Political Corruption and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Implication on Political Education and Society

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ABSTRACT

This study examines political corruption and sustainable development using secondary data which were sourced from World Bank reports on Nigeria and corruption reports from Transparency International. The data were analyzed using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique on E-view. Findings revealed that corruption has a significant effect on economic growth and development in Nigeria as against the case in East Asia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea as reported by some scholars. The study thus recommends that the government should strengthen the ability of the anti-graft agencies and at best make them independent from the influence of political elites and the government so that these agencies will be able to perform their functions without the influence of government, that the public should be educated about the problems that corrupt practices create for the economy and the society at large, and be discouraged from participating in corrupt practice; that serving government executives should make themselves available for questioning if need be on their actions and perhaps suspected foul play with them, among others.

Keywords: Corruption, Sustainable development, Governance, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Today in Nigeria, there is a consensus among well-meaning individuals and foreign nations that corruption has inevitably become a major cog in the wheel of the quest for sustainable growth and development of the country. People in government are so entrenched in corrupt practices to the extent that they enrich themselves at the detriment of the nation. One unique feature of liberal democracy is its inter-connectedness with economic growth. Democracy allows the people of a country to be

actively involved in governance through their engagement in electoral processes. Arguably, the pervasiveness of democracy in Western Europe and North America generated the large pool of wealth these regions possessed since the 20th century (Njideka & Chukwuebuka, 2014). However, democratic rule in the developing world has been hampered by the corrupt mind of those in government.

Corruption has affected many countries all over the world especially the developing countries, thus it is not peculiar to Nigeria alone. However, the cancerous menace has eaten enormously into the nation's fabrics to such an extent that the pockets of corrupt practices have pervaded and watered down to even the smallest of structures at the grassroots level. Corruption has defied all possible or acclaimed attempts to dissolve and has become widespread and corrosive in the country. The syndrome has been identified as one major obstacle militating against rapid growth and development of the Nigerian economy. Nigeria, as a nation, is blessed with abundant human and natural resources to the extent that some of these natural resources are yet to be tapped by the government e.g. gold; and some are neglected (e.g. cocoa, timber, etc.) by the government since the abundant discovery of oil well as only crude oil is giving the biggest attention and has been the largest source of revenue to the government for fifty years.

Since 1996 when Nigeria first featured in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), the Transparency international (TI), a Non-Governmental organization (NGO) that accesses the level of corruption in countries around the world have always been placing Nigeria in the bottom of the ranking among countries evaluated. Globally, corruption has been recognized as anathema to development because of its capacity to unleash poverty in human community. Equally recognized is the fact that majority of the people living below poverty are more prevalent in Africa (Adeleke, 2012), Nigeria is an exception despite having the world's seventh largest reserve of crude oil coupled with other resources poverty and underdevelopment still ravages the country. This manifests in all indexes of underdevelopment over the years as well as in people's welfare. Much more disturbing, the scourge of corruption leaves the poor perpetually disproportionately under-privileged, even as it renders the development of democracy and the building of a society of opportunity more problematic (Ribadu, 2007). The major reasons adduced for this is the prevalence of corruption and unfortunately the political class saddled with the responsibility of directing the affairs of the country has been the major culprit in perpetrating this act and this has taken its toll on the nations development process.

This political class in Nigeria exhibits totalitarian tendency in several ways which is as a result of their selfish aim of enriching themselves. Politicians daily live ostentatious lifestyle using exotic cars and building magnificent houses (which with more than the legal income) through corrupt means and they design humongous retirement benefits

for themselves (Obasanjo, 2018; Mailafia, 2019; Adisa & Akintola, 2019). The phenomenon has ravaged the country and destroyed most of what is held as cherished national values and has turned down the moral preaching and belief that 'honesty is the best policy". Instead, many people especially those at the corridor of power, the political office holders, have acquired wealth and property both in and out the country through corrupt means (Usman, 1980; Ogbeidi, 2012; Adeagbo, 2015). It thus becomes worrisome if Nigeria can rise out of decadence and impoverished state and get developed if this monster is not well tamed.

