

PERSPECTIVES ON CORRUPTION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE NIGERIAN VARIANTS

Abdullahi Shehu Gusau

Department of Political Science, Federal University,
Lafia.Nasarawa State , Nigeria

Abstract

The raison det're of any political entity is the pursuance of its very means of sustenance in its system; thus no political organisation ever exists without the cognizant presence of the basic tools for achieving some levels of development. Nigeria, just like any other political entity subsists in the international system with its basic tools for achieving the maximum level of political, economic and social development. Be it as it may sound, the achievement of any significant levels of development is under constant hindrances of a canker - worm that has eaten very deep into our social fabrics; an economic malaise that has deferred any level of a thematic econometric medication; a political decay that has proven over the years irresponsive to anti-corrosive political elements; i.e. corruption. Corruption have distorted Nigeria's image both nationally and internationally. Nationally it has led to a total lack of political will on the part of our political entrepreneurs and lack of mass will on the part of the populace. Even the new democratic regimes could not meet the re-new hopes, vigor and aspirations that ushered it in, in 2009. It is on this backdrop that this paper titled:” **Perspectives on corruption and Development: The Nigerian Variant**”, intends to explore the impacts of corruption on development in Nigeria even as the country celebrates her centenary. This paper is divided into the following parts; (1). Introduction; (2). Theoretical Framework, (3). Corruption and Development: Conceptual issues, (4). Perspectives and Dimensions on corruption, (5). Impacts of corruption on Development: Political. Economic and Social, (6). Conclusion and Recommendations.

Keywords: Development, corruption, governance, good governance, colonialism

1. Introduction

The ushering in of the new democracy and especially, after three (3) successful elections and transitions from one civilian rules to another has

arouse among many Nigerians the enthusiasm for the full dividends of ‘democracy’. Strongly yearned among these dividends is ‘good governance’, perceived as the way and manner the political, economic and social resources of a country/nation is managed in order to ensure growth and development and foster all opportunities for the members of the community to subsist through the provisions of basic comforts.

Deriving from the above, thus the search for ‘development’ in Nigeria, though a historical truism, has been inhibited by a canker worm called ‘corruption’. The rubric of misrule witnessed under the military regimes are still present and in fact on the increase and are not limited to looting and embezzlements of the public coffers or bending official rules for personal gains, the pervasiveness of corruption litters virtually all aspects of the Nigerian life. Therefore, as one travelled across the country, one will be baffled at the sights of terror that corruption has meted out on Nigerians and their institutions- hospitals without drugs have become transition centers from this world to the grave; our graduates are jobless even as the numbers of universities increase; many women and their children are dismembered due to poor means of livelihood; our roads have become havens of death through the un-impinged activities of armed robbers and the structural damages on the highways; water and electricity have become the exclusive rights of the riches- thanks to the varieties of table water and PHCN blue lines, while education is better obtained under the shade of a tree than the dream of a classroom.

Furthermore, since the essence of any political organisation is to secure for the citizens an enduring conditions for a secure and happy life, the anti-theses of this is tantamount to the failure or total non-existence of the polity. Thus, for the continued existence of any government, the basic test of its existence is dependent on good governance. Though, corruption in some quarters is said to trigger development, but the truism of this could not be found in any Third World countries and Nigeria in deed. In Nigeria there are plethora of reasons to justify the assertions that corruption is having a devastating effects on the developmental aspirations of the country. More than 54% of Nigerians earns less than a dollar per day. Statistics have also shown that Nigeria is among four largest economies in Africa with a real GDP of 58.4 billion dollars and a population of about 160 millions. Thus the paradox of endemic poverty and hunger in the midst of plenty is a true manifestation of the aberration of ‘good governance’ on a grand style in Nigeria.

2. Theoretical Framework

Theories are the substance that gives research its life. According to Nachmias and Nachmias (1996) “theories help situate the analysis and

explanations of the work within a body of explanatory model which aids in the logical flow of the arguments and enhances the comprehension of the work”. Morgenthau (1973) also viewed a theory “not only as a guide to understanding, but also ideal for action, it must be a map of the political scene, not only in order to understand what the scene is like, but also in order to show the shortest and safest road to a given objective”.

There are many theories that can be used to explain the pervasiveness of corruption in Nigerian polity and most popular among these theories are; the development theory , theory of a ‘prebend’ society by Joseph Richard, underdevelopment and dependency theory etc. It is however, the wish of this write up to situate this research within the analytical framework of underdevelopment and dependency theory, because even though the theory of prebendalism as well as development theories analyses development from the modernist perspectives without taking into cognizance the underlying principles in the relations of the colonies and the peripheries which the UDT seeks to explain.

