

The State and Political Corruption in Nigeria: An Anatomy of a Perverse Pathology

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Abstract: *Corruption is a terrible and endemic sickness of developing world; Nigeria inclusive Embezzlement, fraud, bribery, payoff, nepotism and extortion are so common in the activities of Nigerians since from colonial era to post independence, military and civilian regimes. The paper examined the problem of corruption in Nigeria with special reference on corrupt practices by different governments (1960-20013). Secondary source of data was employed in this study. The paper traced the background of corrupt practices in Nigeria which emerged since colonial era, then first indigenous elites as well as the military regimes (1966-1979) and (1983-1999), second and third republic down to the current democratic dispensation of fourth republic. The paper reveals that political corruption paved the way for the elites to institutionalize other forms of corruption such as bureaucratic, electoral, economic, judiciary and among others which has negative effect on national development. The paper recommended among others that the federal government should make a law for executing corrupt people as in the case of China as well as to strengthen its anti-graft agencies (i.e. EFCC and CPC) with fairness and equity to all tiers of government and private sectors.*

I. Introduction

Corruption is a common feature of the developing world to reward the obedient, compel wanted patterns of behavior and restrain unwanted initiative. Indeed, corrupt practices are one of the principal ways for those who rule to keep the mass of the poor in their place (Owens, 1987:7). Furthermore, corruption is a terrible and endemic sickness of the developing world. Embezzlement, fraud, bribery, pay offs, nepotism and extortion are so common in some countries that they constitute a separate system of administration. The purpose of corruption is a familiar one, personal greed. But another result of corruption is to deny access to resource, public organizations and protection of the law to the poor (Owens, 1987:7). According to Ibrahim (1997):

High level of corruption transforms the character of the state. The Nigerian state has been transformed into a patrimonial and rentier one in which those in control of state power and strategic bureaucratic offices use their positions for private appropriation. He further posited that "neopatrimonial bourgeoisie is parasitic and predatory and has no interest in transparency, accountability and in the existence of political opposition or the culture of public debate that democracy breeds (Ibrahim, 1997:4).

Nigeria today is at a critical stage since independence. The country faces a severe crisis in its economic, social and political development that is not unconnected to the problem of pandemic corruption. The manifestation of the crises is clear, the remedies much less so (Ogundiya, 2009:1). In this regard, Aluko (2002:393-4) hinted that "the Nigerian society is presently characterized by social malaise such as insecurity of life, poverty, armed robbery, all forms of corruptions, moral degeneration, succession crises, and a general lack of accountability by those entrusted with governance".

Corruption is an important challenge to stable polity in Nigeria. This factor has hindered various efforts and reforms of the government to stimulate economic growth and to bring dividends of democracy for the common good of Nigerian citizens (Sanusi, 2011:32).

The dilemma of corruption involved multiple numbers of high personalities who become victims of corruption. Indeed, most of our political officials such as executive Governors, Senators, Members of the Parliament, Ministers, Chief Executives and Advisers were indicted on corrupt practices or the other. The most funny case during Obasanjo's administration is on former Governor of Bayelsa State Depreye Alemeiseigha. The Governor was indicted with money laundering to foreign bank at abroad where they seize his passport later he disguised as a woman and came back to Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the case of former Governor of Delta State James Ibori is another testimony, because, when they raised an allegation of 134 count charges against him by EFCC that led to his detention later he was acquitted and sent free. While in the year 2011 he was caught with money laundering in London (United Kingdom) where he confessed effrontly that he has stolen over \$35 million dollars of his state (Delta State) when he was in power. In this regard, the London court sentenced him to 18 years in prison. (www.saharareporters.com).

This chapter is structural as follows: introduction; conceptual framework; typology of corruption; the state and political corruption in Nigeria, the state of corruption between 1999-2013 and conclusion. [The main objective of this paper is to analyze the level of political corruption by different governments in Nigeria (1960-2013)].