The magnitude of corruption has been increasing over the years which have pushed successive governments in Nigeria to establish various anti-graft agencies and other legal instruments to fight the monster. The legal instruments used to fight corruption in Nigeria include the Criminal Code, Code of Conduct Bureau, the Recovery of Public Property Act of 1984 and the anti-draft agencies including the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Crime Commission (ICPC) established in year 2000 and the Economic Financial Crime Commissions (EFCC) in 2003. But despite the establishment of these Commissions, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) named Nigeria amongst the twenty three non-cooperative countries frustrating the effort of international Community to fight money laundering (Akinkuotu, & Affe, 2016).

However, while corruption is seen as anathema to development, some have argued that corruption among political leaders and even the ruled has been the bane of Nigeria's development but some scholars are against this view. They are of the notion that corruption is not detrimental to economic growth and development that it is just a question of how the proceed are applied (Leff, 1964; Huntington, 1968; Acemoglu & Verdier, 1998; Friedrich, 1972; Nye, 1967, Adeleke, 2016). For instance, Adeleke (2016) submitted that one cannot compare a corrupt governor in America who stole public money of his state to enrich the state's economy with a corrupt Nigerian governor who takes its proceed to Swiss, Britain, America or Canadian bank. This constitutes capital flight and reduces the dynamics of economic growth and development in Nigeria. It is a question of the nature of citizenship.

It is against the backdrop of the above that this article reflects on governance, especially during this democratic era, and corruption and its role in economic under development of Nigeria with the notion of making valuable suggestions to put the feet of the economy on the path of sustainable development. Thus the general objective of the study is examined the impact of corruption on economic growth and development of Nigeria.

The thought provoking issues addressed in this paper include:
(i)   Is inadequate resources or corruption the major cause of the nation's underdevelopment or poor governance?
(ii)   Does the establishment of anti-corruption agencies have anything to do with economic development?
(iii)   Is corruption beneficial or detrimental to growth in Nigeria?

These and many more related issues are addressed in this study. Sequel to the above, the following hypotheses were formulated for testing:

Ho_1: Corruption has no impact on good governance in Nigeria

Ho_2; Corruption do not hamper economic growth and development in Nigeria

Conceptual Clarifications

According to Kaufman, Kraay and Zoido (2000) cited in Adeagbo (2019), governance can be referred to as the traditions as well as institutions that define how authority is exercised in a given country. It entails the procedure through which governments are selected, monitored held accountable, and replaced; it is government's ability to judiciously manage resources well and formulate, implement as well as enforce good policies and regulations, and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interaction between them (Salman, 2009 cited in Adeagbo, 2019).

Governance, also, refers to several ways by which social life is coordinated. It is a process of social engagement between the rulers and the ruled in the society which implies that governance is predicated on the relationship between the ruling class and the ruled in the society (Iyoha, et al 2015; Nyewusira 2007). In the opinion of Kolade (2012), governance involves participation by both the governor and the governed (i.e. the leader and the follower). Good governance, therefore, characterizes issues of performance in the management of the country's political, economic and social resource in order to enhance human progress, social well-being and sustainable development.

According to Okafor and Eloagu (2002), good governance is an open system with inputs and outputs from its internal and external environment. Changes in the world's economic political and social systems have brought unprecedented demands for good governance in both developed and developing countries. This, therefore, suggests that good governance is the pivot around which other factors of development revolve particularly as development is no longer measured solely by per capita income.

Corruption, due to its age long history and being an internationally perplexing phenomenon in human society, has been defined in various ways by different scholars. The Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary of the English language explains that the

root of the word corruption comes from the Latin word *"rumpere"* meaning to break. Thus, it implies that something is broken, normally a code of conduct that is considered pure or correct.

Corruption has been defined as dishonest, illegal or immoral behavior by people in position of authority or power. It is an anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and normal norms and which undermines the authorities' capacity to secure the welfare of all citizens (Senturia, 1968; Osoba, 19967). Khan (1996) cited in Olopoenia (1998) also defines corruption as an act which deviates from formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private-regarding motives such as wealth, power or states. In the opinion of Othman (2007) cited in Adeagbo (2019), corruption is immoral conduct and dishonest exploitation of power for personal gain and profits. It is an act of diverting the resource that should have been used for developmental purposes of the social to private or personal use (Adewale, 2011).

The hydra-headed monster is generally understood to entail the use of an official position for purposes of private enrichment or illegitimate advantage capable of inflicting colossal damage on a nation and its citizenry, by truncating initiatives for economic growth and political stability, education, health and social justice (Osah, Osundina, Ayim, Nwokocha, & Chioma, 2014).

