject of an interim order shall be forfeited to the Federal Government.' (ICAN, 2014)

C. Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB)

Part I of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution established the Code of Conduct Bureau; with a provision that the Bureau shall establish such offices in each State of the Federation as it may require for the discharge of its functions under the Constitution.

Composition of CCB

Code of Conduct Bureau shall consist:

- a) a Chairman; and
- b) nine (9) other members, each of whom at the time of appointment, shall not be less than fifty years of age and vacate his office on attaining the age of seventy years.

Powers of the Bureau

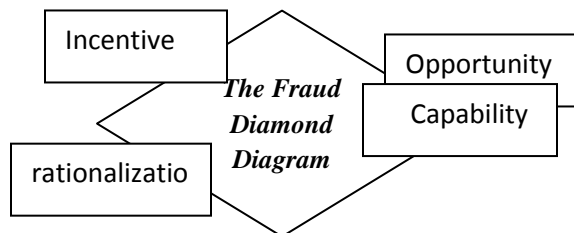
The Code of Conduct Bureau was set up and empowered to:

- a) receive declarations by the public officers made under paragraph 12 of Part 1 of the Fifth Schedule of the 1999 Constitution;

- b) examine the declarations in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct or any law;
 - c) retain custody of such declarations and make them available for inspection by any citizen of Nigeria on such terms and conditions as the National Assembly may prescribe;
 - d) ensure compliance with and, where appropriate, enforce the provisions of the Code of Conduct or any law relating thereto;
 - e) receive complaints about non-compliance with or breach of the provisions of the Code of Conduct or any law in relation thereto, investigate the complaint and, where appropriate, refer such matters to the Code of Conduct Tribunal; and
 - f) carry out any other functions as may be conferred upon it by the National Assembly.
- (ICAN, 2014).

7 Theoretical Framework

This study examines the implications of the anti-graft agencies’ operations in combating economic and financial crimes on economic development in Nigeria. The framework upon which the study is hinged is the Fraud Diamond Theory as postulated by Wolfe and Hermanson (2004) cited in Kassem and Higson (2012); this is because the proponents believed that many frauds would not have occurred without the right person with the right capabilities implementing the details of the fraud. They also highlighted four observable traits for committing fraud; (1) Authoritative position or function within the organization, (2) capacity to understand and exploit accounting systems and internal control weaknesses, (3) confidence that she/he will not be detected or if caught she/he will get out of it easily, and (4) capability to deal with the stress created within an otherwise good person when she commits bad acts. This study adopted the fraud diamond theory as its framework because it showcases and explains the apparent factors that cause individuals to commit fraud and in fact best describes the causes of most fraudulent and corrupt practices in Nigeria. This theory is represented in the diagram below:



Source: Wolfe and Hermanson (2004) in Kassem and Higson (2012)

Also, this study shares as part of its framework the Theory of Work Place Deviance which reiterates that employees steal primarily as a result of workplace conditions, and that a lowered rate of employee theft is a by-product of a management team that is responsive to employee’s plights (Kanu and Okoroafor, 2013). This theory is in consonance with the apparent condition of an average employee in Nigeria particularly the public sector as has been severally argued by the Nigerian Labour Union that Nigerian workers are under-remunerated against the backdrop of financial benefits accruing to political office holders in country.

This study also draws from the Policy-Oriented Theory of Corruption as propounded by Teveik, Albert and Charles (1986) cited in Okoye and Okoye (2014), which explains the role of government in fighting corruption. They state that despite corruption frequent occurrence, government involvement in corruption has undergone surprisingly with its effect of the growth of the economy which needs serious investigation. The theory according to Okoye and Okoye (2014) opines that the high level of corruption in any country whether developed or developing countries will not allow the country’s economy to grow and that if the field of administrative corruption is to become more theoretical and less descriptive, it must develop a framework and methodology that will help to measure its effect on economic growth. It is in view of the recommendation of this theory that this study is hinged to appraise the effect of the operations of the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria (which are fall-outs of government established frameworks and

methodology in measuring and contending with the negative effects of corruption and frauds in the economy) on the nation's economic growth.

8 Empirical Review

Some scholars have highlighted the effect of fraud and corruption on economic development. For instance, Okoye and Gbegi (2013) in their study evaluated the effect of fraud and other related financial crimes on the Nigerian economy using Regression Analysis for data analysis, ascertained that fraud and related financial crimes have significant effect on the Nigerian economy while fraud and financial crime have no significant effect on inflation.

