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ASSESSMENT OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: CAUSES, EFFECTS AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract

This study examined the assessment of corruption in Nigeria. It was discovered that corruption is potent cancer and force that has mercilessly eaten Nigeria and its economy to a state of stupor. This paper also conceptualized the concept of corruption as well discussed the forms, effects and causes of corruption in Nigeria. It proffer possible solutions on how to eradicate corruption in Nigeria, such as creating strong independent anti-corruption institutions that are devoid of interference, treating all citizens equally, providing adequate funds for education, maintaining effective independent judiciary that are devoid of manipulation by the executive arms of government, public enlightenment and employment generation among others. The paper therefore concludes that corruption is cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabric resources of Nigeria society. It is an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms and which undermines the authorities' capacity to secure the welfare of all citizens.

Keywords: Assessment, Corruption, Value Re-orientation, Sustainable Development, Nigeria.

Introduction

Corruption has become a potent force in the world wide and it has been a dominant theme globally. Universally, the dimension corruption takes in environment and societies where it has becomes a practical trending, fashionable and cherishable value system for the survival of the people have been so complex, so much that local, national and international efforts and actions to check or contain it has consistently failed or defined solutions. However, a ray of hope come in sight when the United Nations (UN) through the General Assembly Resolution

58/4 of October 13, 2003 which become operational on December 14, 2005 initiated actions which in addition to creating awareness on strategies for preventing corruption also targets criminalizing corruption in any form it manifests. Uzochukwu (2019) states that corruption is Nigeria's biggest challenge and it is clear to every citizen in Nigeria have an extremely high level of corruption indices and corruption is found in every sector of the society. Critical assessment of both small and large sector reveals over warming corrupt practices at every level in Nigeria. According to Morris (2016) corruption is dishonest, illegal or fraudulent conduct by those in power; this is so typically involving bribery. According to Elujekwute (2019) corruption is the illegitimate use of power to benefit a private interest; it is the offering of a bribe to an official so that the truth will be hidden. Corruption involves the embezzlement of public funds for personal use or gain and any act that is considered to be criminal in nature according to the law of a particular society. A close examination of the efforts the United Nations (UN) in this direction can point in two ways namely creating awareness and sensitizing members of global community on the existence of corruption and its global condemnation and establishment of a global network framework upon which conscious fight against corruption can be mounted, initiated or put on global agenda. These are in view of the fact that the free flourishing of corruption at any level can turn out to be a torn in the flash of members of the global community. This line of thinking is premised or anchored on the position that corruption defines territorial borders and can be instrumental for the promotion of agonizing and dehumanizing anti-social practices including organized crimes, terrorism, drug, kidnapping, banditry and human trafficking among others. The extent of corruption in Nigeria as revealed by Adeyemi (2016) states that Nigeria presents a typical case of a country in Africa whose development has been underlined and retarded by the menace of corrupt practices.

In view of the above, former National chairman of All Progressives Congress (APC), Adams Oshiomhole recently affirmed that once any corrupt politician defects to APC, he/she becomes a saint even if such person were armed robber. This is incredable, the kind of society we have found ourselves in Nigeria. The minister of state transport (Aviation) Senator, Hadi Sirika is accused of siphoning over #1.2b on a phony Nigeria Air project which was eventially suspended by federal government. The first Lady of Nigeria Aisha Halilu Buhari had reported her Sani Baban-Inna to the security agencies over allegation of swindling members of the public of the sum of #2.5 billion. Prof. Dibu Ojerinde, former Jamb Registrar is being tried on 18 counts by the Independent Corrupt Practice and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), in which Ojerinde is accused among others of diverting public funds estimated at over #5.2 billion (Reno, 2018). Recently, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arrested Accountant General of the Federation (AGF), Mr. Ahemed Idris over alleged #80 billion naira fraud, in connection with diversion of funds and money laundering activities. The commission verified intelligence showed that the AGF ranked off the funds through bogus consultancies and other illegal activities using proxies, family members and close associates. The funds were laundered through real estate investments in Kano and Abuja. The prevalence of corruption in Nigeria has gained global recognition so much that Transparency International Corruption Perception Index of 1995-1997 ranked Nigeria as the most corrupt country in the world and in 1999; Nigeria was also named the second most corrupt country in the world. In recent times, Tony Blair one time British Prime Minister in one of his state official visit to Nigeria describes Nigeria to be fantastically corrupt and this description suggests that corruption in Nigeria is systematic and deep rooted in the psych of majority of Nigerians.

