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GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATION.

BY

FAGBAMILA, DAVID OLUMIDE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA
olufagba@gmail.com; +2348060799965

AND

AINA, MONDAY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
KOGI STATE UNIVERSITY, ANYINGBA
AND

OREKOYA OLAWANDE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

Abstract

Corruption is seen as a social problem that has permeated into every society world over. Though its intensity and gravity varies from one country to the other, hardly is there a country that is free of corrupt practices. The upsurge in the perpetration of the act in Africa especially in Nigeria has become worrisome. This is because virtually every institution in the country has been adversely affected; both economy, politics, education, health to mention but a few and has obstructed the over all national development of the country. Unfortunately, our leaders have been at the fore front in the perpetration of this corrupt act. However, such high prevalence of corrupt practices in Nigeria cannot be divorced from the issue of governance in the country. The immediate past administration of Goodluck Jonathan has been dented with poor governance coupled with lack of political will which in turn create suitable atmosphere for corruption to thrive in the country. The resultant effects thus manifest in the area of underdevelopment and decadence in virtually every part of Nigerian society which is currently a source of concern to Nigerians. This paper thus examined how governance aids corruption in Nigeria and how corruption in turn obstructs development as nation in general. It explored social action theory and primitive accumulation of wealth theory in explaining the phenomenon of governance and corruption in Nigeria. It attempts to suggest some ways by which the country can be better governed as well as various ways through which corruption can be reduced to its barest minimum in Nigeria.

Introduction

Corruption is a global phenomenon which is not limited to a particular society, culture or nation. Infact, in all nations world over, corruption is imminent but its intensity varies from society to society. Importantly, even in the developed countries of the world such as US, England, Sweden, China etc, corruption exists. For example, in US, in 2002, six police officers in Alabama were convicted of extortion and soliciting bribes from individuals detained by the police department in exchange for not pursuing criminal charges against them(DOJ REPORT,2002). Moreso, in UK, nearly 50 metropolitan police officers were suspended for corruption in three years. The Independent Police Complaint Commission (IPCC) report on corruption received 1,487 complaints between 2008 and 2011(IPCC REPORT, 2012). In Ukraine, bribery and cronyism have eaten deep into every sector of its economy. \$11 billion was being siphoned yearly through the abuse of public procurement tenders in the country (Aderinto, 2000).

In Africa, the upsurge in perpetration of corruption especially among political office holders and its adverse effects on development has become worrisome. In Ghana, corruption has permeated the entire system. Just recently, a justice of the high court set a hardened armed robber free for a bribe of GH¢4,000 In spite of a prima facie case against the criminal. In fact, some judges did go home with bribes in form of goats, sheep, Waakye meal etc. while others took as little as GH¢500 to throw away cases (Daily Guide Newspaper, September, 2015).

In Nigeria, corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society. Hardly is there any part of Nigerian society where corruption does not exist. In the economic sector, the bureaucratic corruption perpetrated in most corporate organizations is on increase every day. Worth emphasizing is the new trend of bribery such that unemployed graduates need to pay for a slot before they can secure employment letter due to unemployment crises lingering in the country at present. Among the political office holders, money laundering, financial misappropriation and embezzlement are seen as norm without being checked. Though, the current administration has been making every necessary effort towards reducing the menace to its barest minimum, but the havoc that corruption has caused the country during the era of Goodluck Jonathan especially, has been assumed as one of the major causes of prevailing economic hardship the country is undergoing at the moment.

In an attempt to curb this problem of corruption, Obasanjo's administration established anti-corruption bodies which are Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) with the sole aim of curbing and eradicating corruption in Nigeria. Although it is worth appreciating that the anti-corruption bodies have made some prosecutions of public office holders in the past, yet the problem keeps thriving day by day. Salawu(2011) noted that these anti-corruption bodies have been politicized. Such is evident during the third term bid of former president Obasanjo whereby those who were opposing the agenda were targeted and prosecuted by anti-corruption bodies thus making the agencies ineffective.