Corruption comes in several forms such as favoritism, nepotism, tribalism, sectionalism, undue enrichment, or amassing of wealth, abuse of office, power intoxication, and derivation of undue gains and benefits. Bribery, smuggling, fraud, illegal payments, money laundering, drug trafficking, falsification of documents and records, window dressing, false declaration, tax evasion, under payment, deceit, forgery, concealment, aiding and abating of any kind to the detriment of another person, community, society or nation, advance fee fraud (419), money laundering, unconventional and fraudulent trade practices, misappropriation or diversion of funds, kickbacks, under and over invoicing, bribery, false declarations, abuse of office, and collection of illegal tolls are its accessories (Osah et al., 2014).

Corruption when viewed specifically in respect of governance variable is termed the criminalization of the state. It is referred to as "the use and institutionalization of the political or government apparatuses as instruments of graft and as conducts of individuals' accumulation of wealth" (Ochwada, 2010). Above all, the most prominent definitions share a common emphasis on the abuse of public power or position for personal advantage which undermined economic growth.

The word sustainability according to Wikipedia (2010) is derived from a Latin word *sustinere (tenere* means to hold, *sus* means up). To sustain therefore implies to

maintain, support or endure. United Nations General Assembly (1987) defines sustainability as the endurance of systems and process often captured in the use of sustainable development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. In the context of this write up, sustainability refers to continuous process of economic development (even with) without retrogression once attained like staying on an higher echelon once reached.

According to Belshaw and Livingstone (2002:3) economic development encompasses progress in providing livelihood on a sustainable basis, access to education and basic healthcare for the majority of the population. The meaning of the term "development" becomes clearer with the understanding of the term "economic growth". By economic growth, economists generally mean the increase over time in a country's real output per capita. Though other measures can be used, output is most conveniently measured by the gross national product (GNP). This implies that economic growth is measured by the increase in a country's per capita GNP. Economic growth is thus sustained expansion of production possibilities measured as an increase in the real GDP over a given period. Rapid economic growth maintained over a number of years can transform a poor nation into a rich one, as has been the experiences of Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian economies (Bade & Parkin, 2002:222). Sustained growth therefore brings about development. Therefore, economic development, according to Todaro (1977) cited in Adeagbo (2016), is the process of improving the quality of all human lives.

Development thus means more than growth, it includes the conditions which the people in a country have adequate food and job and income inequality among them is greatly reduced. It is forcefully argued that development relates to the capacity and creative ability of the people to transform the natural resources of their environment into goods and services through imagination of their tactics skill and labour (Gana, 2002). It entails fundamental changes in the constitutional and ideological (including cultural) apparatus of society and the strengthening of these so that members of the society would develop the capacity for constitutional and efficient management of their affairs for their own welfare and happiness (Nonsim, 2001).

Sustainable economic development, thus, entails better living conditions for all citizens; producing more nutritious and very sumptuous food for all citizens to eat; individuals living healthier, happier and more comfortable life; sound education and enlightenment among the populace; improved transportation and communication system; scientific and technological advancement and gainful employment for all citizens (Ajayi & Afolabi, 2009). Mohammed (2013) also defines sustainable development as "the ability to preserve the existing resources of the state for collective use of citizens while conscious efforts are made to conserve the resources for the future generations".

Summarily therefore, development can be viewed as a sustained increase in the socio-economic performance of a population with life sustenance, self-esteem and freedom as its basic component or core values.

According to Malizia and Feser (2000:20), growth and development are complementary, because one makes the other possible. They are also alternating processes that occur sequentially. Growth is an increase in output; development is a structural change, growth expands the economy, while development must lead to more equal distribution of income and wealth. Hence, development should be seen as a multidimensional process involving the reorganization and re-orientation of entire economic and social system in addition to improvement in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes and sometimes even customs and beliefs. Above all, growth and development are intertwined in modern economic literature, the consensus is that the profit of economic growth is economic development because there would be no economic development without growth.