The wide spread or prevalence of corruption in Nigeria means that there is hardly any sector of Nigeria society can be exempted as not being corrupt. Be this as it may, there are sectors in which the prevalence of corruption in them can terribly and disastrously destroy as state and her people. Nigeria, which is the most populated country in African (the giant of Africa) has been consistently been ranked high in corruption by Transparency International and other notable organization that monitor corrupt practices around the world. This high ranking affected almost all Nigerians who migrate to foreign countries as foreigners have the perception that since Nigeria is corrupt so too are all Nigerian. In the year 2000, Transparency International conducted a survey on the corruption level of 90 countries, including Kenya, Cameroon, Angola, Nigeria, Cote-devoir, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, Zambia, India, Venezuela, and Moldova among others. Surprisingly, Nigeria was ranked as the most corrupt because Nigeria occupied the 90th position in terms of transparency. In 2001, Nigeria was ranked the second-most corrupt country in the world of 91 countries second only to Bangladesh. This shows the corruption in Nigeria improved by one step when compared to its ranking in 2000. In the year 2002, Nigeria was again ranked the second most corrupt nation in the world, after the organization survey 102 countries. Nigeria was seen at the bottom occupying the 101st position in terms of confidence interval (CL). In 2003, Nigeria received the same ranking, making no improvement from 2000. In 2004, Nigeria showed a little improvement when compared to the previous four years. Nigeria was ranked the third most corrupt nation in the world in that year, performing better than Bangladesh and Haiti. That year 146 countries were surveyed. The record of the corruption in Nigeria really improved in 2005. The number of countries surveyed by the Transparency International was 158; Nigeria was ranked eight most corrupt nations. In 2006 countries surveyed increased to 163. According to Danladi (2010) Nigeria was ranked the 21st most corrupt nation in the world. Haiti was the world's most corrupt country that year. Among the 180 nations surveyed in 2007 Nigeria ranked 147 on the table alongside Angola and Guinea-Bissau. This result shows that Nigeria was 33rd most corrupt country in the world. An assessment of the anti-graft / anti-corruption, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practice and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) laws in Nigeria shows that corruption will continue in spite of the law because the perpetrators do not fear any consequences (Oyinola, 2011). In 2012, Transparency International again deemed Nigeria one of the most corrupt countries in the world, that year Nigeria ranked 139th out of the 176 surveyed Nations making Nigeria the 37th most corruption country. In 2013, Nigeria ranked 144 out of 177 surveyed countries in terms of transparency. The score made Nigeria 33rd most corrupt country in the world that year. The result published by the Organization also showed that Nigeria scored 25% out of 100 in terms of transparency.

In the 2014 ranking, Nigeria was ranked 136 out of 174 surveyed nations by Transparency International. The result shows that there is an improvement though things are still bad. Nigeria was the 38th most country in the world in 2014. With the emergence of a new government led by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015, many Nigeria were hopeful that the country's corruption level would be minimized. In 2015 power was transferred from Goodluck Jonathan led Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC) with the slogan of "change". One of the campaign promise made by the President Muhammadu Buhari was the massive eradication of corruption in the Nigeria. But the question that Nigerians have been asking since the leadership of President Buhari till 2022 "Is President Buhari led All Progressives Congress (APC) government fighting corruption as they

promised during campaign in 2014. Nigerians are tired as they found out that the government is not really fighting corruption. According to Wale (2018) there are incidences were the man that said he strongly believes and practice transparency has failed in fighting corruption in Nigeria. Atiku Abubakar made this statement clear through the words of PDP 2019 presidential campaign in December, 2018. "Mr. President, the problem with your anti-corruption war is not the system but you are the problem". The system allows you to arrest, try and convict but your former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal who was fingered in a major corrupt case but you chose to let him go scot free and you demonstrated your tolerance for his corruption by giving him a prominent role in your re-election campaign and recently welcoming him to the presidential villa with open arms. However, irrespective of the campaign promises, Nigeria ranked low in transparency and high in corruption in that year 2015. In 2015, out of the 168 nations surveyed, Nigeria was the 32nd most corrupt country in the world. In 2016, over two thirds of the 176 nations surveyed fall below the midpoint of Transparency International Scale of O (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) in that years survey, Nigeria sat number 136 on the table with Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea. From calculation, it shows that Nigeria and the mentioned nations were ranked 40 most corruption in 2016.

In 2017, there was no remarkable improvement in transparency in the Nigeria irrespective of the campaign promise made by the President Muhammadu Buhari to fight corruption; it appears that the former President Goodluck Jonathan did quite better than him when compared with his 2014 results before living the presidential seat. In the 2018 corruption perception index (CPI) released by Transparency International in 2018, Nigeria has relapsed deeper into corruption by moving 12 steps backward from 136 to 148 (Reno, 2018) with respect to the 2014 results published. In 2019, corruption perception index ranked 180 countries and territories. Nigeria ranked number 144 on the table with Colporos, Guatemala, Kenya and Mauritania. Also the score of Nigeria was 27% which was same with that of 2017. Based on the position of 144 on the table, it indicates that Nigeria was the 36th most corrupt nation in the world in 2019. Nigeria failed when it come transparency in the country's government. By contrast in 2013, Denmark and New Zealand scored highest at 91% each implying the countries are clean and have higher confidence intervals than Nigeria in other hand Nigeria is highly corrupt. In 2020 Nigeria ranked 149 out of the 183 countries indicating that Nigeria again recorded a decline in the CPI Nigeria scored 25% out 100 points. Again, Nigeria ranked 154 out of the 180 countries on Transparency International in 2021. Corruption perceptions Index an all-time low. The inaction by government against those implicated in wrong doing has created a sense of impunity and stalled the fight against graft.

Corruption in Nigeria hurts a lot of people, as the money that would have been used to reduce poverty in Nigeria is being channeled into the pockets of a select few individuals in Nigeria.