On his part, Ikpefan (2006) studied on "Growth of Bank Frauds and the Impact on the Nigerian Banking Industry", using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression analysis, the study showed that fraud has inverse effect on deposits in Nigerian banks and that money laundering act has direct and positive relationship with deposits; the implication being that the higher the fraud cases, the lower the amount of deposits and thus the lower the banking industry performance. On the other hand, the introduction of money laundering act boosts deposits considerably and by implication boosts banks performance.

In a similar study by Kanu and Okoroafor (2013), attention was paid on the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud on bank deposits in Nigeria. While using Linear Regression Analysis, the study reveals a significant relationship between fraud and bank deposits in Nigeria. The implication of this is similar to the findings of Ikpefan (Op cit). This finding is in agreement with that of Owolabi (2010), whose study on fraud and fraudulent practices in Nigeria banking industry used tables and percentages for its analysis and revealed that fraud and fraudulent practices by various bank staff affects the performance of those banks and by implication the general economy.

Also, Chiezey and Onu (2013) analyzed the impact of fraud and fraudulent practices on the performance of banks in Nigeria. Employing Multiple Regression technique for the analysis, the study concluded that fraud and fraudulent activities inflict severe financial difficulties on banks and their customers, thereby stiffening economic growth.

Rotimi, et al (2013) carried out an analysis of Corruption and Economic Growth in Nigeria. This study used the ordinary least squares (OLS) to determine the relationship between corruption and economy growth. Applying the granger causality method to measure the causal relationship that exists between corruption and the gross domestic product (GDP), the results revealed that corruption impairs and impacts economic growth. Thus, the authors concluded and suggested that Private Anti-Corruption Initiatives, Public anti-corruption initiatives and Public education campaign/programmes should be strengthened and motivated in to address the cause of corruption rather than its effects.

Nageri, Umar and Abdul (2013) investigated the impact of corruption on economic development in Nigeria. They used Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression technique to analyze the data collected in the study. Finding of the study reveals that corruption has a significant negative effect on economic growth and development.

Ajie and Gbenga (2015) in their study investigated the impact of corruption on economic growth in Nigeria for the period 1996 – 2013. Utilizing regression analysis in their analysis, they found that there is a negative relationship between the study's dependent variable (GDP) and corruption level in Nigeria. This invariably means that as the level of corruption activities increases, economic growth decreases significantly.

Mohammed (2013) studied on "Corruption in Nigeria: A Challenge to Sustainable Development in the Fourth Republic". He employed systematic qualitative content analysis in addition to historical and cultural theory of corruption as the tool his analysis. The author asserted that despite the establishment of the anti-graft commissions by the Obasanjo Administration, corruption has continued to escalate like wildfire. The author thus contended that unless this phenomenon is fought with every decorum it deserves by the Federal government of Nigeria, sustainable development will be a mirage with dire consequences on the economy, the citizenry and on our collective image globally. He recommended that the anti-graft commissions should therefore be empowered to work assiduously without being molested or interfered with by the government.

Mbah (2010) studied on the role and challenges of anti-corruption agencies in enhancing prudent financial management in Nigeria, with particular reference to ICPC and EFCC. Employing the frequency tables and percentages in the study's analysis and chi-square in testing the third hypothesis of the study, the author found that there are more effective operational strategies in fighting corruption by EFCC than ICPC in Nigeria.

Aibieyi (2007) studied anti-corruption strategies and development in Nigeria, laying focus on the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Corruption Commission (EFCC). Employing the historical and observational method, the study found that the existing anti-corruption agencies are trying their best to curb corruption in Nigeria but that greediness and political instability are some of the primary causes of corruption. Government's lack of will to indict some past and present public office holders, inadequate and ineffective legislation on corruption is responsible for the high level of corruption in Nigeria today.

Adewale (2011) using parsimonious error correction mechanism in studying crowding out effects of corruption and its destabilizing implications on the economic growth of Nigeria, employed experimental research design approach for the data analysis, which combined theoretical consideration (a priori criteria) with empirical observations and extracted maximum information from the available data. Using Regression Analysis the study showed that there is a negative relationship between corruption and output growth in Nigeria. He recommended that the government should strengthen the previous efforts in programs like Code of Conduct Bureau, ICPC, EFCC, etc. in attempting to eradicate corruption.