The underdevelopment and dependency theory believes in the analytical framework that the structure of international political economy derived its sustenance from the deliberate attempt of colonialism to develop one part of the world at the expense of the others. This means that development and underdevelopment are two sides of the same coin. Thus, the development of Europe and the America is dependent on the underdevelopment of Africa (Nigeria inclusive). Therefore, the expositions of Walter Rodney and that of Claude Ake are greatly supported in this essay. Rodney is of the opinion that to understand the underdeveloped nature of most African countries, we must have an extensive knowledge of the comparative relationships between Africa and Europe, “Africa today is underdeveloped in relation to Western Europe and a few other parts of the world; and that the present position has been arrived at, not by the separate evolution of Africa on the one hand and Europe on the other, but exploitation”.(Rodney, 1972:36)

Therefore, colonial exploitative relations with Africa, Nigeria indeed, have an unending impact on the problems of development, notable among which are corruption and governance crisi. Thus Africa’s developmental problems are often likened to issues like; colonial legacies, centrifugal forces of a pluralist societies, economic mismanagement, misplaced priorities, poor policy implementation and inappropriate planning. Though all these are on their own issues of concern in the discussion of development problems in Africa. But to fully understand the pervasiveness of corruption in our modern society, we must have a full grasp of the economic conditions in the society because, a society where a high degree of economic in equality exist, that society will tend to be repressive, therefore, theft (corruption), as a moral

value is something created and dependent on a particular economic condition. Where there is no scarcity and no private property, the idea of theft would not arise (Claude, A: 1981:2).

3. Conceptualizing Corruption

The concept of corruption have no universally (single) accepted definitions and just like any other concepts in the social sciences, its definition finds sustenance in the philosophical and ideological believe of a particular society. Despite this, the utility of the concept as a worldwide phenomenon is not contested, i.e. it is a phenomenon that has been found in underdeveloped, transitional and developed societies. It is a phenomenon that is more or less behavioral, though sometimes institutionally aggravated to a level considered detrimental to both the corrupting and the corrupted agents; hence the global approach in the condemnation of the act.

The term corruption is of Latin origin *rumpere* meaning to break or a break away or deviation from the right path. Corruption according to article 3 of the civil law convention on corruption means ‘requesting, offering, giving or accepting, directly or indirectly a bribe or any other undue advantage or prospect thereof, which distorts the proper performance of any duty or behavior required of the recipient of the bribe, the undue advantage or the prospect thereof’. (cited in Oyewole, O. Corruption: Challenge to Good Governance and Development in Nigeria). Corruption from this perspective denotes a relationship of two or more individuals whose behavior detrimentally affects effectiveness and efficiency in the performance of a duty.

From the foregoing therefore, corruption could be seen as breaking or bending the rules/regulation, code of conduct or law of a land, motivated by derivable personal gains to both the corrupt and the corrupting. These gains may be monetary or psychological without any feelings of injury or consequences of such action (s).

Nkom (1982) views corruption as “the perversion of public affairs for private advantage. Corruption includes bribery or the use of unauthorized rewards to influence people in position of authority either to act or refuse to act in ways beneficial to the private advantage of the giver and then that of the receiver”. Corruption according to this view point is the misuse of public power for private gain without reverence to any ethical code.

Gibbons (1976), Akindele (1995) opines that corruption have economic, political and socio-cultural connotations. Corruption in terms of political connotation denotes the manner in which public officials forsakes public interests measures in terms of mass opinion and support in order to ensure that some form of political advantage accrued to them at the expense of public interests. While socio-cultural connotations sees corruption as the

sacrifice of the general public interests. Example of this type of corruption abounds everywhere in Nigeria where a Minister is seen to represent his tribe, clan or religious interests.

Dimensions Of Corruption

Corruptions from which ever perspectives could be classified into two (2) major and easily discernible dimensions and these are: (1). Institutional and (2). Non-Institutional. This general classification is derived from the desire to separate official from non-official corruption, each having differing degree of consequences on the general wellbeing of individual members of the society.