Forms of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption takes many forms and can be interpreted in many different ways. Hardly have you entered any sector in Nigeria without observing one corrupt practices or another. In fact, there are corruptions in all sectors of Nigeria. According to Uzochukwu (2019) corruption manifest in these forms in Nigeria as follows:

Academic Corruption: Corruption in the education industry is terrible detrimental to the moral and general health of Nigeria states. To demonstrate the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria. education industry starting from the primary through the secondary to the tertiary institutions with emphasis on highlighting the implications of corruption in the education sector for Nigeria national development. Elujekwute (2019) identifies trends, shapes and forms as well as those whose actions promote and support corruption in Nigeria educational system. Elujekwute further maintains that academic corruption comes in various dimensions, but the most prominent ones are sexual harassment and what is generally called "sorting". Sorting is slang on campus which refers to a situation whereby students are compelled to pay lecturers so that they could be awarded marks they did not score during examination. It is so bad that indigent but brilliant students who could not afford the money demanded by lecturers are made to fail the courses and sometimes have to carry-over the courses and thereby making graduation difficult case for such students. Failing students who do not buy handouts or textbooks written by lecturers is another form of academic corruption that is prevalent in the nations' so called Ivory Towers. Some lecturers even use their academic materials in exchange for marks and any student who buys their materials will automatically be given marks. This form of victimizaation is endemic in the academic environment and sexually harassment of students by male lecturers is seems as a normal thing among lecturers. Lecturers old enough to be father of the female undergraduate throw everything to the dogs in order to lure the students to bed in exchange for marks. School authorities are aware of the prevalence of academic corruption on campuses but have turned a blind eye to it. This is why it is very rare to hear that lecturers have been caught in the act or brought to book. The case of the university of Lagos lecturer (the university has since disowned him) who allegedly took advantage of a admission seeking teenager, daughter of his friend by raping her on campus is just one among many of such sexually harassment cases on university campuses across the country. However, there are few lecturers who are above board, especially the elderly ones but the vast majority of the younger lecturers engage in the act. It was sad to see some lecturers, who are supposed to be protecting the female student's becoming one of their problems. Boma (2022) identifies admission racketeering, issuance of NYSC call-up letters, transcripts and clearance of fresh students among others as some areas where non-teaching staff involves in sorting as forms of corruption practices in education sector. Boma further affirms that fighting in the office, drunkenness while on duty, embezzlement, falsification of accounts or records, stealing and involvement in examination malpractice and deliberate delay to treat official documents are corrupt practices.

Political Corruption: Corruption is not only experience among the Executive (Presidents) of the nations even numerous governors have been found guilty of it as well. Corruption is like disease that spreads from mother to child. According to Shaibu (2018) Nyako, the former governor of Adamawa and seven others including his companies are standing trial before Justice Okon Atang on 37 court change bordering on money laundering. Shaibu further reports that the governor opened 30 different accounts to siphon funds at Zenith Bank of Nigeria using different names. Among the offenses the ex-governor is being accused of are criminal conspiracy, abuse of office, opening of multiple bank accounts and stealing to the tune of ₦29 (Twenty-Nine) billion Naira only. Some people lambasted President Mahammadu Buhari, who rode to power in 2015 on the back of a promise to crush corruption especially in the government circle for endorsing all the atrocities of one of his most trusted lieutenants. The Nigeria Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami has

come under fire from Nigerians for distributing over 50 exotic cars to ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) members ahead of the party's governorship primary in the one of Northern States in Nigeria. The chief law officer of Nigeria gave out 30 Mercedes Benz GLK, 20 Toyota Prado and other exotic vehicles to party executive and delegates. However, the distribution has triggered negative reaction with many wondering where he got billions of naira to purchase the vehicles. Nigerians are asking who is fooling who, a political appointees sharing this type of cars to buying votes and EFCC is watching them, only for them to go after poor individuals in Nigeria. What about President Buhari's war against corruption that has turned out to be a scam? Nigerians are asking questions. In another development, on April 8, 2018, investigative journalism website, The Cable, alleged that they have documents proving that AGF Abubakar Malami spuriosly hired lawyers at a cost to the Federal Government of #15 billion, to handle the repatriation of looted Late General Sani Abacha funds of $321 million (it would seem that contrary to President Buhari's publicly stated position, Abacha did loot). However, it was discovered that the immediate past Attorney-General of the Federalion, Mohammed Bello Adoke, had finished up the matter and there was no need for the engagement of the lawyers in the first place.

Legislature Corruption: Members of the National Assembly pay themselves allowances for staff and offices they do not have or maintain. Once you are a member, you are co-opted and your month is stuffed with rot and corruption that you cannot opt out as you go home with not less than Fifteen (N15) million a month for a Senator and Ten (N10) million a month for a member of the House of Representative. According to Adeyemi (2016) the National Assembly is nothing but a business enterprise and the primary objective of the members is to make money for themselves. Adeyemi further explains that the NIGERIA'S National Assembly is the highest paid legislature in the world. The chambers earn more than that of United States of America and yet American economy is far much better than that of Nigeria. According to Morris (2016) United States Senators make an approximate annual income of $174,000 while their Nigeria counterpart is $2,183,685.00. You cannot imagine the degree of disparity between the two legislatures. Furthermore, the stories of Senator Wabara, the Senate President in 2003: the case of the speaker Hon. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh and her Deputy Babangida Nguroje of the National Assembly episode are good example of legislature corruption. In September 2007, she was faced a committee of MPs over accusations that she authorized the spending of 628 million Naira (about US $5 million) on renovations of her official, residence and that of her deputy's and the purchase of 12 official cars meant for the House of Representative. Accusations of theft were chanted at her as she tried to speak in the house and she was escorted out by security and situation degenerated into commotion (Yetunde, 2009), although she has not been officially indicted. As a result, on October 30, following week of pressure, Etteh resigned her position as speaker.