Noah (2009) evaluated the financial fraud control in Nigerian Universities, using the University of Ilorin as a reference point; applying the two-tailed Z-test in testing the hypothesis, established that control measures have significant impact in curbing financial fraud in the university system.

In the study on "Forensic Accounting a Panacea to Alleviation of Fraudulent Practices in Nigeria", Dada et al (2013) employed Multiple Regression Technique in their analysis and ascertained that fraud reduction is significantly and positively related to fraud investigation and detection through forensic accounting, implying that forensic accounting can be employed by fraud control agents (anti-graft agencies) in detecting and controlling frauds in the country.

In their study, Nna and Jacob (2012) examined the role of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences commission as an anti-graft institution in Nigeria. Adopting the theory of self-restraining state in determining to what extent the ICPC has been successful or otherwise in combating corruption in Nigeria, the study reveals that the emphasis on the use of institutions such as the ICPC alone will not achieve desired results.

Inokoba and Ibegu (2011) studied about Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Political Corruption: Implication for the Consolidation of Democracy in Nigeria. Adopting a theoretical approach, the paper revealed that the institution of the anti-graft agency, EFCC, to tackle the evil of political corruption has even made the issue more complex. A careful examination of the nature of operations and activities of the agency reveals that the EFCC instead of lawfully addressing the menace of political corruption in Nigeria has become a very powerful and vital weapon in the hands of the presidency and the ruling party to blackmail, harass and intimidate political foes. It concluded that the anti-corruption agency has become a patient of the very disease it had set out to cure; thus, it is glaring that EFCC as an instrument of corruption, has become a major threat to the sustainability of democracy in Nigeria.

In his study, Nwagwu (2011) carried out an appraisal of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the War against Corruption in Nigeria (1999 – 2007). The study which is predicated on structural functionalism as a theoretical framework that helped to establish the structural functions of the anti-graft agency revealed that there is no genuine commitment of government or its agencies to fight corruption. Undue influence of the government hindered the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency. The implication of this is that the anti graft agency has not demonstrated outstanding effect in curbing corruption, which thus implies that its existence has not served any remarkable purpose in Nigeria economic development.

Amadi and Alapiki (2012) in their study considered the usefulness of the concept of anti-corruption strategy—both as an analytical construct and a policy tool. They examined the prevailing anti-corruption strategies in Nigeria in a period of nascent democracy namely; Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Nigeria's commitment to three international anti-corruption conventions- the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; and the Economic Community of West African States Protocol on the fight against Corruption. They asserted that the persistence of corruption, points to the failures of the strategies; the effects of which have been a clog to sustainable democracy and development. The study recognizes that corruption exists both in the public and private sectors with correlates such as high poverty rate, rich/poor gap, unemployment, low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) etc.

Adagba (2012) evaluated the Performance of Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) in Combating Corruption in the Nigerian Public Service using Tables, Frequency Counts, Percentages and Chi-square Statistics for data analysis and hypotheses testing, ascertained that The Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal have not performed adequately in executing their mandate because of the agencies' administrative structure and the legal framework establishing them coupled with the inadequate government's will to enable the organisations succeed. The study demonstrates that the persistence of corruption in the Nigerian Public service or the society generally is not so much about its pervasiveness and sophistication, but because of the administrative structural deficiencies, legal framework and other organizational deficiencies of the bodies established to fight corruption.

Similarly, Audu (2012) carried out an assessment of the Code of Conduct Bureau and Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCB and CCT)'s Public Ethics Practices (1999-2007) employing descriptive statistical tool of tables and percentages, it was established that on the fourth objective of the study, which focuses on the performance assessment of the CCB and CCT, an overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that the CCB and CCT had performed below expectation.

Wurim (2013) carried out a non-empirical assessment of the legal provisions of some of the prominent fraud prevention legislations in Nigeria using some selected examples from the Nigeria's fraud case file with the view to ascertaining the impact of these legislations in the achievement of zero – tolerance fraud in Nigeria. The study reveals that corruption has eaten so deep into the fabric of the society and that the battle against corruption is being prosecuted by men who are not morally qualified to lead the crusade. It further asserted that the anti-corruption agencies are only allowed to operate within visible boundaries imposed by the government of the day. Hence, it was the conclusion of the study that corruption has an inherent capacity within its operational framework that sustains it and gives it life in perpetuity; anticorruption (anti-graft) laws and agencies have not been allowed to take their cause as a result of deeply rooted socio-economic collapse of the system.