II. Conceptual Framework

Corruption is a term that has been perceived in various ways by various scholars. Its conceptualization has attracted in recent past, competing and numerous views and approaches. It is therefore seen as a worldwide phenomenon which has long been with every society. (Lawal & Tobi, 2006:643). Indeed let us look at some conceptual definitions of the subject matter (i.e. corruption) from different scholars.

According to Sardan (1999:27), corruption is that out of nepotism, abuse of power, embezzlement and various forms of misappropriation, influence peddling, prevarication, insider trading and abuse of the public purse. All contradicts the official ethics of public property or public service and likewise offer the possibility of illegal enrichment, and the use and abuse of these positions of authority.

Akindele (1995) defines corruption as a form of reciprocal behavior or transaction where both the power/office and client or giver can respectively initiate the inducement of each other by some rewards to grants (illegal) preferential treatment or favour against the principles and interest of specific organization (or public) within the society.

Otite (2000) describes how corruption takes place between two or more parties. According to him, corruption is the pervasion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour or moral depravity. He further pointed that “corruption takes place when at least two parties have interacted to change the structure or processes of society or the behavior of functionaries in order to produce dishonest, unfaithful or defiled situations”.

According to Nye (1967), corruption is a behavior which deviates from the formal duties of a public role because of private regarding (personal, close family, private clique) pecuniary or status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence. This include such as bribery, use of a reward to pervert the judgment of a person in a position of trust; nepotism (bestowal of patronage by reason of ascriptive relationship rather than merit); and misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private uses)”.

The assertion of Ojaide (2000) has made a comprehensive definition which covers all angles as contained below:

Corruption is nay systemic vice in an individual society or a nation which reflects favoritism, nepotism tribalism-sectionalism, undue enrichment, amassing of wealth, abuse of office, power, position and derivation of undue gains and benefits it also includes bribery, smuggling, fraud, illegal payments, money laundering drug trafficking, falsification of documents and records, window dressing, false declaration, evasion, underdevelopment, deceit, forgery concealment, aiding and abetting of any kind to the detriment of another person, community, society or nation.

The above contention explains the whole segment and areas of corruption in Nigeria. Indeed, it was among the comprehensive meaning for analyzing the state of corruption. It is also in line with the view of divergent scholars such as Huntington (1968); Osoba (1996) and Bayart et al (1999).

III. Typology of Corruption in Nigeria

At this junction, having defined the concept of corruption there is also a need for highlighting the typology of corruption with reference to Nigerian state. Dike (2002) and Otite (1986) points out the following classification of corruption as contained in the table 1.0 below:

Table 1.0: Typology of corruption in Nigeria

Authors	Typology of Corruption	Remarks
Dike (2002)	Political corruption	High
	Bureaucratic corruption	High
	Electoral corruption	High
Otite (1986)	Political corruption	High
	Economic corruption	High
	Bureaucratic corruption	High
	Judiciary corruption	Low
	Moral corruption	Low

Source: Compiled by authors (2013)

The above table indicates that corruption is at higher rate on political, bureaucratic, electoral and economic matters while the level of corruption is relatively low in judiciary and moral conduct in comparison with the others. The survey in Nigeria and Ghana show that politicians and bureaucrats are perceived as being

most responsible on corrupt practices with 44.2% of Nigerians and 30.7% Ghanians out of 50% (Nigeria Governance and Corruption Survey Study, 2003:21-22).

The following explanation could be deduced from the above table:

Political corruption takes place at the highest level of political authority, as well as at lower levels of society and economy. It occurs when the politicians and political decision makers, who are supposed to formulate and implement the laws in the name of the people, are themselves corrupt. It also takes place when policy formulators and legislators are tailored to benefit politicians and legislators (Encyclopedia Americana, 1999). In Nigeria, the immunity clause to the political office holders (i.e. president and governors protect them from any litigation while they are in office is inimical to the principles of rules of law (i.e. equality before law). Indeed, each regime has its own political corruption in Nigeria which breeds several other types of corruption (economic, bureaucratic, judiciary, electoral and moral corruptions).