Corruption in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC): The stain of corruption did not spare anti-graft agencies as former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Ibrahim Lamiorde was accused of fraudulently diverting N1 tn proceeds from corruption recovered by the agency (Yetund, 2009). This is incredible as those who were appointed to fight corruption in Nigeria are also found to be victims of the same problem they fight. This implies that trust is difficult in Nigeria. Ibrahim Magu who was the recent former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), under his tenure, Nigeria made her worst ever retrogression in Transparency International annual

Corruption Perception Index, moving 12 places backward from 136 to 148. At various occasions between 2017 and 2018, Mr. Magu publicly declared that EFCC had recovered looted funds totalling #739 billion. However, in a leaked memo to Magu by the former minister for Finance, Kemi Adeosun, asserted that contrary to the public claims by Mr. Magu that #739 billion has been recovered by the EFCC, only #91.3 billion had been deposited by the commission into the treasury, Adeosun then demanded to know the whereabouts of the balance of the monies. Between what Mr Magu claims tp have recovered and what the EFCC paid into the treasury, there is a difference of #647.7 billion. And Nigerians dare to ask, where is the difference? According to Rotimi (2022) Magu was arrested in a busy street of Abuja, detained and secretly tried and thereafter dismissed for corruption in very controversial circumstance, it's the same old story of corruption fighting corruption. Obono-Obla was the Chairman of the Special Presidential Investigative Panel on the Recovery of Public Property, a key unit in the anti-corruption drive of President Buhari. In 2020 Obono-Obla was relieved of his post following accusation of corruption. This was aside the allegation that he forged his educational certificates.

Corruption in the Police Force: In the police situation, where can one start when it comes to the nature of corruption manifestation in the police force? Do we start with bribery, intimidation, sexual harassment of young detainees in police cell and female young suspects in police custody or the fact they turn truths upside down. There is a saying that police are your friends in Nigeria. Policemen are your enemies because they can deny the truth and collect bribes to do so. Because of the encounters many Nigerians have had with policemen, even the good ones among them are generalized as being bad. What happens at check points are unimaginable, the police who work in some check points on the expressways cannot do so without collecting bribes from car owners and drivers. This interest lies in collecting money from drivers not in securing the road. Even when you are carrying incriminating material, he does not care but only in the bribes money. What a shame? Bribes become compulsory even when your vehicle particulars are in order. When you refuse to give bribe one is delayed for long hours. Bus drivers must offer money ranging from ₦100 to ₦200 before they continue with their transportation business. The police are now turning to gods that receive money from the worshiper as an offering. In the Nigeria Correctional Services (NCS) some female prison inmates come out of prison pregnant, what implies is that the Nigeria Correctional Officers sexually assault women who are imprisoned. The woman may say no but because the policemen have gun, the woman cannot do anything. They were impregnated before they were granted bail. What kind of prayer will eradicate this kind of corruption in Nigeria? Abba Kyari, a highly decorated police Officer who was the elite Intelligence Response Team (IRT), after months of speculation following his indictment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), on involvement in money laundering and request for his extradition to the US to face suspicious about Kyari's relationship to confirmed or suspected drug lords, he was finally caught red-handed in a sting operation by the National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) and identified as a member of the Brazil-Nigeria- Ethiopia drug syndicate, The NDLEA has traced a combined amount of #4.2 billion to the account of suspended DCP Abba Kyari and his Deputy ACP Sunday Ubua. The drug enforcement agence disclosed that less than aforementioned amount passed through Kyari's account when he was the commander of Intelligence Response Team (IRT). Kyari's deputy got far more than his boss as #2.8 billion was traced to his eight bank Accounts. Futhermore, investigation shows that ACP Ubua received the sum of #2,664 billiom on August 15, 2019 given the NDLEA reason to belive that

Kyari and his deputy may be connected to the sale of some illicit substances including Tramadol worth #3 billion naira. Reno (2022) reveals that the NDLEA is investigating an allegation that Kyari and his team seized a large consignment of Tramadol in a warehouse at Amuwo Odofin in Lagos. The consignment worth about #3 billion, the IRT under Kyari's command seized these drugs and they believed to have sold the consignment to a cartel afterword. It was around the time of this seizure that Kyari's deputy received a deposit of #2.664 billion in his personal bank account, out of this money he, purchased FBN Insurance share worth about #100 million. The NDLEA has penned a letter to the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) seeking his approval for the confiscation of properties and Assets belonging to Abba Kyari and his men. In another development, the Federal Government has approved the request of the United States of America to extradite suspended DCP Abba Kyari over $1.1million in fraud oganised by one Ramon Abbas popularly known as Hushpuppi. Can you imagine the level of corruption in our police force?