Shuaib and Ogedengbe (2015) examined the impact of corruption on the growth of Nigerian economy using time series data from 1960 to 2012. The study explored unit root, Cointegration analysis to test for the Nigeria's time series data and used an error correction mechanism to determine the long-run relationship among the variables examined. From the results of the findings, it was discovered that corruption has an inverse relationship with growth of an economy.

Raimi, Suara and Fadipe (2013) explored the role of both anti-graft agencies of ICPC and EFCC at ensuring accountability and corporate governance in Nigeria in the face of endemic financial indiscipline in both public and private sector organisations. Adopting the narrative-textual case study (NTCS) as the methodological approach for their study, it was discovered that both agencies have been hindered by administrative and judicial bureaucracy from performing creditably well. It was also discovered that the role of both agencies have been functionally duplicated, as they go after the same culprits.

Donwa, Mgbame and Julius (2015) examined corruption in oil and gas industry as implication for economic growth. Library research method was adopted for the study; the authors discovered that the level of corruption in Nigeria has significant impact on economy growth. They highlighted the implication of this finding to be that the economy cannot grow fast without zero tolerance in corruption. Thus, they concluded that despite the efforts of ICPC and EFCC, corruption still remains a central

problem to Nigeria economy. The finding of this study is similar to that of Nwankwo (2014) who empirically investigated the impact of corruption on the growth of Nigerian economy using granger causality and regression techniques. His investigation revealed that the level of corruption in Nigeria over the years has significant negative impact on economic growth in Nigeria. The implication, according to him, being that economy cannot grow fast without zero tolerance in corruption.

Samuel, Aju and Elaigwu (2014) evaluated the implication of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Corruption on the Consolidation of Democracy and Sustainable Development and Growth in Nigeria from 2004-2008. Frequency Distribution tables and Percentages were utilized as the data analysis tool. Findings showed that EFCC can curb corruption in Nigeria; and that Economic and Financial Crime Commission has saved billions of Naira for the government through monies retrieved from its culprits.

Odubunmi and Agbelade (2014) investigated the causality between corruption and economic growth in Nigeria. Johansen cointegration test, ADF unit root test, Granger causality test and Ordinary Least Square methods were employed on time series (secondary) data, covering 1990 and 2010. The results of their analyses indicated that corruption exhibited a significant positive relationship with economic growth (GDP). The result of Granger causality tests shows that corruption Granger cause FDI inflow, government expenditure, gross capital formation, openness and globalisation of the economy. Also, there is uni-directional causality from corruption to Economic growth (GDP). This confirms the existing arguments that the level of corruption in a country is a relevant determinant of the level of economic growth.

Olurankinse and Bayo (2014) assessed the effectiveness of External Control Institutions on Public Funds Management, taking evidence from Ondo State Nigeria. The empirical analysis carried out in the study employed the Censored Logistic Regression of the Maximum Likelihood Technique. The result of the study shows that there is mismanagement of funds in our public sectors identified by fraud and corruption.

Igbokwe-Ibeto and Okoye (2014) examined the structural basis of corruption in the country and efforts' being made by anti-graft agencies to combat the scourge. The authors employed a contextual and theoretical approach in the study and affirmed that corruption has become a way of life in Nigeria; and that this explains why it has been difficult to combat its rising profile even with the existence of the anti-graft agencies. The simple implication of this position by the authors is that so far the operations of the anti-graft institutions in Nigeria has not made any remarkable (significant) impact in curbing corruption in the nation.

Ogbodo and Mieseigha (2013) examined the economic implication of money laundering in Nigeria. They utilized simple percentages, chi-square and ANOVA statistical methods in conducting their analysis. The study revealed that money laundering activities do have significant effect on Nigeria's economy while Anti Money Laundering policies in Nigeria has not significantly reduce money laundering in economy. They recommended more effective coordination of all institutions on the fight against money laundering by the EFCC, and a full, effective and efficient investigation of corruption reports by the ICPC.

Oladapo (2014) studied the impact of Economic and Financial Crime commission on the Economic Development of Nigeria ranging from various financial crimes. The author employed the use of tables and pie charts as a statistical approach in analyzing the responses collected from his survey study. From the analysis the author asserted that the establishment of anti-graft agencies in Nigeria like the EFCC is relevant even though they perform their function diligently by tackling corruption but they still contain some kind of sentiment such as nepotism.