The civil service is a bastion of corruption. Bureaucratic corruption occurs in public administration or the implementation ends of politics. This kind of corruption has been branded "low level" and street level. It is the kind of corruption the citizens encounter daily at places like hospitals, schools, local licensing office, tax office, police road block, custom border patrol and other public organizations. Dike (2002:1) pointed that "the menace of corruption leads to slow movement of files in offices, police extortion in toll gates and slow traffics on the high-ways, port congestion, queues at passport offices and gas stations, ghost workers syndrome, election irregularities among others. Indeed, all these were among the daily routine to Nigerians.

Corruption is most pronounced during key national events such as election. Electoral corruption includes purchase of votes with money, rigging, changing figures of result, promises of office or special favours, coercion, intimidation and interference with freedom of election. In Nigeria votes are bought, people are killed and maimed in the name of election, losers end up as the winners and votes turn up in areas where votes were not cast. The post-election violence in most of Northern Nigeria (i.e. aftermath of 2011 presidential election) was an ancillary to the election malpractices by those who are in power against the electorates.

According to Otite (1968), economic corruption occurs when business people use corrupt means to pervert the normal institutional regulations, hasten or shorten procedures and get undue advantage or value for goods and services. Though, the judicial corruption occurs when law enforcement agencies and the courts pervert the administration of justice. Finally, moral corruption occurs when people engage in practices that are morally reprehensible.

Although, the other forms of corruption as hinted by Dike (2002) involved bribery, fraud, embezzlement, extortion, favouritism, ethnic and regional/religious sentiment and nepotism etc. these dangerous form of corruption cut-across both public and private sectors in Nigeria which lead to the absence of morality, meritocracy and due process.

IV. The State and Political Corruption in Nigeria: An Anatomy of a Perverse Pathology

Historically, the emergence of corruption in public service in Africa was traced back from nostalgic colonial system of centralization of power, political domination and primitive accumulation under the umbrella of international division of labour to the colonies. This system is detrimental to the development of African colonies. From the perspective of Bayert et al (1999), corruption stems from the appropriation of the colonial state, and state administration works through a "rhizome of personal networks and assures the centralization of power through the agencies of family, alliance and friendship". In other direction, Hibon (1999) sees the politics of belly as becoming increasingly predatory and illicit, ultimately leading to the criminalization of the state in Africa: ever since the start of the colonial period, access to the state has been turned more or less into a source of private benefit.

Nevertheless, when the colonial masters surrendered the power to indigenous African nationalist, the successor, follow almost the same axis of economic plunder through instrument of state power towards turning the economy for their egocentric gain. In this respect Medard (2002) posited that "corruption became entrenched because the African elites who inherited the colonial state resorted to clientalism for political survival. Economic activity was channeled through the state and dividing line between politics and economics was blurred". Ake (1981:88-9) posited that:

By the time political independence came, the colonial economy had so to speak, matured; its structure was firmly set and could not easily change. The new government no longer enjoyed the freedom of fabricating an economy from the start. The fully formed economy that it inherited imposed a certain logic and rigidity on the course of future development, and this logic was essentially one that favoured the persistence and even the reinforcement of the syndrome of disarticulation.

The post-colonial state is characterized by maladministration, poor infrastructural facilities, uneven development and retrogressive tendencies. The inherited paradoxically political economy of post-colonial states of Africa was related with the nature of nationalist efforts against colonial imperialism in Africa. Ake (1981:93)

pointed that “the nationalist movement which arose from the contradictions of the colonial economy achieved political independence and not economic independence”.

The genesis of underdevelopment predicament such as corruption, poverty, absence of industrialization, mismanagement of resources and centralization of power etc. in African continent and Nigeria in particular resulted from colonial history (i.e. era of colonial plunder) and cultural affiliation of the colonies. Let us look at the gravity level of corruption in Nigeria since from first republic down to the fourth republic (i.e. 1960-20013).