1. Institutional Corruption. Institutional corruption represents a departure from what the general rules considered as legitimate procedures in the conduct of office. Corruption is institutional when a public office holder bestowed with public trust and resources sees his/her office as a convenient opportunity to derive personal gains from such practices as bribery, rent-seeking, forgery, impersonation, falsification of records, misappropriation of public resources and other related acts” (Oladoyin, A.M.(2012).b

The pervasiveness of institutional corruption could be traced to the emergent and development of public administration. Pre-colonial Nigeria could be said to maintain some high level of ethical code of conducts that regulates the relationships of members of the society using societal institutions. Taboos play a significant role in controlling and directing the behaviors of individuals towards moral upliftment in the society and encourage members to desist from acts of immorality. Thus, public administration, the discovery of oil and the movement towards affiliations and individualism to a very large extent contributed to the ignoble level of corruption we are experiencing today in Nigeria.

By level of intensity, institutional corruption can be a systemic or a lootocracy. A systemic institutional corruption is a situation where bribe taking and gifts have become the norms and unacceptability of such is often accompanied by punishments (subtle). According to Oladoyin (2012) “systemic corruption is the pervasive form of corruption in public office where public officials wantonly accepts bribes or gifts from the public when they exercise favoritism in official appointment and contract awarding”(Oladoyin, A.M. 2012)

A lootocracy on the other hand refers to an institutional corruption where government officials, especially politicians looted the treasury. It is refers to as embezzlement of public offices without regards to the consequences such acts may place on public comforts. Lootocracy is mostly practice by high level and middle level management, and clothed in such practices as inflation of contracts, ghost workers etc.

2. Non-Institutional corruption. Non- institutional corruption is also known as private corruption, because it does not involve public offices, for example, if a story teller lies or exaggerated in order to get his story accepted by a group is corruption, but this does not affect any office, and so does it go for a bettor and a boxer. When a bettor bribes a boxer in order to throw in a fight is corruption, does it subvert any institutional rule or code? But yet the disposition of the corrupt action lies in the morality of the boxer and the bettor.

This analysis brings us to the moral implications of corruption. We must therefore agree that the phenomenon of moral corruption represents a departure from what the society considers as acceptable procedures in the exchange of goods and services and of personal relations between members of the society. Thence, from this moral viewpoint we can explicate that what is corruption in one society may not necessarily be so in another society depending on the prescribed moral foundation of the social life of the people.

Historical Antecedents And Causes Of Corruption In Nigeria The Colonial Period

Tracing the history of corruption in Nigeria may be a hard nut to crack, more especially since pre-colonial societies in Nigeria have both traditional and religious norms that check the behaviors of members of the and keep them in conformity to societal values be it economic, political or socio-cultural. Colonialism specifically disrupted the existing foundation of economic and social relation and with its new educational system (Western education), urbanization and the monetization of the economy brought about significant changes in the accumulation and distribution of wealth in Nigeria. Thus as a colonial precedents, corruption could be said to have its root in the colonial court system which replace the traditional system of adjudication. Colonial court and judicial system was essentially based on labor relations i.e. to compel indigenes to work in consonance to the labor interests of the colonial masters. The indirect rule system also extricated the traditional chiefs from their primary duties of an overseers and adjudicator in both civil and criminal matters in the land and in their place was the arbitrary appointments of people of questionable characters to the colonial courts.

This episode led to the abuse and misuse of administrative power for personal gains either in favor of a friend, family, tribal members or because of the sheer volume of the economic reward that accompanied such favoritisms.

Furthermore, colonialism introduced in its wake an ostentatious life-style based on gross accumulation of wealth and scandalous spending. This changed the hitherto attitudes of many Nigerians to change their traditional morally inclined outlook to a modern one, where wealth is sourced with

reference to moral and legal implications. Throughout the colonial period, most Nigerians were stuck in ignorance and poverty, and thus the trappings of flashy cars, conspicuous houses and much other success of the colonists may have influence on the poor to see the colonists as symbols of success worthy of emulation in different political ways.

The Post-Independence Corruption Quagmire

Post-independence Nigeria inherited a political structure, economic foundation and social relations built on faulty foundations. This foundation is dependent on and an offshoot of the colonial structures, the end of which is the continuous exploitation of the country's abundant resources in a manner that is more or less subtle, more or less devastating. Thus the post-independent corruption quagmire in Nigeria is political in nature, though the struggle for political power is in essence the struggle for the control of the scarce resources (economic). The political corruption that first surfaced in Nigeria's polity is recorded in electoral corruption and mal practices. During the first civilian regime, the election and electoral processes were shrouded in the use of money to buy votes, employment of thugs to intimidate political opponents, hiring of assassins to eliminate opponents, hijacking of electoral boxes and materials and the printing of fake voters' cards. By implication therefore, those who ascend to position of authority through these corrupt means have no other pre-occupation than to engage in embezzlement and looting public treasury to support or pay political patronages, return on investments (political) and also meet the demand of a new life-style of public sleaze and total lack of decorum.