Corruption in the Nigeria Malitary Force: What can we say about the $2.1 billion arms deal? The money that was budgeted for the purchase of arms in the fight against Nigeria's Boko Haram insurgency suddenly disappeared. Whether the money developed legs and ran away is what the Federal Government of Nigeria led by former President Goodluck Jonathan of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP could not explain to the people of Nigeria. According to Saharareporters (2022) the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has recovered #1.85 billion from a house and office in Wuse area of Abuja biside National Open University, said to belong to former chief of Army staff. Again, sometime, in March 2021, Nigeria National Security Adviser (NSA), Babagana Monguno revealed that funds running into billions of naira meant for the procurement of arms and ammunition under the past service chiefs were unaccounted for, his revelation came a few months, after President Buhari replaced Buratai and other service chiefs. Monguno further maintains that neither the money nor the arms were on the ground upon the resumption of the new service chiefs. In this country, a serving army chief under President Buhari bought a $2 billion property in Dubai and shamelessly defended it with impunity. What about the re-looting of recovered Abacha loot under Buhari's watch? Despite outcry, dubious fees amounting $15 million were allegedly paid to two lawyers for the recovery of #321 million stolen by Late Gengeral Abacha former Nigeria military ruler.

Corruption in Churches: New generation churches in Nigeria are those churches that do not have solid origin or foundation. Some of these churches start by renting a room and decorates so beautifully and convinces people to join them. Some of the pastors claim that he has been given the power to summon signs, wonders and miracles from God. A man who has been dying of poverty and hunger for years and a pastor claims that you should come to him because he has been called by God and can transform your financial status. It is a common thing they say to make hungry Nigerians yield to their deceptions. The people come and the so called pastors, prophet, evangelist and apostles use their tricks to collect the money that is remaining in the pockets of the hungry and poor Nigerians. Some of the pastors go to the extent of using magical and devilish powers to run their church in the name of God's power. They give the congregations what they want without them knowing the sources of their so called power. When women are in search of babies (fruit of the womb) the babies may be given to them through devilish means. Today one of these children might steal money from a bank through armed robbery and tomorrow kill an innocent person operating under the

influence of the devil. Some pastors have on many occasions been caught committing adultery or fornications with married women among their worshipers in the church. It is not new and it is certain that you as a reader have heard about, such a shameful acts by our pastors. The immoral acts committed by Nigerian pastors have been observed through print media and television. Uzochukwu (2019) highlighted various levels of moral depravity in the churches.

Corruption in the Customs Services: Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) is an organization that saddle to clear goods imported into Nigeria. Are they really doing the work they are hired or authorized to do? Nigeria Customs Services is not free from the menace of corruption. In most occasions, Nigerians must pay bribes to customs before their goods are cleared. A visit to Nigeria Port Authority, many containers are held captive by customs because the owners are not willing to or unable to pay the large amount of money being demanded by the customs authorities.

Internet Fraud (Yahoo Boys): The level of corruption in Nigeria has made many citizens of Nigeria show no respect for holy and godly affairs. This is seen in the report given by the spiritual director of Adoration Ministry Enugu Nigeria AMEN in December 2014. According to the spiritual director, Rev. Father Mbaka (2014) some Nigerian impersonated him through websites and social media sites, specifically facebook. Mbaka further laments that these criminals used his picture to deceive people and collected money from them while claiming they were Fr. Mbaka. The notable reverend father made it clear that he is not on face book, nor does he own a website with his name. Fr. Mbaka further states that anyone caught in the act will dance to the music that he or she deserves and police have been asked to find the criminal elements.

Graduates and non-graduates who lack the knowledge and skills to help earn money find joy in internet fraud. It is a criminal act and deserves punishment. Among the classes of offences committed in Nigeria, some Nigerians, mainly youths have been scamming their fellow citizens using illegal means. Some of them host websites online that claim to be giving jobs to job seekers and scam any who fall prey to their tricks. They tell job seekers to make certain payments for processing documents without them knowing that they will not be issued any job.

Corruption in Nigeria Sports: In the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) corruption is the reason why those elected as the leaders of the group today and tomorrow election in ministry is nullified and another will be chosen. Everybody wants to be at the head so that he will fill his bag with the national cake. People these days do not fight to work because it is stressful, so whenever people fight for a particular position, there is every possibility that they are there to clean out the organization. According to Oluwashina (2013) evidence have shown that there are corrupt practices in Nigeria Football and a senior football official and a club administrator have been banned for 10 years following their involvement in corruption practices. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) sports news (2013) states that match-fixing and corruption is a problem in Nigeria football and has lead to sanctions against a number of clubs, referees and officials. Player is not chosen by merit, it is about who you know in top political offices or society. Corruption is like a curse that is been laid upon Nigeria.