Since before independence and the early age of independence, there was an evidence of corrupt practices of early Nigerian educated elites. Accordingly, Zik as premier of Eastern Nigeria has been exposed by the Foster Sutton Tribunal of Enquiry of 1959 into the African Continental Bank (ACB) to have abused his position as head of government to divert huge sum of Eastern Nigerian Government funds into his own bank, the ACB, thus solving the bank’s problem of chronic shortage of operating capital and in the process substantially enriching himself (Osoba, 1996:375). In fact, the political corruption by ruling elites was the genesis of corrupt practices in government and later transcended into privates sector in Nigeria.

In the same way, the G.B.A Coker Commission of Inquiry set up in 1962 to investigate six western Nigerian public corporations revealed several ingenious and brazen devices by which Awolowo and his colleagues in the leadership of Action Group. Government of Western Nigeria themselves and their party fabulously at the expense of the accumulated funds of the Cocoa Marketing Board, property of the whole people of Western Nigeria (Osoba, 1996:375). Indeed, they were only two dramatic example of a phenomenon that was pervasive all over the country during first republic.

In 1967, another commission of enquiry was instituted to investigate assets of fifteen public officers in the defunct Mid-West Region. At the conclusion of the panel’s report all the public officers were said to have been found liable of corrupt enriching themselves. The panel recommended that they should forfeit such ill-gotten advantage to government (Ohwofasa, 2007:121).

The looting and plunder of public resources escalated with the discovery of oil boom in Nigeria. The soaring of oil price in 1970s, Nigeria just emerging from civil war found itself awash with petrol dollars. General Yakubu Gowon said that Nigeria had so much money which it did not know how to spend. This triggered a new wave of dishonest practices.

Though, aftermath of General Gowon regime (1966-1973) the Head of military government General Murtala Mohammed set up the federal assets investigation panel on September 16th 1975 to probe the assets of all former governors, the administrators of East Central and some federal commissioners who served in the Gowon regime. The panel releases its reports on 3rd February, 1976 that all governors with the exception of only two who were acquitted, were said to have been found guilty of gross abuse of office. Their confiscated assets amounted to ₦10 million (Ohwofasa, 2007:122).

The Murtala regime did well to expose corrupt practices from public service and bring them to book, but the regime’s effort were reversed after Murtala’s demise, because of General Obasanjo’s effort was to provide a cover and immunity for corrupt public servants due to his promulgation of Decree No. 11 of 1976 (public officers protection against false accusation) immediately after he assumed duty as Head of state. This was the ground towards preventing public officials on all corrupt practices and prevailing both political and bureaucratic corruption as well as creating a gesture for economic/financial corruption and moral depravity to the citizens.

This issue paved them a way for almost tripling the award of contract for construction of trade fair complex in Lagos from ₦45.2 million during Murtala to become ₦116.2 million as well as the regime was enmeshed in the scandal of almost ₦2.8 million missing from the coffers of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The uproar generated endured to the end of the regime in 1979 and spilled into the second republic government headed by Shehu Shagari whose administration instituted a probe headed by Justice Ayo Irekefe to get the roof of the Scandal (Ohwofasa, 2007:123).

Thus, Ohwofasa (2007:124) predicated that between 1979 and 1983, Shehu Shagari was sworn in as president. The administration score card was on parchment of corruption and injustice. Nigeria earned about ₦40.5 billion and squandered it. The external reserve of ₦2.3 billion, inherited in 1979 was wiped out and replaced with a staggering external debt of about ₦10.2 billion. Meanwhile, Bangura (1986:31) aptly described Shagari administration as "the government of contractors by the contractors and for the contractors." At the end of the Second Republic, probe set up by the General Buhari administration found many government officials and state governors guilty of diversion, mismanagement, and misappropriation of public funds.

