

Strengthening and Sustaining the Corruption War for Nation Building: The Unexplored Options

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Abstract: This study examined ways for strengthening and sustaining of corruption war for nation building. The objectives of the study were; to examine the effects of corruption in Nigeria, to explore the various Anti-corruption programmes in Nigeria and to analyze the ways of implementing corruption war as an option for nation building. To achieve these objectives, the study employed exploratory design which based the findings on the literature explored. The findings revealed that corruption leads to erosion of moral values, which perverts a nation's sense of right and wrong. It was also revealed that corruption increases social evils in the country which provides fertile soil for tribalism, nepotism, fraud, dishonesty, selfishness, kidnapping, prostitution, human-trafficking, mal-administration, and robbery. This may lead to murder, religious bigotry, civil war and other vices. It was further shown that corruption breeds lack of transparency. Based on this, it was concluded that for the level of corruption to be minimized, the leaders should put in place appropriate preventive and punitive measures. Additionally, ethical re-orientation of the citizenry should be vigorously pursued because of our firm believe that the war against corruption is not or should not be the exclusive preserve of the government alone.

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I. Introduction

Corruption has been identified as a cankerworm and the major obstacle to the development of Nigeria (Adenike, 2013). Corruption is indubitably one of the greatest challenges of the Nigerian state that stands out as contributing significantly to impoverishment and loss of lives. The impact, of course, threatens the stability of the Nigerian society. The issue of political corruption has been a recurring decimal in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation that is richly endowed with immense natural and human resources but squandered in hysterical adventure of corruption that have led the nation into a state of underdevelopment due largely to uncommitted self-serving leaders to national development. Large scale corruption in Nigeria is rooted in the collapse of oil price in the world market in the early 1980s. The expansion in economic activities which Nigeria witnessed in the 1970s as a result of the oil boom came to an abrupt end and affected the economy badly.

Some of the attendant consequences of this collapse ranged from low capacity utilization in industries, unprecedented retrenchment of workers, unemployment, and irregular payments of wages and salaries in both public and private sectors. These forces either singularly or collectively fueled the advent of corruption in the system. The intervention of the military in governance and politics and their style of administration worsened the situation. The impact of this cankerworm called corruption is well documented and generally accepted as a challenge that has to be confronted if the Nigerian state is to move forward. The focus by the various administrations has led to the adoption of strategies, programmes and agencies to tackle the problem of corruption and the attendant poor service delivery in Nigeria. However, the challenge remains. Several measures have been set up by various administrations over the years to fight corruption, yet the issue of corruption have continued to recur. What are the strategies that have been deployed in the fight against corruption and why are these strategies not winning the war against corruption? This study examines ways for strengthening and sustaining the war on corruption for nation building with emphasis on the unexplored options.

II. Statement Of The Problem

In spite of the attempt by many governments in Nigeria to fight and eliminate corruption, corruption has become a way of life in Nigeria which defies any reasonable solution. Anti-corruption programmes are disrupted by internal societal factors such as cultures or ethnic resistant to change, gender inequality, political corruption, the reckless misuse of available resources and sabotage situations (Umana and Okafor, 2019). The existing body of knowledge on anti-corruption in Nigeria tilts to its public, state-centric, official, micro and bureaucratic nature, to the neglect of the private, societal, unofficial, macro and informal side. The informal side of corruption, which has often suffered neglect from scholars and public affairs analysts, has far more reaching consequences on the state, than the widely acclaimed public corruption. The Nigerian state and the larger society have had to grapple with mind-boggling and unprecedented cases of corruption from the early post-independence years, to the most recent happenings in her political history. Indeed, the inefficiency of the past government, military and civilian, has been pervaded by to serious corruption. There is a scandalous wealth among the ruling class while the mass of Nigerians are living in poverty, misery and degradation (Nwogu and Ijirshar, 2016). In 2012, it was estimated that Nigeria has lost an estimated \$400 to \$800 billion to corruption since independence.

Consequently, the study seeks to analyze ways of strengthening and sustaining of the corruption war for nation building.

III. Theoretical Framework

This study anchored our theoretical framework on the Rentier state theory. This theory was postulated by Max Weber in 1934. It seeks to explain state-society relations in states where a large portion of incomes comes from rents. These rents which are mostly royalties are distributed to the society to relieve them of the burden of tax. A rentier state performs the role of allocating income that it receives from the rest of the world. The rentier state is free to do whatever it wants as long as the domestic economy is not tapped to raise further income through domestic taxation. When it allocates a minimum amount to society to the level that the domestic economy produces, it leaves the state free to do what it wishes with the remaining wealth.