Uthman, et al (2015) in their study "Curbing financial crimes with anti-graft bureaus in Nigeria: The accountants' perception" using ANOVA as statistical analysis tool, found that respondents group perceived the anti-graft agencies as highly effective but could not establish that accountants in various walks of life differ significantly in their perception of the efficacy of the Nigerian Anti-graft bureaus.

Onuigbo and Eme (2015) explored the legal framework for the fight against corruption in Nigeria, and aimed to offer some reform measures for the reduction of corruption in the polity. In their analysis they used an exploratory case method to give a historic synopsis of the Nigerian anti- corruption institutions. They concluded by calling for a reform of the anti-corruption agencies to increase accountability in

government agencies as a way of curbing corruption. The implication being that the current structure and operations of the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria have not made any significant impact in curbing corruption and other economic and financial crimes in Nigeria.

Nnado and Ugwu (2015) x-rayed the Effectiveness of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Enhancing Accountability in the Nigerian Public Sector. The research adopted content analytical method and revealed that lack of societal cooperation, poor staff training, pre-bargaining and systemic disorder affect the effectiveness of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in their fight against corruption in the Nigerian public sector. It noted the implication of the findings as being that, it will be difficult for the government to succeed in the fight against corruption in Nigeria if the identified problems are not addressed.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Azuka (2011) noted that there are three key research designs which researchers usually employ in the course of their researches. These include the randomized experimental design, quasi-experimental design and non-experimental design. Obviously, the kind of design to be adopted in any research depends on the purpose of the study. In the light of this, the researcher adopted the quasi-experimental design in the development of this study. The choice of this design lies on the explanation of quasi-experimental design by Nachmias and Nachmias (1996), which highlights that the quasi-experimental design takes a number of measures, at least three, such that the relationship between the dependent and independent variables over a given period of time can be measured. This explanation suits the core objective of this study as it seeks to find out if the three independent variables have any significant effect (relationship) on the dependent variable. To that extent, quasi-experimental design qualifies to be appropriate for this study, hence, the adoption of this design. Data for the anti-graft agencies' operations were proxied on federal government's budgetary provisions for ICPC, EFCC and CCB for the period of 2005 to 2014 while data for the nation's economic development were proxied on the nation's GDP. Ordinary Least Square Regression Analysis was employed in analyzing the study model which is given as: $Y = a_0 + a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + a_3X_3 + E$.

Where:

Y is the Economic Development (proxied on Gross Domestic Product {GDP})

X₁ is Budgetary Provision for ICPC

X₂ is Budgetary Provision for EFCC

X₃ is Budgetary Provision for CCB

a₁, a₂ and a₃ are the coefficient of the independent variables while **a₁** is the slope of the regression line or the constant of the regression model.

E is the error term.

The above model is specified as follows: $GDP = F(BICPC, BEFCC, BCCB)$;

Where:

GDP is Gross Domestic Product

BICPC is Budgetary Provision for Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission.

BEFCC is Budgetary Provision for Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

BCCB is Budgetary Provision for Code of Conduct Bureau.

The analysis of the above model produced results for both the individual significance tests in favour of the first, second and third hypotheses (signified in the t-values of the analyses result) and the joint significance test in favour of the fourth hypothesis. To concretely affirm the results of the regression analysis on the research model, diagnostic tests were conducted. These include:

- i. Autocorrelation (Q-statistic) Test which shows whether there is autocorrelation of the variables in the study model.
- ii. Normality Test using the Jarque-Bera Normality Test which shows whether the residuals of the series of the data used in the study is normally distributed.
- iii. Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test which confirms the Durbin-Watson statistics in the regression result.

On the other hand, to test for the joint effect of the various independent variables on the dependent variable in favour of the fourth hypothesis, Wald coefficient tests for joint significance test is employed in this study.

Decision Rule

5% level of significance is adopted in the analysis of this study. Decisions on the acceptance or rejection of the null or alternative hypotheses of the study are based on this premise. Therefore, where the test result of the test on any of the independent variables (measured by the probability of the result) falls within the significance level of 5% (i.e. 0.00 - 0.05); that individual independent variable is said to have a significant relationship with the dependent variable, in which case the null hypothesis will be rejected and the alternative accepted. But if the result falls outside this significance region, then an insignificant relation exists between that particular independent variable and the dependent variable, thus, the null hypothesis will be accepted.