The Buhari/Idiagbon administration did not stay long in power even though it was committed towards eradicating all sort of corrupt practices in the government in order to pave the way for moral discipline and national development. The regime vindicated that the Second Republic of President Shagari with high rate of corruption and launched War Against Indiscipline (WAI) as a remedy for malcontent corrupt administrative system. Indeed, the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) served as bedrock for instilling the spirit of discipline and

'moral consciousness to the entire citizens. Although, there was no established record for corruption for the regime rather than the regime was vehemently blamed with violation of human rights, military dictatorship and absence of liberty.

Consequently, the Babangida administration (1985-1993) is argued to have institutionalized corruption and immoral tendencies of looting public treasury for self-enrichment to the detriment of the populace and the nation in general. Nwanko (1999) pointed out that "the scale of self-enrichment produced a Nigerian with assets in excess of \$30 billion, proxies and surrogates (frontiers) manage much of his fortune. After eight years of plunder and pillage, more than 3,000 officials now have Swiss accounts totaling about \$90 billion and Britain £75 billion."

In the same vein, the Pius Okigbo's Panel of Enquiry into CBN account under Babangida regime revealed that \$12.4 billion of Nigerian's revenue from crude oil petroleum sales disappeared into the black hole of Babangida's dedication account kept by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (Osoba, 1996:383). In fact, the Nigerian economy was characterized by inflation, devaluation of currency, moneylaundering and being indebted with foreign loans. This intricacies has generated abject poverty, malnourishment, high mortality rate and general under-development because the funds earmarked for infrastructural development and provision of social amenities (i.e. schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, housing etc.) was siphoned by few ruling elites and their cohorts for their self-aggrandizement.

Meanwhile, the Abacha military oligarchy followed the same steps of Babangida's regime where looting public treasury and money laundry was the order of the day. Though, the draconian measures of the regime had covered them up from all atrocities that they committed and embezzlement of public funds. It was aftermath of Abacha's era Nigerians realized the gravity of looting and squandering of public funds by the past government.

The Swiss government in 2008 returned all monies stolen by Abacha to Nigeria. Giving a breakdown of the monies returned, the charge de affairs of the embassy of Switzerland Fabio Bairdi, said at a press conference in Abuja, that first installment of \$290 million was transferred on September 2005, a second installment of \$168 million on December 19, 2005 and \$40 million transferred at the end of January, 2006. Also records available from stolen Asset Recovery (STAR) a joint initiative of the United Nations office on Drug and Crime and the World Bank indicated that \$505.5 million had been reversed from the Swiss authorities as part of the Abacha's loot (Magazine Frique.com).

In the same direction, a one year military regime of Abdulsalami Abubakar followed the footsteps of his predecessor on corrupt practices and misappropriation of public funds from the Chairman National Economic Intelligence Committee Professor Sam Alukowich stated that \$50 million was missing from the nation's coffers. Meanwhile, Obasanjo reported that N32.5 billion, withdrawn from the Central Bank in July 1998 was not returned to the bank.

V. The State of Political Corruption in Fourth Republic (1999-2013)

The Obasanjo's civilian administration (1999-2007) characterized by looting public treasury, bribing law makers. Embezzlement and tantalization of public funds by political elites. This issue culminated into the squandering or multi-billion dollars of Nigerian money by different dignitaries under the auspices of some projects and programmes in their office for the sake of national development. The House of Representatives Committee on power and steel revealed that \$16 billion invested on National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) between 2006 and 2007 was squandered. Ogundiya (2009:289) pointed that "the senate committee pronounced vice president Atiku Abubakar guilty on allegation that he diverted \$5 million of Petroleum Technology Development Funds (PTDF).

The falsification of age and academic qualification from Toronto University by Alhaji Salisu Buhari; former speaker House of Representatives was initial case of corruption from the beginning of fourth republic. Meanwhile, three senate presidents who included Chief Evans Enwerem, Chuba Okadigbo and Adolphus Nwabarawere impeached on the account of mismanagement in office and corrupt enrichment. For instance, Idris Kuta's panel investigated the allegation of corruption against senator Okadigbo found out among others that he was involved in the inflation of the street light project to the tune of 173 million Naira.