The Nigerian state is a typical rentier state where the income are mainly derived from rent from extractive oil companies and with an unproductive base, the struggle to control the Nigerian state is always fierce among the elites. The Nigerian state is surely an instrument purely designed for exploitation just like many other sub-Saharan African state. This means that the Nigerian state from inception operated a structural system that promotes the interests of the capitalists to the detrimental of the masses. On this score, the evolution of the Nigerian state runs contrary to the Aristotelian natural evolution of society which promotes the interests of the general collectives who lay claim to it as members. This implies that the Nigerian state was not created to serve the interests of Nigerian citizens. That Nigeria is an amalgam of disparate ethnic and religious groups locked up in a marriage of convenience by European overlords who did not care about the various fault-lines that have continued to generate instability and underdevelopment even after the colonialists had left the scene, cannot be in doubt. Even though there was unity among the Nigerian political elite to dislodge the colonialists, the system which the Nigerian nationalists inherited was never designed to serve the interests of the collectives, but has largely remained an instrument for the advancement of the parochial interests of a few privileged classes within the ruling elite. Ogbeidi (2012) captures the picture when he argued that politics in Nigeria is a form of struggle for the control of the commanding heights of the state where main decisions about public policy are made and enforced. This, of course, has shaped the dynamics of politics in Nigeria and made it a zero-sum game in the sense that advancement in economics is synonymous with advancement in politics. The implication of this is the high value placed on political power in Nigeria which has created an obsessive preoccupation with politics since that is the only avenue for economic accumulation.

Access to political power implies that the lucky elements would be in charge of the numerous government owned industries and enterprises of which they can lay their hands into the till without being accountable to the general public. Oil exploration introduced an entirely new element into the structure of Nigerian state; the internal predatory elite saw it as a blessing from above meant only to serve their parochial interests without recourse to Nigerians even those from the communities where the oil is produced. It was in this light that fiscal centralization that the country witnessed shortly after independence was introduced. Corruption was link to the fall of the Nigerian Second Republic. This is as a result of prebendalism in which state offices are regarded as pretends that can be appropriated by office holders, who use them to generate material benefits for themselves and their constituents and kin groups. While clientelism and prebendalism might be mutually reinforcing, the two concepts have separate meanings. Clientelism defines the nature of individual and group relationships within the broader social and political space, prebendalism are essentially a function of the competition for, and appropriation of the offices of the state. Clientelism assists to understand the mechanism of (how) class control legitimizes the lopsided distribution of resources among social groups and enhances the status of the political elite. This character of the Nigerian state makes it difficult to tackle corruption in spite of

the measures that have been put in place over the years. The relevance of the theory to the study is that it lay emphasis on why Nigeria is still unable to tackle corruption despite its measures.

IV. Conceptual And Theoretical Explications

The concept of corruption means different thing to different people depending on the individual's cultural background, discipline and political leaning (Ajie and Gbenga, 2015). However, the manner in which corruption is defined ends up determining what gets modelled and measured (Ajere and Oyinloye, 2011). It is an act in which the power of the public office is used for personal gain in the manner that contravenes the rules of the game (Ajere and Oyinloye, 2011). Given its impact on the society, Anzene (2014) sees corruption in the following perspective; corruption is an antisocial behaviour by an individual or social group which confers unjust or fraudulent benefits on its perpetrators. It is inconsistent with the established legal norms and prevailing moral ethos of the land and is likely to subvert or diminish the capacity of the legitimate authorities to provide fully for the material and spiritual well-being of all manners of society in a just and equitable manner. Corruption from this perspective is seen as "outright theft, embezzlement of funds or other misappropriation of state property, nepotism and the granting of favour to personal acquaintances and the abuse of the public authority to exact payments and privileges" (Rotimi, Obasaju, Lawal, and IseOlorunkanmi, 2013). Viewed from this angle, the general public is seen as the principal victim and the public officials as the agents.