The military coup that short-lived that democratic regime in 1966 posited as some of the reasons for staging the coup thus; intense regionalism, parochial attitudes towards the conduct of public offices and wanton corruptions on the part of the politicians. Thus, General A. Ironsi asserts that "the provisions of the decree (Decree No. 34, 24 May 1966) are intended to remove the last vestiges of the intense regionalisms of the recent past and to produce that cohesion in the governmental structure which is so necessary in achieving and maintaining the paramount objective of the national Military Government, and indeed of every true Nigerian, namely, national unity.

Although, the Military sees itself as the custodian of the nation's constitution and often prized it as a corrective regimes when it seizes power, in reality several military regimes have proven to be more endemic of corruption than their civilian counterparts. Thus from General Gowon's administration which was seen as the first military regime that fosters corruption through Generals Murtala and Buhari's corrective regims to the General Babangida's regime, corruption under the military and different civilian administration has been on the increase.

However, the General Babangida's military regime was acknowledged by many as the regime that formalized and legalized corruption on a large scale. The inability of the administration to give an account of the over \$12.4 billion US dollar from the gulf oil windfall was often cited as the most glaring political corruption in Nigerian history.(www.wikipedia.org).

Following closely the Gen. babangida's administration is the administration of Gen. Abacha. The Gen. Abacha's administration ousted the Shonekan's Interim Government and could not be said to be a sacred cow in the corruption scandal. Thus, after the demise of the Kano born Gen. various investigations of bribery and other financial misconduct by the French Government open yet another can of worms in Nigeria's political corruption. An account containing about \$100 million US dollars was frozen and in 2000 many Swiss banks were indicted for informally allowing friends and family of Gen. Abacha access to and deposit about \$600 million US dollars into these accounts, while more than \$1 billion dollars were found in different banks across Europe.(www.wikipedia.org. Retrieved 09/05/2013)

Going by the above, we could understand that 'corruption' is in fact Nigeria's middle name thus making it difficult to get out of this cancerous situation. Thus throwing the sword like the gladiators, dancing around the rings like the boxer, Nigeria becomes stranded in the quagmire called corruption. What then are the causes of this monster staring our developmental efforts and zeal right in the eyes?

Causes Of Corruption In Nigeria

The causes of corruption could be classified under the following headings, though the list is inexhaustible.

- Colonialism and colonists' life-style
- Cultural and value system
- Poor rewarding system
- Poor leadership style.

Colonialism and Colonists' life-style: It may not be right of course to state that pre-colonial Nigeria is corruption free as there were immoral acts like raping, ritualism, petty stealing from farm wares, but the argument is that these acts are not nakedly paraded and there are institutional rules that ensure conformity to standard behavior and, deviations are met with fierce and enduring punishment like out casting, deportation and eventual sacrifice to the evil forest etc., but the coming of colonialism, colonial administrative system of direct and indirect rules, taxation and the colonists' flamboyant life-style pave the way for the formalization of naked corruption in Nigeria.

The process of indirect rule for example, turned our leaders into stooges of the colonial masters. Colonial power are entrusted to traditional

leaders who in turn hold these power in trust for the colonial authorities, and thus government during this time becomes not only irresponsible to the people, but also antagonistic to the yearnings of the masses.

Colonialism also appoints people with dubious characters as warrant chiefs and in different positions in the colonial administration. These people were easily manipulated by the colonial masters and who in turn seek more prestige through bribery and extortions from the common man in order to get access to goods and services or even judicial leniencies as in the case of adjudication in the colonial courts.

Another factor which aggravated corruption during the colonial period is the issue of taxation. Colonial masters without reference to the economic status of individuals in the society, imposes flat rate taxes on citizens. These taxes are collected and used to run the colonial administration, pay for the salaries of colonial officers and the general welfare of the colonists with little or no benefits to the common man. The extortions of these taxes are often violent in nature, and thus the result was “the evolution of a latently corrupt system, devoid of accountability and which pitched the citizens against themselves and against the ruling class”. (cited in Origin of Corruption in Africa and the Way Forward. www.anticorruptionleague.org). The colonial police and military were established to crush opposition to colonial rule in Nigeria. While the colonists’ life-style in the form of cars, spacious houses and conspicuous consumption patterns were some of the driving forces that lure people into corrupt practices.