It is worth noting here that bad governance is a factor that make corruption to thrive in Nigeria. According to WorldBank governance indicator (2006), voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, regulatory quality, Rule of law and control of corruption are the six indicators that can be used to measure governance of a particular country worldwide. Thus, any country who fails in one of the aforementioned indicators may be considered to have bad governance. Nigeria has always been ranked high in transparency index as one of the most corrupt societies worldwide. For instance, in 1999, it was ranked 98th of 99th, in 2000, it was ranked 90th of 90th, in 2001, it was ranked 90th of 91st, in 2002, it was ranked 101st of 102nd. In the year 2010, it was ranked 134th of 178th, 143rd of 183rd in the year 2011, 139th of 176th in the year 2012, 144th of 177th in the 2013 and 136th of 175th in the year 2014. (Transparency Index, 2014). These statistics thus validate the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria which is as a result of bad governance in the country.

It is against this background that this paper tends to examine how poor governance has aided corruption in Nigeria and how corruption has in turn, obstructed development in Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

Concept of Corruption

Corruption is a global phenomenon; there is no generally acceptable definition of the term. This is because there are variations across cultures and societies on what constitutes what is right or wrong. Moreso, the sanctions and legal actions against any erring or unruly behaviours differ across every society. Thus, its definitions vary. In his own view, Sen (1997) defines corruption as the violation of established rules for personal gain and profit. These rules are in form of norms and values associated with such group settings.

Furthermore, Aluko(2009) sees corruption as an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermines the capacity of authorities to improve the living conditions of the people. Going by Aluko's view, most countries that are under developed today are plagued with corruption because their leaders were unable to bring about improvement in the living conditions of their citizenry and as such, they are poverty-stricken.

Lastly, World Bank(2002) defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantages or profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, theft of state assets, or the diversion of state resources (Agbu, 2003).

Defining Governance

Just as there is no generally acceptable definition of corruption, there is also no strong consensus among policy makers on a single definition of governance. Various scholars have propounded a number of definitions but for the purpose of this paper, effort will be concentrated on the definition given by Worldbank because it undertook a worldwide governance survey. It defined governance as *"the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. This includes (a) the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; (b) the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and (c) the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them."* Worldbank (2010). Based on this definition, six dimensions of governance were analysed. This serves as indicators or indices through which governance can be measured in any country worldwide. These six dimensions are discussed below.

1. Voice and Accountability (VA) – This is the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media. This include conducting and engaging in a free and fair election that is devoid of rigging and violence as well as giving media both print and electronic free hand without being obstructed. In the case of Nigeria, to some extent, we have been able to achieve a great deal in terms of election conduct especially the last general elections held in 2015. However, some part of the country was marred by electoral violence and even at present, the fear of outbreak of electoral violence made Edo state electoral body to postpone the election scheduled to hold few on 10th September, 2016 (Punch Newspaper, 8th September, 2016).

2. Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism (PV) – It emphasizes on the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism. The emergence of boko haram insurgency which left thousands of people dead and hundreds of thousands of people displaced is an instance of terrorism in Nigeria. Recently, another form of militant group emerged (Niger Delta Avengers) who have been bombing the major oil rigs in the oil region of the country, thus affecting the financial status of the country adversely.

3. Government Effectiveness (GE) – It is the extent of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.

4. Regulatory Quality (RQ) – It is the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development.

5. Rule of Law (RL) – It is the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence. The present administration has been marred by judicial inadequacies especially in the fight against corruption in which some of them too are guilty.

6. Control of Corruption (CC) – It is the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as "capture" of the state by elites and private interests. The thrust of this paper thus rest on the last two indicators which are rule of law and control of corruption.

Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development in human society cannot be viewed from one sided perspective, rather, it can be viewed from multi-sided perspectives. For instance, individuals perceive development as increase in the skill and ability as well as maximum freedom and the ability to create responsibility. Furthermore, Seer (1977), viewed sustainable development involves capital accumulation and economic growth only but the condition in which people in a country have adequate food, job and income inequality among them is greatly reduced.

It also entails systematic ways of bringing fundamental and sustainable changes in the society as well as growth and embraces the quality of life as social justice, equality of opportunity for all citizens, equitable distribution of income and the democratization of development processes. It entails the ability of individuals to influence and manipulate the forces of nature for their enhancement and that of humanity. Economic, political or social development implies more changes in the technical and institutional arrangement by which it is produced. In spite of various concepts, sustainable development is a multi-dimensional and is basically about the process of changes around the spheres of societal life. (Keeper, 2010).