Meanwhile, his successor Adolphus Nwabara also guilty of receiving a ₦55 million naira bribe from professor Fabian Osuji (Former Minister of Education) in order to inflate the budgetary allocation of his Ministry (Vanguard newspaper. Saturday February. 2008). In the same direction, Tafa Balogun former Inspector General of Police was guilty on allegation of stealing ₦7 billion (Ogundiya, 2006). Similarly, over \$6.2 billion was paid to contractors who had no record with Corporate Affairs Commission (Ogbodo. 2008).

In merely the same vein, the removal of Madam Patricia Etteh the first female speaker House of Representatives, resigned following her indictment over misappropriation of public funds in multiple contracts of ₦628 million (US \$5 million) for the renovation of her official residence and purchase of 12 official cars. In the same direction, Professor Adenike Grange Minister of Health was also guilty of sharing the money of her

Ministry as end of year- bonus. Meanwhile, immediately after she left the office, Oladimeji Bankole a speaker House of Representatives who took over from Madam Etteh and his deputy Alhaji Bayero Nafada were paraded to EFCC on account of mismanagement of public funds. These were among the classical illustration of corrupt practices in the era of Yara’dua/Jonathan’s administration.

Furthermore, the ad hoc committee on petroleum subsidy revealed that almost 3 trillion naira was misappropriated and squandered through subsidy scandal by different firms, oil companies and government functionaries or what they call petroleum cabal. Before even the implementation of the report, the chairman of the committee Faruq Lawan was guilty of collecting the bribe of \$620,000 (i.e.80 million naira) from a business man and oil magnate Femi Otedolawhich precipitated him to the loss of his post as chairman of the ad hoc committee on fuel subsidy and that of House committee on Education.

Consequently, over 5 trillion public funds have been stolen through fraud, embezzlement and theft between May, 2010 to November, 2012 of President Jonathan administration. The investigation revealed that the fraudulent activities carried out on a large scale in some Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) which encompasses the stolen oil in petroleum sector (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC), SIM Card registration in telecommunication industry and ecological fund and among others. In oil and gas sector, Ribadu Petroleum task force chairman reports that daily crude oil theft is high as 250,000 barrels daily at the cost of \$6.3 billion (₦1.2 trillion) a year. This puts the total amount lost through oil theft in the two years of Jonathan’s government at over (₦2 trillion). There was a tree seeding fraud worth than ₦2 billion awarded by ecological fund office discovered in July, 2012 by the House of Representative Committee on environment (Punch, November 25, 2012).

The Jonathan administration geared towards covering the most corrupt dignitaries in past and present dispensation through given them National Pardon as well as to award them with National honors. For instance the former governor of Bayelsa state chief Alameiseigha (i.e. a political mentor to President Jonathan) has received national pardon despite the hundred charges on corruption label against him and Ateke Tompolo one of the criminal leaders of Niger Delta Militants received national honorwhile, Ms. Orunma Otehas reinstated to her position as Director General of Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) by President Jonathan without taken a due course over her suspension by National Assembly on Misappropriation account.

Recently, the Minister of Aviation Mrs. Stella Oduah was queried by federal Government over purchased of bullet proof cars at the cost of ₦255 million. The House of Representatives Committee on Aviation has recommended the removal of Minister of Aviation Stella Oduah over extra-budgetary spending including the purchase of ₦255 million bullet proof cars. The 2013 budget approved ₦240 million for the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority for the purchase of 27 vehicles, but Oduah raised it to ₦643 million for 54 vehicles including two bulletproof cars (Daily Trust 7, November, 2013). Though, up to the time of this research Mrs. Oduah is still a minister while investigation probed that she was indicted on the said scandal.