Cultural Factor and Value System: In Third World countries of Africa and indeed Nigeria, culture plays a vital role in social relation. There is a strong link between individuals and tribal associations which eventually has been found in many instances to lead to bending the rules in favor of tribe, clan or religion that one found him/her self. Thus, corruption in Nigeria is “linked to the strong family values that have feelings to fulfill the obligation attached thereto”. (Banfield 1958).

Furthermore, many societies across the length and breadth of this country have change their value system of honesty, transparency and honor to besieging on individuals such honors and trust on whose source of wealth and riches are clouded in all forms of iniquities. It is now easy for wealthy individual to receive traditional and honorable titles irrespective of how those wealth are sought. In fact some are known ritualists and fraudsters, but because of the intense poverty, dishonesty and lust for worldly material or sheer greediness of the leaders instead of these filthily, un honorable riches to be banished from the society, they are been celebrated and are the reserve of many chieftaincy and traditional titles. This phenomenon contributed in no small measure to the high level of corruption in Nigeria.

Poor Rewarding System: The present political landscape in Nigeria is one that is very slow or poor in rewarding a good deed, in fact in some cases without proper investigation good deeds are often punished while crime go scot free. A recent analogy is the Farouq Lawan oil subsidy scandal, while the legislature is in custody for alleged bribery by an oil guru who is walking freely and in fact more revered than the three term legislature. The case in point is that since the receiver and the giver in a bribery relationship are viewed as having committed the same crime under the law, then why is one being held in custody while the other is walking freely without any reference to the contributions of the legislature to the country, even as his committee on the oil subsidy was the one that discovered the atrocities been perpetrated on the country's economy by the oil multinationals.

Furthermore, poor salary and discrepancies in salary of civil servants is another factor that increases corruption in Nigeria. Take home pay of many civil servants cannot actually take them home, and while some parastatals and or ministries receive relatively good pay some are highly poorly paid. Though, high salary may not have helped in checking corruptions in the lucrative ministries, it also pave the way for those working in poorly attended to ministries to engage in all kinds of unethical practices in order to make up for a life-style at least relatively comparable to their counterparts in the more lucrative ministries. Example is to compare between a graduate working in EFCC, NNPC or CBN and a graduate teaching in secondary school.

Poor Leadership Styles: Poor leadership styles and lack of political will are factors that are central in the discussion of corruption in Nigeria. Many of our leaders through fraudulent means engendered by faulty electoral processes, political godfatherism and favoritism, and thus since all these are corrupt way of attaining power, their first pre-occupation when they assume the 'mandate' of power is to quickly enriched themselves and make profits on their investments, meet the demands of their political mentors and patronage without any feeling of remorse on the impacts their action may have on the general well-being of the polity.

Also the laizzez faire attitudes of our political leaders deriving from the above are another factor. Public administration is carried out in the interests of the 'oga at the top' which affects the role of especially middle level management when it comes to effectiveness and efficiency in the conduct of official duties.

3.2. Development

The concept of development like any other concept in the social sciences means different things to different people, depending on their time

and or ideological leanings. To V.I Lenin [1968], development is a progressive movement; an ascension from lower to higher stages and from simple to complex situations. Development according this definition must follow a process of social evaluations pertinent in the division of labor. Development according Mirakhor and Askari[2010]” refers to all the quantitative growth, qualitative improvement and expansion in the capabilities, capacities and choices of individuals, groups or states” .

Dudley Seers (1972), one of the foremost theorist of development opined that to talk of development is to answer three (3) fundamental questions regarding the life of a organisation and or country; these questions are: (1). What is happening to poverty,(2). What is happening to unemployment,(3). What is happening to inequality among the populace? To him if all these three are on the decline form higher to lower, then there is development, but if all indices shows that all are on the increase, then we cannot say there is development even if there is increase in GDP and a proportionate increase in per capita income. Development therefore, could be said to be ‘people centered’ and not the differential increase in the functions of the market which may be monopolistic even under a liberal economy. Development must ensure dynamic, rapid and incremental economic activities in the hands of the general populace which empower them and detached them from the malaise of dependence. Political development means freedom (total) in electoral choices, expression of opinions and association and most importantly ability to incorporate majority of the citizens either directly or through their representatives in the choice of policy and decisions that affects their lives. And this is why Rodney argued that “we can’t say there is development when there is a corresponding decline or retrogression in quality of life for a significant portion of the population” (1972).