On the other hand, for decision on the joint significance test using Wald Coefficient test at 5% level of significance, where the tests results fall within the significance region (0.00 – 0.05), a significant relation exists between the independent variables (put together) and the dependent variable; otherwise will imply a non-significant relationship among the two classes of variables.

DATA PRESENTATION

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Federal Government Budgetary Allocation for ICPC, EFCC and CCB (2005 – 2014)

Years	GDP (Y) (₦' Million)	Budget Allocation for ICPC (X ₁) (₦' Million)	Budget Allocation for EFCC (X ₂) (₦' Million)	Budget Allocation for CCB (X ₃) (₦' Million)
2005	14,610,880.00	1,083.80	1,171.30	258.70
2006	18,564,590.00	1,100.00	2,500.00	875.00
2007	20,657,320.00	1,948.40	3,000.00	1,000.00
2008	24,296,330.00	3,588.30	4,066.20	1,126.80
2009	24,794,240.00	2,288.80	5,083.50	873.10
2010	54,612,260.00	2,325.60	12,332.00	2,154.70
2011	62,980,400.00	3,878.50	13,854.70	2,423.30
2012	71,713,940.00	4,219.70	10,978.00	1,100.00
2013	80,092,560.00	4,405.30	10,219.80	2,988.00
2014	89,043,620.00	4,675.90	10,245.40	2,862.30

Source: CBN Statistical Bulletin, Bureau of Statistics and Budget Office of the Federation

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The Estimation Equation is: $GDP = C(1)*ICPC + C(2)*EFCC + C(3)*CCB + C(4)$ without adding the intercept (a_0).

Summarized Result of the OLS Analysis

Method: Least Squares
 Date: 11/23/15 Time: 14:44
 Sample: 2005 2014
 Included observations: 10

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
ICPC	8394.073	4440.317	1.890422	0.1076
EFCC	2070.790	1451.037	1.427110	0.2035
CCB	8910.366	7227.204	1.232893	0.2637
C	-7803374.	9141981.	-0.853576	0.4261

R-squared	0.890116	Mean dependent var	46136614
Adjusted R-squared	0.835173	S.D. dependent var	28557047

S.E. of regression	11593834	Akaike info criterion	35.65902
Sum squared resid	8.07E+14	Schwarz criterion	35.78005
Log likelihood	-174.2951	Hannan-Quinn criter.	35.52625
F-statistic	16.20094	Durbin-Watson stat	1.473923
Prob (F-statistic)	0.002780		

Source: Analysis result from E-View statistical Software Package Version 7.1

From the above result, the coefficients are substituted into the model equation as thus:

$GDP = 8394.07340645 * ICPC + 2070.79025326 * EFCC + 8910.36638141 * CCB - 7803373.57824$. The analysis reveals that the coefficients of the three independent variables are all positive while the intercept is negative; indicating that each of the independent variables of the study has a positive effect (relationship) on the dependent variable while the joint effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable is negative. However, the results also reveal non-significant effects of the individual independent variables on the dependent variable. Besides, the values of R and R² being high (89% and 84% respectively) together with the Prob (F-statistic) being significant at 5% level of significance, imply that the model employed for the analysis is good and suitable for the study.

Diagnostic Tests on the Reliability of the results of the OLS Analysis above

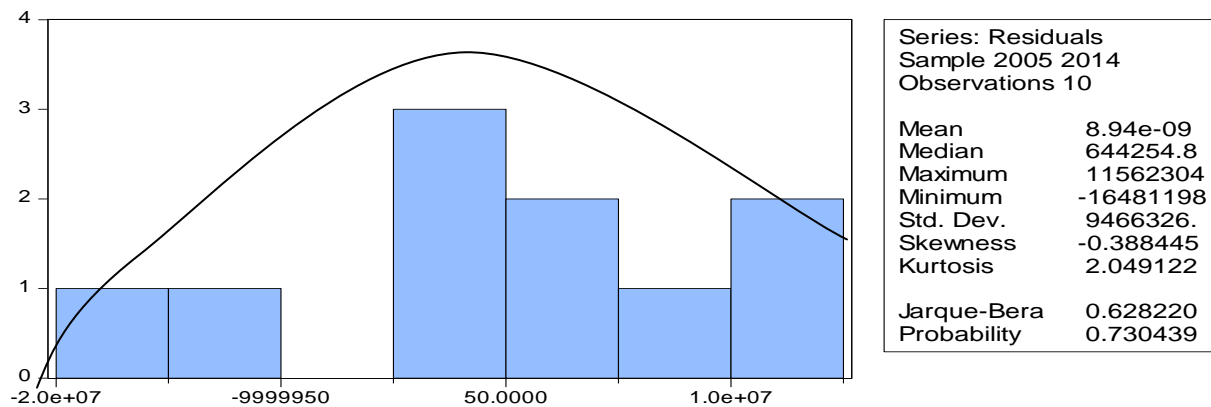
(a) Test for Autocorrelation using Q-Statistic
Result of Autocorrelation test