Nevertheless, the Jonathan’s administration has already compromise the standard on graft indecent attitude. This scenario precipitates a gesture for upgrading the image of corrupt dignitaries in government and consolidates the non-chalet government attitude towards corruption. Ironically, the year 2013 of Jonathan administration is centered on missing of huge amount of funds from millions and billions to trillions from National coffers without ascertaining their where about. A classical illustration were among others: ₦480 billion Subsidy Reinvestment Empowerment Programme Fund (i.e. SURE-P); the controversial \$5 billion missing from Excess Crude Account (ECA) or not yet received by the Governors Forum (NGF) as pointed out by the chairman Governors forum, Governor Rotimi Ameachi; and currently, ₦8 trillion missing from federation account which the Central Bank Governor Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi blamed the federal government as well as the federal Minister of Finance Dr. Okonjo Iweala on that scandal. The Central Bank Governor alleged that \$49.8 billion (i.e. 8 trillion Naira) Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) oil remittance to the Federation Account was missing. Responding to such scandal, President Jonathan asked CBN Governor to resign for allegedly leaking his letter on the “missing \$49.8 billion” to ex-president Obasanjo, who wrote damning letter to the president (the nation, 10th January, 2014). Though, such amount is two years Nigerian budget for intensive capital projects”.

Table 2.0:Public agencies considered most dishonest or corrupt

Rating	Nigeria	Ecuador	Slovakia
1.	The police	Congress	Health system
2.	Political parties	Transit Police (CTG-Guayas)	Judicial system
3.	National & StateAssemblies	Customs	National Provident Fund
4.	Local/Municipal Government	Petro Ecuador	Customs
5.	Federal/State ExecutiveCouncils	Transit council	Police
6.	Traffic Police/FRCN	Judicial system	Ministries
7.	NEPA (ElectricityAgency)	National Police	Tax Authorities

Source: Nigeria Governance and Corruption Survey Study, Analysis of Survey Results Final Report (2003:18)

The above table indicates that in each country, Police rank among the seven most dishonest institutions. In Nigeria, the police in general ranked as the most corrupt institution, while traffic police in particular ranked sixth. In Ecuador, the transit (or traffic) police are perceived as the second most corrupt while national police ranked seventh. In Slovakia the perception of the police is less harsh, with a ranking of fifth.

Indeed, all those eventual cases of corruption and mismanagement of public funds as happened in the government of president Obasanjo who instituted two anti-graft commission (i.e. Economic Financial and Crime Commission EFCC and Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Matters Commission ICPC), towards combating the menace of corruption and accelerating National Development. As well as the government of Yaradua/Jonathan administration which their top priority was the "rules of law" as contained in seven point agenda and the present unprecedented "transformation agenda" of President Goodluck Jonathan.

VI. Conclusion

In a nutshell, the corrupt practices have become the order of the day during different regimes and administrations in Nigeria. Indeed it appears each government. It in Nigeria has its own tactics of looting and siphoning public treasury for their selfish aggrandizement. This issue has precipitated abject poverty to the nation, increase in moral decadence, broken homes, juvenile delinquency to the youth population and general under development.

The fact is that funds earmarked for developmental projects (i.e. provision of infrastructural facilities such as Hospitals, Roads and Schools etc.) was been taken away through corrupt 'means by the unpatriotic elites for their personal selfish. In this respect Abdulraheem (2009) hinted that "we should regard public officials and their private sector collaborators as mass murderers killing millions of our people through inadequate' public service compromised by corruption. Monies meant for drugs, Roads, hospitals, schools, public security etc. are siphoned away making all of us vulnerable to premature death" (www.standagainstpoverity.org).

The paper suggests that: the federal government should operate the two anti-graft agencies (Economic Financial and Crime Commission EFCC and Independent Corrupt Practices and others Offences Commission ICPC) with fairness and equity to the entire citizens in all tiers of government and private sectors so as to eradicate corrupt practices or reduce it to the barest minimum. The federal government also should make law for execution to those who squandered certain amount of money as in the case of Communist Republic of China in order to discourage others from doing the said offence. The issue of employment, political appointment and aspiration should be based on merit and credibility in order to ensure probity, transparency and public accountability to both public and private sectors.

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