According to Obasola (2015), corruption in Nigeria occurs in so many different forms. Political corruption which takes place at the highest levels of political authority, affects the manner in which decisions are made. Electoral corruption is the buying of votes, special favours to anointed candidates or promises of illegitimate votes to certain candidates. This can result in conflicts (Umana, 2019). Another type is bureaucratic corruption which takes place among public servants. This type of corruption is what the citizen's experience in ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) including schools, hospitals and police stations (Ovienloba 2007). For Olarinmoye (2008), electoral corruption finds an intimate link between electoral process and poor governance. When electoral processes are subverted, it leads to the installation of individuals who pursue their private interest rather than the general interest hence this will eventually lead to bad governance, poverty and economic underdevelopment that have plagued Nigeria (Olarinmoye, 2008). One aspect of corruption that has contributed to Nigeria's underdevelopment is bureaucratic corruption which does not allow for effective management of resources by the government that could improve the well-being of the citizens making it an obstacle to good governance in Nigeria (Ola, Mohammed and Audi, 2014). Agba (2010) examines the different types of corruption and concluded that bureaucratic and political corruption weaken good governance. This is so because policy makers become hesitant in taking decisions to reduce corruption or introduce new reforms to combat it.

According to Ibraheem, Umar and Ajoke (2013), corruption is a deviation from the formal duties of a public role because of pecuniary exercise of certain types of private influences. This includes such behaviour as bribery, nepotism and misappropriation. This view perceives corruption as a deviant behaviour which implies that the normal behaviour will be antithetical to corruption. Falade and Falade (2013) characterizes corruption as behaviour of public officials, which deviates from accepted norms in order to serve private end. Along that line, the Bretton Woods Institutions see corruption as the abuse of public office. For the World Bank, corruption is the abuse of public office through the instrumentality of private agents, who actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit (Egwemi and Monday, 2010). Beyond bribery, public office can also be abused for benefit through patronages and nepotism in the form of theft of state assets or diversion of revenue (Bello-Iman, 2005). A different angle from the aforementioned is the position of Enu and Esu, (2011) who posits that corruption is the perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour or moral depravity. This conception is different and broader, because it looks at the moral aspect as well as the distortion of procedures. However, Transparency International defines corruption as behaviour on the part of officials in the public sector, whether politicians or civil servants, in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, or those close to them, by the misuse of public power entrusted to them (Akor, 2014). Although the definition of the Transparency International is very descriptive, it focuses only on the public sector and excluded the private sector even though acts of corruption in that sector may have implication for the society (Nwankwo, 2014). The Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 defines corruption to include bribery, fraud and other related offences like gratification. The Act gave a very wide definition of gratification to mean among other things the offer or promise or receipt or demand of money, donation, gift, loan, fee, reward, valuable, security, property or interest in property with the intent to influence such a person in the performance or non-performance of his/her duties (ICPC, 2000).

V. Measuring Corruption

Transparency International (TI) is an international governmental organization that began measuring corruption in the mid-1990s. Because data on corruption is scarce, especially in countries with less transparency

and oversight, TI measures the perception of corruption through surveys of populations within the countries analyzed. Part of the survey includes questions such as how many times a citizen has paid a bribe to a government official within the last year. For this reason, the measure of perceived corruption is more representative of petty corruption than grand level corruption. Because this study focuses on grand corruption, Transparency International's corruption data is not an entirely accurate representation of political corruption in Nigeria. Moreover, annual surveys are done, but the questions asked and people surveyed may change on an annual basis, making comparing their corruption reports over time unfeasible. For example, Nigeria's rank in the corruption index (1 as least corrupt) decreased from 50th in 1996 and 134th in 2010, suggesting corruption increased; however, Nigeria's corruption score (10 least corrupt, 0 most corrupt) improved from a 0.69 to a 2.4. Nigeria's rank decreased because the number of countries included in the survey increased from only 50 in 1996 to 178 in 2010. Another weakness of using TI's corruption data is that it does not differentiate between accepted forms of corruption and illegitimate corruption. Since the concept of corruption is so subjective, as stated earlier, what one person considers to be a bribe may be seen as a gift by another, therefore, the actual incidents of bribery may be over-reported or underreported.

Despite these weaknesses, Transparency International is the only international organization that publically measures corruption to date. Because corruption data is limited to only one source, which has not been consistent annually, the data produced in attempts to measure corruption perception over time may not be accurate. However, the consensus in the literature that political corruption exists in Nigeria allows for this study to concentrate more on social welfare than proving political corruption.