Autocorrelation	Partial Correlation	AC	PAC	Q-Stat	Prob	
. * .	. * .	1	0.144	0.144	0.2764	0.599
. * .	. * .	2	0.095	0.076	0.4124	0.814
. * .	. ** .	3	-0.188	-0.217	1.0176	0.797
. ** .	. ** .	4	-0.297	-0.267	2.7820	0.595
. ** .	. * .	5	-0.255	-0.172	4.3474	0.501
. ** .	. ** .	6	-0.303	-0.288	7.0958	0.312
. * .	. * .	7	0.099	0.079	7.4843	0.380
. * .	. .	8	0.089	-0.028	7.9643	0.437
. * .	. * .	9	0.116	-0.140	9.5734	0.386

Source: Analysis result from E-View statistical Software Package Version 7.1

The result of the above analysis shows that no autocorrelation exists in the model. This is signified by the insignificant results of Prob (Q-Stat) measured at 5% level of significance. This further strengthens the result of the OLS regression and confirms that the regression model used is appropriate for the analysis.

(b) Test for Normality Using the Jarque-Bera Normality Test
Result of Normality Test Using Jarque-Bera Normality Test



Source: Analysis result from E-View statistical Software Package Version 7.1

The result of the normality test shown in fig.4.1 above signified that the residuals of the series of the data used in the analysis, using the Jarque-Bera normality test, shows that the data is normally distributed.

**(c) Test for Serial Correlation Using Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:
Result of Serial Correlation Test Using Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test**

F-statistic	0.191573	Prob. F(2,4)	0.8328
Obs*R-squared	0.874136	Prob. Chi-Square(2)	0.6459

Test Equation:

Dependent Variable: RESID

Method: Least Squares

Date: 11/23/15 Time: 14:57

Sample: 2005 2014

Included observations: 10

Presample missing value lagged residuals set to zero.

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
ICPC	-71.89720	6516.332	-0.011033	0.9917
EFCC	1256.945	2667.864	0.471143	0.6621
CCB	-5740.303	13811.50	-0.415618	0.6990
C	776360.1	10783673	0.071994	0.9461
RESID(-1)	0.465659	0.864601	0.538583	0.6187
RESID(-2)	0.213915	0.731335	0.292499	0.7845

R-squared	0.087414	Mean dependent var	8.94E-09
Adjusted R-squared	-1.053319	S.D. dependent var	9466326.
S.E. of regression	13564685	Akaike info criterion	35.96755
Sum squared resid	7.36E+14	Schwarz criterion	36.14910
Log likelihood	-173.8377	Hannan-Quinn criter.	35.76839
F-statistic	0.076629	Durbin-Watson stat	1.757002
Prob(F-statistic)	0.992587		

Source: Analysis result from E-View statistical Software Package Version 7.1

The result of the above test as captured on table 4.4 above further confirms that the Durbin-Watson regression test is free from any serial correlation. Thus, at 5% level of significance, the serial correlation test produced insignificant result are measured by the prob. Values on the above table.

Test of Hypotheses and Decision Rules

Reference to OLS result summary above, the values of t-statistic (prob.) for the first, second and third independent variables (ICPC, EFCC and CCB) are 0.1076, 0.2035 and 0.2637 respectively; which individually falls outside the 5% significance region of 0.00 – 0.005. Therefore, it follows that no significant relationship exists between the operation of ICPC, EFCC and CCB in Nigeria and the nation’s economic growth taken singly. On that note, the null hypotheses of the first three hypotheses are accepted and the alternatives abandoned.

These findings were supported by the results of the Serial Correlation Test using Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test (a diagnostic analysis) presented above which revealed that at 5% level of significance, no serial correlation exists between each of ICPC, EFCC, CCB and GDP.