Various studies have been carried out on corruption and economic growth premised and they are on two distinct schools of thought. The first school of thought believes that corruption enhances economic growth. This school of thought based their argument on the fact that corruption (i.e. payment of bribery to bureaucrats in many forms) acts like oil that greases and facilitates the engine of economic growth as it helps government officials to make the process of project approval more efficient and execution of this project is a step to growth and development in an economy. Hence, the proponents of this view including Leff (1964), Huntington (1968), Acemoglu and Verdier (1998), Friedrich (1972), Nye (1967) and Ayanlaja (2011) suggest that corruption introduces efficiency in the economy and affects economic growth positively. To them, corruption works like piece rate pay for bureaucrats, which induces a more efficient provision of government services, and it, provides a leeway for entrepreneurs to bypass inefficient regulations. They have suggested that corruption may help economic growth. They claimed that corruption may allow business actors to work around pervasive and inefficient bureaucratic procedures, reducing some of the adverse effects of red tape. From this perspective, corruption acts as a lubricant that smoothed operations and, hence, raises the efficiency of an economy.

Leff (1964) and Huntington (1968) advanced the view that corruption can be efficiency enhancing because it removes government imposed rigidities that impede investment and interfere with other economic decisions favourable to growth. Thus, corruption "oils the mechanism" or "greases the wheel." This reasoning was often used to explain the high rates of growth in some countries of South East Asia. Rock and Bonett (2004) also in line with Leff and others found that corruption significantly promotes economic growth in the newly industrializing economies of East Asia including China, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea.

The second school of thought advocates the efficiency reducing argument. Researchers like McMullan (1961), Krueger (1974), Myrdal (1968), Shleifer and Vishny (1993), Tanzi (1997) Gould and Amaro-Reynes (1983) Mauro (1995, 1997), Abed and Davodi (2002), Aliyu and Elijah (2008), have claimed that corruption hinders economic growth, distorts markets and allocation of resources. Abed and Davoodi (2002) examined the impact of corruption in transition economies using a panel and cross-sectional data for twenty-five (25) countries over the period of five years (1994-1998). The results show that higher economic growth is associated with lower corruption in both panel and cross-sectional regressions and it shows significance at one percent level.

Akindele (2005), undertook an empirical investigation of the relationship between a number of key variables in Nigeria. Estimating a modified production function including labour, capital and political instability, the result revealed a negative value in corruption index which implies that corruption retards growth in Nigeria. He found that there exists a strong significant negative relationship between corruption and development. He therefore concludes that, corruption in whatever form is inimical to the development of any society.

Aliyu and Elijah (2008) investigated the impact of corruption on economic growth from 1986-2007. A Barrotype endogenous growth model was adopted so also the Engle-Granger (1987) cointegration and Error Correction Mechanism (ECM) techniques were employed. The core channels through which corruption affects growth were government capital expenditure, human capital development and total employment. Results show that corruption has significant negative effect on economic growth. The study also found that corruption exerts negative impact on both human capital development and total employment, but it positively impacts on government capital expenditure. The positive effect of corruption on capital expenditure is said to be however not surprising because public expenditure figure will always be inflated with the intention of siphoning or embezzling a reasonable proportion of the total value. The paper discovers that corruption exerts both direct and indirect negative effects on economic growth in Nigeria.

Fabayo, Posu and Obisanya (2011), in their study analyzed the consequences of corruption on investment in Nigeria using the Ordinary Least Square technique. They used the annual corruption perception index between the period 1996 and 2010. Their study revealed that low Corruption Perception Index ranking on Nigeria, which implies high level of corruption, leads to low investment and thus low economic growth in Nigeria.

In another related study which focuses on the relationship between corruption and Development Adewale (2011) investigates the crowding-out effects of corruption in

Nigeria, for the period 1996–2009, using simulation approach to investigate its economic implications on the country. After various robustness tests such as Error Correction Mechanism (ECM) to overcome the problem of spurious regression and the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test to ascertain the degree of stationary of variables employed in the study and the co-integrating properties of the data. The result of the findings revealed that all the econometric test applied in the study show statistically significant relationship between the model, thus, he therefore concluded that corruption retards economic growth in Nigeria, that is corruption has a crowding-out effect on growth.

METHOD

In this study, the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression technique was adopted. Secondary data were employed which were divided into dependent and independent variables. The dependent variable is the Nigerian economic development represented by the GDP of Nigerian economy in US dollar denomination while the independent variable is the Corruption Perception Index (*CPI*), and in the same vein the Corruption Rank (*CORK*) and the Relative Corruption Rank (*RCORK*) were also used as independent variables. The study period covers corruption and economic development in Nigeria from 1996 – 2017 which is a period of twenty-two years. The choice of 1996 is that data for corruption proxy is only available from this period and that of 2018 is not available as at the time of this study.