Systematic methods of measuring grand level corruption have yet to emerge. Corruption at this level is arduous to measure because it involves fewer individuals and is performed surreptitiously. Since the creation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Nigeria, grand level corruption is increasingly being exposed. The first EFCC Chairman, NuhuRibadu, reported that more than \$440 billion in national revenues had been stolen since 1960 (Ribadu 2009). The EFCC has its own website where it publishes reports for public consumption, as well as pending cases against defendants charged with corruption. Until charges are filed though, grand level corruption remains a covert phenomenon. Grand level corruption can then only be measured by the known instances and the financial amounts they involve. Nevertheless, in the short amount of time that the EFCC has been operating, it has uncovered a substantial amount of grand level corruption that has helped explain why Nigerian society suffers from such inadequate social welfare. Modernization of government processes, such as record keeping, makes grand corruption more difficult to hide. The more data that becomes available on grand level corruption, the easier it will become to derive a systematic methodology of measurement. Corruption between the private and public sectors are frequently connected. The government awards contracts to private companies for infrastructure construction and maintenance. It is often through this procurement process that corruption between the public and private sectors converge. This aspect of corruption transfers wealth from the state treasury to the business elite as well as political officials. Creating transparency in the procurement process should moderate corruption in this area and create more equitable competition in the private sector. Good governance in the public sector would set a good example for corporate ethics policy in the private sector. EITI, as discussed previously, encourages the same diligence in the private sector as governments are committed to the public sector. Corruption within the private sector, society, and between the private sector and society, however, is beyond the scope of this study, but may be an important area of study for future research in measuring the impact, either positive or negative, that forms of corruption have on each other.

As a result of such conceptual complexities, this paper strives to isolate political corruption from private sector forms of corruption in an attempt to avoid complications surrounding the operationalization of corruption. For purposes of this research, political corruption will be limited to corruption by high-level government officials including, but not limited to, presidents, state governors, and former military rulers. "Nigerians largely view that corruption emanates from bad leadership" (Egwemi, 2010). Furthermore, this paper also distinguishes between grand corruption (which involves larger sums of money) and petty corruption because instances of grand corruption are more often documented by the EFCC.

VI. The Concept Of Nation Building

Nation building means creating a country that functions out of a non-functioning one – either because the old one has been destroyed in a war, has fallen apart, or never really worked properly, as occurred in Iraq, the Soviet Union, and Afghanistan respectively. Nation building is the process whereby a society of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state with a unified constitutional and legal dispensation, a national public education system, an integrated national economy, shared symbols and values, as equals, to work towards eradicating the divisions and injustices of the past; to foster unity; and promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly Nigerian, committed to the country and open to the continent and the world.

Nation building refers to the process of constructing or structuring a national identity using the power of the state. This process aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. Nation building can involve the use of propaganda or major infrastructure development to foster social harmony and economic growth. Nation building can be defined as the development of behaviors, values, language, institutions, and physical structures that elucidate history and culture, concretize and protect the present, and insure the future identity and independence of a nation. Nation building also means more abstract process of developing a shared sense of identity or community among the various groups making up the population of a particular state. Distinguished in this way, 'state-building' focuses on the practical task of building or strengthening state institutions, while 'nation-building' is more concerned with the character of relations between citizens and their state. 'State-building' has long been a focus of international development assistance with a wide range of capacity-building programs directed at strengthening key institutions. 'Nation building', on the other hand, has often been viewed as a more nebulous process with a limited role for external assistance.

The goal of nation building is to unify the people within the country so that it remains politically viable and stable over the long term. Nation building can take many forms, including major infrastructure development or propaganda to encourage social harmony and trigger economic growth. It may also include the creation of national paraphernalia, such as national days, national airlines, anthems, flags, national stadiums, national languages, national sports teams, as well as national heroes and myths. At a deeper and more subtle level, nation building involves building different ethnic groups into one national entity. This can be especially challenging in countries that had been colonized because colonial powers would typically divide, rule and suppress the region's social, ethnic, religious and cultural evolution.

VII. The Effect Of Corruption On Nation Building In Nigeria

Corruption is a cankerworm and can eat any society it besets to death. In fact, there are lots of negative impacts of corruption on every sphere of societal development: social, economic and political. For instance, Akosile (2010) posits that corruption is a global phenomenon and its effects on individual, institutions, countries and global development have made it an issue of universal concern. Why is it a concern? Because of the negative consequences it has on society and the citizenry. According to the Lima Declaration, the impact of corruption includes the erosion of the moral fabric of society, violation of the social and economic rights of the poor and vulnerable, undermining of democracy, subversion of the rule of law, retardation of development and denial of society, particularly the poor, of the benefits of free and open competition (Akosile, 2010).