The implication of the above finding therefore is that though a positive relationship exists between the operations of each of the three anti-graft agencies and Nigeria economic development as shown above, but the relationship is insignificant. This implies that existence of the agencies would have positive impact on the economic development of Nigeria, but the impact of their operations so far is insignificant.

However, the analysis report in respect of the fourth hypothesis shows a joint negative significant effect on the dependent variable (GDP). This is typified in the result summarized below: This is evidenced by the various probability values of t-statistic, F-statistic and Chi-Square. Each of the three statistical tests results has values that fall within the significance region of 0.00 – 0.05. It thus implies that the joint effect

of the operations of the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria on the nation's economic development is significantly negative. Based on the finding, the null hypothesis of the fourth hypothesis of the study is thus rejected and the alternative accepted. The implication of this finding is that the economic value of the various activities of these anti-graft agencies put together as denoted by the federal government's budgetary provisions on them has contributed significantly negatively on the economic advancement (development) of Nigeria.

Joint Significance Test using Wald coefficient tests for joint significance test

Test Statistic	Value	Df	Probability
t-statistic	3.370843	6	0.0150
F-statistic	11.36258	(1, 6)	0.0150
Chi-square	11.36258	1	0.0007

Null Hypothesis: $C(1) + C(2) + C(3) = 0$

Null Hypothesis Summary:

Normalized Restriction (= 0)	Value	Std. Err.
$C(1) + C(2) + C(3)$	19375.23	5747.888

Source: Analysis result from E-View statistical Software Package Version 7.1

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The analysis shows that the operations of each of the three highlighted agencies (viz: ICPC, EFCC and CCB) have insignificant but positive effect on the nation's economic development. Given that the agencies' operations in the economy is generally determined by the government's budgetary provisions on them, hence the proxy of the agencies' operations on their respective budgetary provisions, and the gross domestic product (GDP) taken as a proxy for economic development, it follows that from the findings as indicated above, both ICPC, EFCC and CCB each so far have not contributed significantly on the nation's economic development. This by implication denotes a state of no stiff contentions against economic and financial crimes in the nation. This no doubt results to economic resource linkages and wastes of precious resources that would have been committed to developmental activities in the economy. This finding agrees with the result of the study carried out by Olurankinse and Bayo (2014) which ascertained that there is mismanagement of funds in our public sectors identified by fraud and corruption, despite the existence of the external control institutions. It also correlates with the findings of Wurim (2013) who asserted that corruption has eaten so deep into the fabric of the society and that the battle against corruption is being prosecuted by men who are not morally qualified to lead the crusade; and that the anti-corruption agencies are only allowed to operate within visible boundaries imposed by the government of the day. The findings also concur with that of Nna and Jacob (2012) who stated that the emphasis on the use of institutions such as the ICPC alone in the fight against corruption will not achieve desired results. There is also an agreement of this finding with the findings by Nwagwu (2011), Adagba (2012), Audu (2012), Mohammed (2013), Oladapo (2014), Igbokwe-Ibeto and Okoye (2014), etc. However, the finding of this study runs contrary to the finding of the study conducted by Uthman et al (2015) which perceived the anti-graft agencies as being highly effective in crime curbing. It also disagrees with the finding by Mbah (2010) which noted that there are more effective operational strategies in fighting corruption by EFCC than ICPC in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The study hereby concludes that:

- The level of fraudulent and corrupt practices in Nigeria is become endemic and requires a well concerted effort by government to curb.
- The operations of the anti-graft agencies established by Nigerian government within the period under review have not justified the resources provided for them.
- The present structures of these anti-graft agencies are ineffective in fighting corruption to a standstill in the Nigerian economy.
- The anti-graft agencies, by the blueprint that established them, have the potential to affect the nation's economic development positively if restructured and properly funded.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the face of findings and conclusion above, the following recommendation made:

- a. There is need for sincere approach in tacking corruption by the various levels of government in Nigeria. Stiffer punishments should be meted out for all culprits.
- b. The anti-graft agencies in Nigeria should be structured with unlimited independence granted to them to bring to book any public officer found in any form of economic and financial crime no matter how highly place.
- c. The leadership of various agencies should not be appointive rather should be attained to by handwork and experience. In other words, it should be the most senior officer in the agency with clean slate (like the post of permanent secretary of ministries).
- d. Adequate funding by government and reasonable cooperation from other agencies of government like the police, the judiciary, etc. should be provided for the effective operations of the anti-graft agencies.

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