Embezzlement: Embezzlement is another face of corruption in Nigeria. Embezzlement of funds is common in Nigeria. Many leaders in Nigeria have assisted boost the economies of other countries by depositing embezzled funds into foreign banks for instance Late General Abacha administration notoriously looted upwards of $3 billion in the 1990s (Hector, 2008). The federal government agreement with the Swiss government on the return of looted funds traced to former Head of State General Sani Abacha led to the remittance of US $322 million in December 2017 (Webby, 2018). The plan is to distribute the returned money among Nigerians, which was confirmed through the publication of transparency international in August 18, 2018. In Nigeria plans are in motion to distribute US$ 322 million recovered in Switzerland from the Late General Sani Abacha, the Nigeria's formal military ruler. Before now some funds were returned to Nigeria by the Swiss bank in 2006 from the money stolen by the same former Head of state. In another development, the #14.7bn proceeds of defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), which was hidden in commercial Banks by Burean of Public Enterprise, (BPE), for about nine years has been uncovered by Nigeria senate. However, inspite of the anti-corruption war of President Muhammadu Buhari, one of the frontline governors of the All Progressive Congress (APC) is on the wanted list of the government of the United Kingdom for laundering over $515 billion (USD) for the late General Sani Abacha. Recall that the former acting Director General of the National Intelligence Agency, Ambassador Mohammed Dauda in sworn testimony to the house of Representative Committee on National Security and Intelligence, revealed that President Buhari's Kitchen cabinet comprising late Abba Kyari and former Secretary to the Federal Governmemt, Babagana Kingibe, had pressured him to share the $44 Ikoyi millions (Premium Times, 2019). The current National Chairman of All Progressive Congress (APC), Abdullahi Adamu was arraigned in 2010 by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for allegedly embezzling #15 billion naira. The anti- graft agency filed 149 Count against Abdullahi Adamu and 18 others, including former Nasarawa staff officials and contractors, over allegation involving #15 billion frauds. The former governor and his co-accused, however, filed a motion countering the charges on the grounds that since the funds alleged to be embezzled belong to the state, the EFCC was out of line in the investment. The defendant also pleaded not guilty to the charges. But David Okorowa, judge of Federal high Court in Lafia at that time ruled that Abdullahi Adamu would stand trial as he had a case to answer. In the similar view, the late Alhaji Abba Kyari was involved in corruption scandal in connection with alleged #500million bribery money said to have been paid to Abba Kyari the chief of staff by officials of South African owned MTN Telecommunication Company with the intent that the Chief of Staff influence government to discontinue its heavy stance on the $5billon fine imposed on the company. Also another major scandal against the former chief of staff is the case of a #29.9m contract scam among others.

Nepotism: This is a special form of favoritism in which people in power practice ethnicity, tribal, sectionalism and kinfolk among others prefer their family members to be appointed in specific positions in Nigeria. This occurs when one is exempted from the application of certain laws or regulations or given undue preference in the allocation of scarce resources. In situation, where a sitting Governor appoints his son and blood relations into as his/her cabinet member to the state council as seen in the case of the formal Imo state Governor, who appointed her blood sister as commissioner for Happiness. Nepotism is horrible: it is evil because it denies you as a leader an opportunity to hear other voices, so you end up in an echo

chamber where all of you are speaking the same language, all things the same way. All of these are forms of corruption.

Favouritism: This form of corruption is a mechanism of power abuse implying a highly based distribution of state resource. Appointment in various offices in Nigeria is on the basis of whom you know in government merit has been thrown into a trash. Students that made first class in the university are unemployed, while those with pass level are given juice appointment. Yetunde (2009) states that it is seen as a natural human proximity to favor friends, family and anybody close or trusted.

Effects of Corruption in Nigeria

There are various negative consequences effects of corruption in Nigeria. Some of the effects are discussed below:

National crises: There are numerous crises in Nigeria today as result of corruption among the Nigeria leaders. The insecurity, banditry, kidnapping and Boko Haram among others is a consequence of corruption. Some corrupt politicians that failed in their elections to click to power are fighting the government of President Goodluck Jonathan using Boko Haram as their agent because they do not want him to succeed making his government ungovernable. The insecurity, banditry, kidnapping and Boko Haram have seriously affected the Nigeria economy. The negative effects impact economic growth as result reduces public spending on education and reduced level of investment as it adds to investment risk.

Inadequate National Development: In situation some politicians and civil servants indulge in corrupt practice to make money, the economic development of such country will suffer. The leaders continue on shifting the Nigeria's currency to foreign countries like the time of General Sani Abacha of blessed memories. Abacha staked large amount of naira in his foreign Account. However, any country with high corruption levels is likely to experience development bankruptcy as it is the case in Nigeria today. Corrupt government official would shift government expenditure to areas in which they can collect bribes or kick backs easily.

Poverty: Nigeria has turned its people into poverty as result faced with crises, unemployment and insecurity, kidnapping and banditry among others. There is no way you have 100 million people living in poverty and you will not have crises. Nigeria has more people living in poverty than China and Egypt combined with a population of about 1.5 billion people. Nigeria are going through with 35 to 40 percent unemployment rate, when compared to the 120 million people who are supposed to be working in Nigeria today, only 40 million are gainfully employed. We have 80 million people who are supposed to be working in Nigeria that are not working. The consequence is that we have a state but is unproductive. Increase poverty and income inequalities are tied to corruption. When politicians and heads of public sectors are busy laundering the money that is supposed to be used to create jobs for the masses especially the youths and reduce poverty. As a result, there will be a rise in the poverty level. Morris (2006) reports that at a European Commission (EC) meeting in support of Nigeria anti-poverty efforts. Nigeria has enough money to tackle its poverty challenges, if the government can win this battle against corruption and mismanagement, the money will start to turn into functional schools, health services and water supply thus laying the foundation to eradicate poverty.

Poor Investment Environment: Corruption tarnishes the image of a nation. Nigeria suffers more than most societies from an appalling international image created by his inability to deal with bribery and corruption. However, unemployment in Nigeria would have been eradicated to some extent if only investors were attracted to doing business in Nigeria. Multinational companies that would have invested in Nigeria are afraid because they do not know if the corrupt practice will ruin their industries over time as a result they are refusing to invest in Nigeria (Dike, 2005).