The negative effects of corruption, according to Adewale (2011), include:

- i) Erosion of moral values: It perverts a nation's sense of right and wrong. In a corrupt society, the right becomes the wrong and the wrong becomes right.
- ii) Increased social evils: It provides fertile soil for tribalism, nepotism, fraud, dishonesty, selfishness, kidnapping, prostitution, human-trafficking, mal-administration, and robbery. It may also lead to murder, religious bigotry, civil war and other vices.
- iii) Lack of transparency: Corruption encourages those in authority to shun transparency and accountability. Calls for public officials to be transparent and accountable elicit defensive and vindictive responses.
- iv) Disregard for the rule of law: Corruption encourages individuals, entities and institutions to cut corners and ignore legal requirements. It leads also to unlawful detention of innocent citizens, perceived enemies and opposition party members by the Federal government. It can be extremely difficult to obtain justice under this situation.

Other consequences of corruption include oppression of the weak, loss of public trust, adoption of a utilitarian ethic, destruction of the moral fibre of society, poor productivity and incompetence, ineffective development and administration, limited foreign and domestic investment, undermining of democracy, and general under development. Many Nigerians seem to accept or even benefit from corruption.

VIII. The Major Anti-Corruption Programmes In Nigeria

Several laws were enacted to prevent, investigate and punish corrupt acts of public officers as well as members of the general public who engage in corrupt practices. These include among others, the Code of Conduct Bureau Act Cap 56 LFN 1990, the EFCC Establishment Act, 2004 and the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000. This review will be limited to only these three institutions and the provisions of their establishment acts.

- i) **Code of conduct bureau:** The Code of Conduct Bureau was established to ensure high standard of morality in the conduct of government business. Also established, although autonomous, is the Code of Conduct Tribunal which has the responsibility of adjudicating on cases sent to it by the Code of Conduct Bureau. The Bureau specifically has the mandate to implement Section 3, Part 1 of the Fifth Schedule of the 1999

Constitution of the Federal Republic. It receives and investigates declarations of public officers regarding the assets acquisition and prosecute officials discovered to have made false declaration of assets or fails to declare assets. It also sets standard regarding the code of conduct for public servants. These relate to issues of divided loyalty and receiving income for activities that are adjudged immoral. These activities include, seeking and collecting bribe, gratification and gifts for or before performing one's duties as public servant or receiving remunerations from different sources and in a manner considered unfair or improper.

The law establishing the Code of Conduct Bureau also makes it a serious offence for public officers who fail to complete and submit to the bureau the assets declaration form on timely basis. The punishment for breaching the provisions of the Code of Conduct Bureau Act range from removal of the officer from office, disqualification from holding public office for not less than ten years, to seizure and forfeiture to the state of any property acquired in abuse or corruption of office. This is however, without prejudice to the penalties that may be imposed by any law where the conduct is also a criminal offence.

ii) The economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC): The EFCC is an institution established by the EFCC Act, 2002 and EFCC (Establishment) Act, 2004 as the designated Financial Intelligence Unit in Nigeria with the responsibility of coordinating the various institutions involved in the fight against money laundering and investigation and enforcement of all laws dealing with economic and financial crimes in Nigeria. In addition to the powers conferred on the Commission by the Act, it has responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the Money Laundering Act 2004; 2003 No. 7; and 1995 No. 13, the Advance Fee Fraud and Related Offences Act, 1995, the Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts) and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act, The Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991 as amended, Miscellaneous Offences Act; and any other law or regulation relating to economic and financial crimes, including Criminal Code and Penal Code.

The Act provides for a life imprisonment for offences relating to financing of terrorism while offences relating to false information regarding issues specified in the Act attracts imprisonment terms of between 2 to 3 years for that offender and 3 to 5 years if the offender is a public officer. Section 17 of the Act provides for an imprisonment term of not less than 3 years or a fine equivalent of 100 per cent of the value of the proceeds of economic and financial crimes for any person who conceals, removes and deliberately retains proceeds of a criminal conduct.

The Act provides that the EFCC, in collaboration with the Attorney General of the Federation, can compound any offence punishable under the Act by accepting such sum of money as it deems fit, but not more than the amount to which the offender would have been liable if convicted, as option to discontinue or investigate criminal proceeding against any offender.

iii) The independent corrupt practices and other related offences commission (ICPC): The ICPC Act 2000 was enacted to prohibit and prescribe punishment for corrupt practices and other related offences. It established the Commission and vested it with the responsibility for investigation and prosecution of offenders for the offences committed with effect from June 13, 2000. The offences and punishments covered in the Act include the following:

- Acceptance or attempt to receive or request for gratification by an official directly or indirectly – 7 years imprisonment
- Corrupt offer to public officers – 7 years imprisonment
- Corrupt demands by persons - 7 years imprisonment
- Fraudulent acquisition of property – 7 years imprisonment
- Deliberate frustration of investigation by the Commission - 7 years imprisonment

IX. Tackling Corruption: The Unexplored Options

So much efforts have been made in the last five years to tackle corruption in Nigeria. Yet, the level of corruption remains high and intolerable even though significant awareness has been created and the institutions and arrangements put in place have, by and large, moderated the incidence. In order to achieve a more meaningful success in the fight against corruption, there is the need to review the anti-corruption strategy. The strategy should be transparent and nonpartisan and be mindful of all conflict of interest issues. The anti-corruption strategy should be quite realistic in terms of operationality and resource requirements and should focus on causes, not the symptoms, cure not just diagnosis and on system rather than just individual. Indeed, the strategy should depend on the type of corruption that is prevalent in the country.

A number of challenges have confronted the institutions that are charged with the responsibility of fighting corruption in Nigeria. These range from inadequate and costly legal representation in fighting the war, political interference which creates hurdles and absence of whistle blowers to support the fight. These challenges also point to the need to adopt a more holistic and integrated approach in the fight against corruption.

The various stakeholders should also appreciate the need to come together and show commitment in the fight. This collaboration should involve not just the executive arm of government, but also the legislature, the judiciary, the private sector, the media, the civil society organizations, local governments and the anti-corruption institutions for greater effectiveness. Specifically, legislations that support access to information, protect whistle blowers and support collaboration with international institutions should be enacted. The civil society should be much more involved in monitoring, detecting and reversing corrupt activities. Institutional checks and balances and the separation of powers among various arms of government should be fortified to enable oversight functions to be effectively undertaken. Executive dominance in democratic setup always encourages corruption.

Ownership of the anti-corruption war is also an issue that requires attention. Currently, the people see the anti-corruption issue as a government matter. There is the need to educate the public to own the programme, perform over-sight functions, and play the role of whistle blower. Information regarding offences, punishment and trials of corrupt persons should be well disseminated to discourage others from corrupt act.

Leadership by example is a major requirement for a successful war against corruption. The fight against corruption will necessarily have to start from the highest levels of the state. Leaders should act what they preach. A situation whereby leaders speak against corruption while in reality every event around such leaders clearly shows proofs of corruption will not help the struggle.

Also, the following preventive and punitive measures are part of the unexplored options that are necessary for strengthening and sustaining of the corruption war for nation building:

- ❖ **Whistle blowing policy:** Strengthening the whistle blowing policy to also cover the informal sector. This policy should affect everyone including private sector operators.
- ❖ **Traditional approach to fact finding:** Traditional oath taking will deter corrupt people from taking public offices.
- ❖ **Stiffer penalties:** Clampdown of corrupt individuals should include forfeiture of everything that belongs to the corrupt individual to the state.
- ❖ **Foreign experts:** Foreign experts should be co-opt into the fight against corruption.
- ❖ **Educational curriculum:** Our educational curriculum should be expanded to include courses in ethics and morality.
- ❖ **Sources of wealth:** Security operatives should investigate the sources of wealth of individuals both in the public and private sectors.
- ❖ **Mass revolt:** Bad leadership irrespective of where the leader comes from should face stiff opposition from the masses.

X. Observations And Conclusion

This paper has attempted to link the slow pace of development in Nigeria to the high level of corruption. It has been unable to measure accurately in monetary terms the level of corruption because fraud and corrupt activities are undertaken in the secret. It is only what is discovered or reported that can be captured. It has however, relied on the recording of corruption rating agencies and the abysmally low level of infrastructural facilities compared with some budgetary provisions to make statements, draw conclusions and proposed measures for its curtailment.

The fact of the matter is that no society has been able to eliminate corruption completely. What is expected however, is that the level of corruption should be minimized by putting in place appropriate preventive and punitive measures and the display of commitment by all levels and arms of government. Nigeria has achieved some progress in this regard in the last few years and it is only expected that the policy measures should be sustained.

It has also been suggested that the operational procedures of all government MDAs should be very clear and supervision and accountability should be ensured in order to prevent corruption. Similarly, sanctions should be applied whenever any infringement is noticed.

Officials need to avoid the temptation of falling for the baits of external customers who may want to secure the support of insiders to manipulate the system.

Finally, the recruitment process in the MDAs should be made more thorough in order to avoid the likelihood of recruiting people with dubious character into the service. Such people are not just dangerous, but are likely to pollute the honest staff.

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