Model Specification

The model formulated for this work in its functional form can be expressed as follows:

$$GDPgr = f(CPI) \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (1)$$

$$GDPgr = f(CORK, RCORK)\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (2)$$

Where *GDPgr* = Gross Domestic Product proxy for economic growth,

CPI = Corruption Perception Index, *CORK* = Corruption Rank,

RCORK = Relative Corruption Rank.

The linear form of the model is expressed as:

$$GDPgr = \beta_1 + \beta_2 CPI \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots.. (3)$$

$$GDPgr = \propto_1 + \propto_2 CORK + \propto_3 RCORK \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots.. (4)$$

The above linear form is thus expressed in econometric form for estimation thus:

$$GDPgr = \beta_1 + \beta_2 CPI + \mu \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots. (5)$$

$$GDPgr = \propto_1 + \propto_2 CORK + \propto_3 RCORK + \mu \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (6)$$

where μ is the error term.

On the *a priori* $\beta_2, \propto_2, \propto_3, < 0$.

Table 1 Regression Result

Test Equation
Dependent Variable: GDPgr
Method: Least Square
Date: 12/17/20   Time: 07:02
Sample (adjusted): 1996- 2017
Included observations: 22 after adjustments
Maximum dependent lags: 1 (Automatic selection)
Model selection method: Akaike info criterion (AIC)
Dynamic regressors (0 lag, automatic): CPI
Fixed regressors: C

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
CPI	112.72	16.69	6.17	0.0001
C	-110.75	32.53	-3.22	0.0030

R-squared	0.76	Mean dependent var	101.238
Adjusted R-squared	0.75	S.D. dependent var	72.83
S.E. of regression	36.45	Akaike info criterion	11.87
Sum squared resid	22492.91	Schwarz criterion	12.05
Log likelihood	-87.74	Hannan-Quinn criter.	11.93
F-statistic	48.78	Durbin-Watson stat	1.06
Prob(F-statistic)	0.00		

Source: Authors' Computation (2020)

From table 1 which is the regression result of *GDPgr* against *CPI*, it indicates that the R^2 value is 0.76 and the adjusted R^2 is 0.75 meaning that 76% and 75% variation in *GDPgr* is explained by the impact of corruption, this point to the fact that corruption has seriously affected Nigeria polity. The *f*-statistic value of 48.78 shows that the model is appropriate and with a p-value of 0.00 it means that corruption can be used to measure economic development in a country. The coefficient of *CPI* which is 112.72 suggests that a reduction in *CPI* for Nigeria which translates into increase in corruption leads to a reduction in the GDPgr by $112.72 billion on the average. Testing for the statistical significance of this estimate, the t-statistic value is 6.17 and with a p-value of 0.0001 which is the exact probability of committing a type 1 error, it indicates that *CPI* has a statistically significant negative effect on the *GDPgr* of Nigeria.

Table 2   Regression Results

Test Equation
Dependent Variable: GDPgr
Method: Least Square
Date: 12/17/20   Time: 07:11
Sample (adjusted): 1996- 2017
Included observations: 22 after adjustments
Maximum dependent lags: 1 (Automatic selection)
Model selection method: Akaike info criterion (AIC)
Dynamic regressors (0 lag, automatic): CORK, RCORK
Fixed regressors: C

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
CORK	3.26	0.46	6.92	0.00
RCORK	0.52	0.25	3.69	0.05
C	-13.67	29.90	-0.52	0.51

R-squared	0.85	Mean dependent var	100.78
Adjusted R-squared	0.82	S.D. dependent var	72.12
S.E. of regression	31.01	Akaike info criterion	8.99
Sum squared resid	11792.91	Schwarz criterion	9.05
Log likelihood	-77.74	Hannan-Quinn criter.	10.93
F-statistic	46.77	Durbin-Watson stat	0.96
Prob(F-statistic)	0.00		

*Note: p-values and any subsequent tests do not account for model
    selection.

Source: Authors' Computation, (2020).

Table 2 is the regression result of *GDPgr* against *CORK* and *RCORK*. From the table the R^2 value of 0.85 and the adjusted R^2 value of 0.82 imply that 85% and 82% variation in *GDPgr* is explained by the variation in *CORK* and *RCORK*, these points to the fact that Nigeria's corruption rankings determined to a large extent the extent of economic growth and development.