Government legitimacy: Corruption is destructive of government structure and capacity, destroys the legitimacy of a government and makes governance ineffective. It may also alienate modernity-oriented civil servants and cause them to withdraw their service and leave a country (the brain-drain episode is tied to corruption). The Shehu Shagari administration was written off as inept because of magnitude of corruption in the administration and its lack of policy direction as it is now in the present All Progressive Congress (APC) control government led by President Muhammadu Buhari, even President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration is not in any way better off. Transparency International Corruption Index, 2001 ranked Nigeria 90 out of the 91 countries studied (second most corrupt nation in the world, with Bangladesh coming first.

Problem of National Integration: Corruption could upset ethnic balance and exacerbate problem of national integration. The social brawl following Chief Moshood Abiola's June 12, 1993 elections annulment by military president General Babangida Ibrahim is one of the many cases dotting Nigeria's political landscape and the heat created by this continues to rise the temperature of the policy. Added to these is the fact that corruption is politically destabilizing. It leads to social revolution and military takeovers. Most post-coup rationalizations in less developed countries point to corruption. General Buhari's post-coup broadcast to Nigerians in 1983 is a case in point, but hiding under the excuse of corruption to topple a legitimate government in Nigeria will cease to be a credible reason for the military in Nigeria politics in future. This is because many of the previous military leaders in Nigeria were as corrupt, if not more corrupt than the civilian politicians they replace.

Wastage of Skills: Corruption wastes skills, as precious time and funds are wasted to set committees to fight corruption and monitor public projects that are often abandoned by unscrupulous politicians and contractors. The unending chain of corruption-fighting commissions in Nigeria includes the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and the Independent Corrupt Practice and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC): the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Police, Central Bank and the Court of Justice among others. None of them has the will to fight corruption instead they are corruption by themselves. This is because some of the officers are themselves corrupt. Corruption leads to aid abuse or aid-loss. Therefore, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are introducing tougher anti-corruption standards into their leading to tackle corruption. In view of the above, other organizations such as Council of European Union and Organization of American States are reportedly taking some tough measures against international corruption tendencies.
Production of Sub-Standard Products: Corruption causes production of sub-standard products, reduction in quality of goods and services available to the public as some organizational managers could cut corners to increase profit margins. Corruption affects investments and lowers productivity levels in the country. A major problem in Nigeria is

proliferation of substandard goods and services due to corruption. It is a common thing to pay for services that are never enjoyed because there is no quality assurance measure put in place. Most buildings under construction have collapsed while consumers have paid for substandard goods such as drugs, electrical appliances, cables, drinks and services. The implication of some of these things is that the health of the people is compromised, huge sum of money is lost annually and Nigeria is portrayed in negative light in the eyes of our neighbours who use Nigeria as dumping ground. It is still fresh in people's memory that in 1996, the NNPC imported adulterated fuel into Nigeria.

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria

The causes of corruption in Nigeria are briefly examined below:

Unemployment: Unemployment has broken the hearts of numerous people. Citizens are pushed into corruption practice because of the high unemployment rates. This implies that unemployed person can indulge in corruption practice to make money and live better in the society. This perhaps explains why so many youths engage into internet fraud. Uzochukwu (2019) states that youth, fathers and mothers are seriously concerned about the negative influence of unemployment in their live. Some have said that, it is better to die than to suffer the torment of unemployment in Nigeria. Words cannot explain the level of punishment the citizens of Nigeria face as a result of unemployment.

Culture and Family Pressure: Corruption is almost unavoidable because morality is relaxed in the society and many people struggle for survival without assistance from the state. Yetunde (2009) states that obsession with materialism, compulsion for a shortcut to affluence; glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth by the general public are among the reasons for the persistence of corruption in Nigeria. Yetunde further observes that one of the popular but unfortunate indices of good life in Nigeria is flamboyant affluence and conspicuous consumption. As result of this, many people get into dubious ways including committing ritual murder for money making. Secondly, the pressure of polygamous household and extended family system to meet family obligations are also some of the causes of corruption. Elujekwute (2019) states that corruption is at times motivated behavior responding to social pressure to violate the norms, so as to meet the set goals and objectives of a social system. Corruption is linked to the strong family values involving intense feeling of obligation.

Greed: This is another cause of corruption in Nigeria. Greed has caused enormous problems in Nigeria. Because of greed the political leaders and civil servants embezzle the funds that are meant for national development for their own selfish needs. According to the Premium Times (2019) in a judgment being delivered by Justice Okon Abang, the trial judge, the court held that Abdulrasheed Maina stole over N2 billion belonging to Pensioners, most of who have died without reaping the fruits of their labor. Abdulrasheed Maina was sentenced to 61 years imprisonment but to run concurrently for eight years. This is a case out of many government official has embezzle a lot of funds out of greed, that are supposed to use for national development projects in Nigeria.