4. Impacts Of Corruption On Development In Nigeria

Economically, corruption in Nigeria has led to the underutilization of resources (both human and natural). It has sapped beneath our human potentialities the efficiency and effectiveness that is most cherished in order to build a vibrant, transparent and accountable administrative ethics needed to propel our economic development. As a result of bribery and other forms of corruption, openness, transparency and accountability to the general will of the public are sacrificed for individual, group or personal gains.

Furthermore, as a result of corruption, economically, the country has not been able to fully mobilize domestic resources through improved budgetary management and revenue collection. This is made possible through the activities of individual international actors, corporate organizations’ and Multinational Corporation who always have their way by bribing top government officials to get contracts or tax waivers on their

investments. Corruption has also led to the low level of attraction of private capitals that is need for investments and commercial inflows which in turn can help check capital flight. Thus corruption undermines economic development by generating considerable distortions and inefficiency. In the private sector, corruption increases the cost of business through the price of illicit payments themselves, kickbacks, inflation of contracts, the management cost of negotiating with officials.....” Hon. Justice Oyewole, O (2010).

Political corruption has led to the emergence of a class of leaders or politicians who assumed power through many forms of electoral irregularities. Corruption in the political realm has led to lack of fairness in dealing with different segment that make up the geopolitical landscape of the country. The rules of fairness and equity in dealing with citizens have been eroded, not everyone is now equal before the law; some are above the law and they are referred to as ‘untouchable’. There are different clauses in the Nigerian constitution that our political leaders have put in place to separate them from the common man, thus while petit thief may spend several years in prison without option of fine, a governor who looted his state treasury may get a ‘presidential pardon.

Political corruption had dimed the image of the country internationally and led to the changing perceptions of many about Nigerians abroad, Nigerians are viewed as very dubious and thus command no trust in their international dealings. Political corruption has impacted negatively on the political will of our leaders, mismanagement of economic resources and loss of moral legitimacy and lack of support from the general populace. Political corruption also breeds nepotism and granting of favor to clients and tribal acquaintances. Political corruption could be said to be the most prominent down grading types of corruption that makes all forms of developments elusive to the Nigerian people.

Furthermore, high level corruption diminishes the moral obligations of the citizens to their country/nation, as corrupt citizens do not have respect for the rule of law. Corruption from the moral perspectives may also lead to poor service delivery and in many cases may cause social conflicts and violence as competing groups vie for political power in order to have control of the scarce resources.

Conclusion

Corruption from the on-going discussion could be said to be the bane of development in Nigeria. It is manifested in poor policy formulation and implementation. It is reflected in the many political and socio-economic ills confronting this giant of Africa (Nigeria). To however break the iniquitous cycle of corruption, emphasis should be geared towards entrenching good

governance which in modern context means a transformation in the manner by which the political, economic and socio-cultural wellbeing of the society is met in order to achieve optimum level of development.

The core of good governance, however are people oriented political and economic activities that are aimed at the overall development of the nation. The main concern of good governance is how to uphold the major principles and or pillars of development which among others includes; transparency, honesty, rule of law, due process and good and accountable political leaders, thus in the words of Moyosore (2013) “a failed, corrupt and inept leadership coupled with incremental domestic socio-political environment have plunged development performance in Nigeria in the abyss. (ibid: 13).

Recomendation

It is the wish of this author to recommends that in order to effectively combat corruption in Nigeria efforts should be towards strengthening the political will of our leaders to fully implement all the extant laws or constitutional clauses on corrupt practices without favor or prejudice. There are enough provisions in the Nigerian Legal System to fight corruption effectively, what is required is the actualization of those laws. Civil society organisation has a crucial role to play towards this end.

It is also advisable to bring all the anti-corruption agencies together in order to make them more focused and strengthened their capacity to carry out their functions effectively. This will also check the issue of duplication of duties and responsibilities.

That the transformation agenda of the present administration should be redirected towards being people - oriented rather than the present institutional approach to the political, economic and socio-cultural transformation of the nation. What we are observing now is that the transformation movement is only beneficial and meaningful to those at the corridor of power and not the common man on the street. Thus, if one walk through the nooks and crannies of this country what will meet the eye is a socio-political landscape symptomized by abject poverty and deprivation among the people.

There should be total transparency and accountability in the conducts of official functions. The media should intensify their efforts at exposing any iniquities in the conduct of official duties. A recent trend where the media reports and expose corruptions in many ministries/parastatals is highly commendable, but a lot still needs be done.

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