The *f*-value of 46.77 which is a test of the significance of the independent variable in the model has a p-value of 0.00. This leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis, that *CORK* and *RCORK* have significant effect on economic growth and development. The coefficient of *CORK* is 3.26 and the coefficient of *RCORK* is 0.52 suggest that a non-favourable corruption ranking for Nigeria which translates into increase in corrupt practices leads to a reduction in the *GDPgr* by $3.26 billion and $0.52 billion on the average respectively. Testing for the statistical significance of the *CORK* and *RCORK* estimates, the t- statistic values are 6.92 and 3.69 with their p-values of 0.00 and 0.05 respectively. The p-value which is the exact probability of rejecting the true hypothesis indicates that *CORK* and *RCORK* have a statistically significant negative effect on the

GDPgr of Nigeria. The intercept value is also negative and has no viable economic interpretation.

In conclusion, since the entire econometric tests conducted and discussed in the study are all statistically significant in explaining the relationship between the dependent and the independent variables, the null hypothesis which states that corruption do not hamper economic growth and development is therefore rejected while the alternative hypothesis that corruption hamper economic growth and development is accepted. Therefore corruption as fueled by poor governance has a negative effect on Nigeria's economic growth and development.

Summary and conclusions
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This study has established the fact that corruption has seriously affected the polity of Nigeria as well as the potential growth ability of the country to the extent that over $112 billion in *GDPgr* is lost, this by extension affects the country's development. This study has perused relevant literatures and all the literatures pointed to the fact that corruption abound in governance, public and private business and corporate environment in Nigeria. Despite the presence of abundant resources in the country, corruption has made it impossible for the government to translate the presence of the abundant resources to improved standard of living in Nigeria but personal enrichment of the political class which has led to increasing impoverish state of the citizens and increased poverty level in Nigeria.

The study examined the magnitude of the impact of corruption on Nigeria economy and found that corruption has been hampering development in Nigeria to the tune of over $112.72 billion reduction in *GDP*gr on average. Also corruption has also negatively affected growth and development in Nigeria to the extent of causing over $3billion reduction in *GDPgr* on the average. It is thereby concluded that corruption has negatively affected economic growth and development in Nigeria which is against the opinion of some scholars that it aids growth and development as the case is in some countries of South East Asia.

Corruption has caused shortage of public infrastructures. It has increased the level of poverty in the country despite the nation's enormous resources. It brings less respect for fundamental human right, and it shows that no matter the efforts of government to improve the economy and the presence of other developmental indices, when corruption is not reduced to its bearable minimum, economic growth and development will be very difficult to sustain in Nigeria.

Based on the findings of the study, the following policy recommendations are considered appropriate:

That the government should strengthen the ability of the anti-graft agencies and at best make them independent from the influence of political elites and the government so that these agencies will be able to perform their functions without the influence of government and will not be seen as a witch hunting agencies of the government to be used against opposition parties. In addition, members of the public should be educated about the problems that corrupt practices create for the economy and the society at large, and be discouraged from participating in corrupt practices.

Furthermore, serving government executives should make themselves available for questioning if need be, on their actions and perhaps when they are suspected for foul play. The media and civil society groups have an important role to play here; the government should encourage full freedom of press and information and not do this by simply signing laws but put it into practice.

Also, religious organizations should continue in their moral preaching of honesty as the best policy. Schools should also teach the students' value oriented subjects to let them know the evil of corruption on the nation and future generations.

The anti-graft agencies should be equipped technologically with the data base information of Nigerians which can always be updated in order to encourage accountability of earnings and spending of Nigerians. The government should be ready to take a bold step to serve as an example by practicing good governance, transparency, accountability with economic issues so that Nigerians will begin to believe in the system of government. Frivolous government spending on duplications of offices, and bureaucracies should also be reduced to its zero tolerance level. The fund should be used for developmental purposes to foster equal distribution of incomes, and the execution of developmental capital projects, etc.

Finally, new law that specifically deals with corrupt practices in all its facets should be enacted to stem the tide of judgment that were perceived too lenient, and be followed strictly when prosecuting corrupt offenders irrespective of their caliber or position in the society, double standard should be discouraged when dealing with the rich or the poor.

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