Poor Leadership: Leadership failure has caused a lot of crises in the world, including Nigeria. It is because of poor leadership in Nigeria administration both past and present, usually shows an amazing creativity with the culture of aiding and abating corruption in the society. These include, but not limited to, the collapse of national security, volatility in the supply of

electricity, crippling unemploymemt, a disrupted and erratic university system and widespread corruption. Bishop, Oyedepo at a church service on Monday June 13, 2022 described the present administration led by President Muhammadu Buhari as most wicked and corrupt government in the history of Nigeria. Oyedepo further accuse the government of not caring about the welfare of Nigerians especially those who are in schools. Oyedepo argues that what a fight against corruption, Nigerians were all deceived, you can not be in corruption and fight corruption, the most corrupt regime in the history of Nigeria. The #80 billion allegedly stolen by the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF), Ahmed Idris would be enough to meet the demand of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which led to the shutting down schools in Nigeria. The universities workers are on strike, there no indication when the universities would be reopen. A country that abandons university education will pay the price of cultivating illiterates in the society. The economy will not move and national development will become a distant memory. Indeed, the faster way to destroy a nation is to destroy its education sector: Is Nigeria not doing so now? In a similar view, the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto, Mathew Kukah (2022) states that seven (7) years of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration have broken Nigeria, with everything literally broken down, Nigeria has become one big emergency national hospital with full occupancy. "Our family dreams are broken; homes and churches, our educational system, economy, children's lives and future are broken. Our security, roads, rails are broken only corruption is alive and well. Kukah further maintains that under President Buhari, terrorists are roaming freely in the North-West States of Nigeria, maiming and killing; criminal herders and kidnappers continue to maul Nigerians. These are indices of failed leadership in government

Inadequate Youth Empowerment: Poor youth empowerment is another cause of corruption in Nigeria. Youths are not adequately empowered as result internet fraud; sexual harassment by male chief executives officers and politicians takes undue advantage on the unemployed youth to commit bad act and corrupt practices simply because Nigerians lack understanding of the importance of youth empowerment. When the government empowered youths adequately, financially and morally, the corruption will reduce in the society and enhances economic growth and development.

Solutions to Corruption in Nigeria

The following solutions are strategies as a way out of the predicament of corruption that has bedeviled Nigeria; the solutions are briefly examined below:

Adequate Funding of Education: when the government realizes the importance of education and skill acquisition will go a long way to motivate youths and develop all the schools in Nigeria. The government should endeavor to pay more attention to the tertiary institutions in Nigeria so as to graduates who are employable. The sufficient provision of the necessary machines needed in tertiary institutions will assist Nigeria graduates acquire sound knowledge and skills, thus use them to generate legitimate income. When graduates provides job for themselves through self-employment, it will prevent them from corrupt practice such as internet fraud, kidnapping and banditry among others.

Creating Strong Independent Anti-Corruption Institutions: To win the war on corruption in Nigeria, former President, Olusegun Obasanjo slogan of no sacred cows should be put into practice by prosecuting all the known corrupt political heavy weights in Nigeria, because not

prosecuting them makes the national law none operationable as well make the anti-corruption agencies toothless bye dogs. President, Olusegun Obasanjo which constituted the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practice Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) though the members of these commission still employed by the Executive airms of the Government in power. The question that is tagging for an answer is that, are they truly independent commission, they seems to have power over the corrupt poor. We have seen in situation, when these agencies starts prosecuting some of the corrupt influential politician as soon as the said politician joins the ruling party, his/her case will be automatically terminated. The anti-corruption agencies should be allowed to perform their constitutional duties and truly be independent body.

Effective and Independent Judiciary: To eradicate the scourge of corruption, Nigeria should hold politicians accountable for their actions and have effective and truly independent judiciary that can deliver judgment without interference from the Executive. Therefore, the society must restructure and fortify the institutional checks and balances among the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary and ensure separation of powers within the Nigeria government. There is need to introduce transparency and accountability in government functions or operations particularly in all the financial transaction in parastatals and ministries. Anyone who is caught engaging in corrupt practices by the commission should be allowed to experience the consequences decided by the anti-corruption agency. Whether he is a minister or governor of a state or party faithful should not be an excuse from facing the punishment he is to receive according to the law in the constitution of Nigeria.

Generation of Employment: A busy mind may find it difficult to indulge in corruption because he is being adequately paid and when due. The unemployed in the society easily involved in corruption mainly because they want to make money to meet the demand of their families needs. Therefore, the government and non-governmental organization should endeavor to generate more jobs for Nigerians to get employed.

Sensitization of the Masses: The government should educate the masses on how to be content with what one has through mass media, such as radio, television and newspapers among others. When the leaders of Nigeria are satisfied with the salary they are paid and use public funds in a proper manner, the issue of embezzlement and money laundering will be a thing of the past. Organizational managers who are satisfied, who are contented with what they are paid will not have time to indulge in corruption practices to make money as it was in the case of General Sani Abacha who looted Nigeria economy mercilessly to a state of stupor.

Conclusion

Corruption is potent cancer and force that has mercilessly eaten Nigeria to a state of stupor. Moreso, corruption is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigeria economy. Therefore, corruption corner's scarce public funds into private pockets and erodes the social and moral fabric of Nigeria societies. However, the paper examined the concepts and forms of corruption in Nigeria as well as its causes, effects and proffer solutions as a way out of the predicament of corruption that has bedeviled Nigeria. It was observed that corruption has eased sending many Nigerians to their untimely graves due to lack on so many people. It has equally embezzled the resources of future generation of Nigeria youths who are armed with poverty, half-baked education due to the absence of the essential facilities needed for their

education. Corruption is slavery to dishonesty, lets us all join hands to fight corruption in Nigeria.

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