Types of Corruption Activities in Nigeria

Based on existing studies on corruption, the following types of corruption are common in Nigeria:

Political Corruption: This entails the sale of government property for personal gain by officials vested with authority. It also entails the abuse of public office by politicians for financial gain and purposes of remaining in office. It is further facilitated by the creation of rent seeking projects.

Bureaucratic Corruption: This involves the use of public office for pecuniary gain. Bureaucratic corruption is common in Nigeria because government plays crucial roles in the development process, especially intervening in the domestic economy. It is also common where there is instability in government and lack of tenure, which drive bureaucrats to engage in rent seeking opportunities for personal aggrandizement. Socio-economic conditions, such as poverty and inequality, cultural norms and practices, such as kinship loyalty not only impinge directly on public officials but also shape their behavior.

Electoral Corruption: Electoral corruption occurs when people, whether endowed with political clout or not, illegally try to buy influence through illegal payoffs such as illegal funding of campaigns, illegal campaign contributions, bribes, buying of votes for cash or other inducements (i.e. paying voters to vote, thereby influencing their choices), promise of contracts or other favors etc. Electoral corruption may also take coercive forms, such as paying thugs to intimidate or threaten supporters of a candidate in order to compel supporters to vote for the candidate who employed the thugs or stop them from voting entirely. Electoral corruption can lead to outright rigging of elections; expectation of reward once victory is achieved, or encouraging quid pro quo deals (Etzioni, 1988). It can include weak credible opposition politics, and the undermining of democratic values, especially where there is a conflict between the politicians' interests and those of the public.

Corporate Corruption: Corporate corruption occurs in the relationship between private business corporations and their vendors or clients. It can also take place within a corporation when officers use company's resources for private aggrandizement, at the expense of the shareholders (Bhargava, 2005)

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria

First, Federal Structure and Decentralization

The brand of federal system of government in place in Nigeria is tailored in such a way as to make the government at the central very powerful compared to the governments of the federating units. It is such that all the instruments of coercive force (the Army, the Police, the Naval and the Air-force) are the exclusive prerogative of the federal government. Though political power is shared between the federal, state and local governments, the two other levels of government are often made impotent when compared to the so-called "federal might." This is a characteristic feature of the federal government of Nigeria.

Also, the main source of revenue for Nigeria which is crude oil is controlled by the federal government. It then assumes the role of a "patron" while the thirty six states making up the federation of Nigeria, must assume the role of the "client". Monthly allocations are disbursed to each state and local government according to the agreed sharing formula with the federal government retaining the lion share. Corruption therefore is usually more serious at the federal level compared to the state and local government levels in Nigeria. This is contrary to the assumption made in the study carried out by Rose-Ackerman that local governments tend to be more corrupt compared to the federal government (Rose-Ackerman, 1997). The fact that corruption is of a more serious proportion at the federal level does not in any way exonerate the state and local governments from corruption and

corrupt practices as these arms of government are equally very corrupt as can be seen in the case of Nigeria.

The argument here is that while the President, Vice President and federal ministers in Nigeria can easily steal millions of dollars, the governor of a state or a local government chairman has less money available to steal. Also, the fact that the state and local governments are closer to the people also acts as a check in preventing colossal looting of the treasury. The same cannot be said of the federal government which is somehow separated from the people due to the decentralization of power among the three tiers of government. This is therefore a strong motivation for corruption of an unimaginable proportion at the federal level.

Second, Poor Quality of Institutions:

It is virtually impossible to point to one single institution in Nigeria that is not corrupt. The judiciary is often the most bastardized as the President appoints the Attorney General of the federation, who is always ready to subvert Justice in favor of the President if the need arises. Also the Judges of the Supreme Court (the highest court in Nigeria), are appointed by the President with the Senate merely endorsing the names of nominees. There is always the tendency for the Judges to be biased in favor of the President in all matters as their tenure in office is almost certainly dependant on the whims and caprices of the government in power. Corruption therefore assumes an upward trend when the judiciary is used by the government to subvert justice. There are a number of cases in Nigeria where the government had influenced the judiciary to pass judgments favorable to the government if an unfavorable decision is likely to embarrass such government. This is in complete agreement with the findings by Feld and Aaken (2004), who investigated the impact of prosecutorial independence on corruption and came up with the findings that *de facto* dependence (forced retirement, frequent changes in legal foundations, decreased income and budget of prosecutors) increases corruption (Lambsdorf, 2005).

All the other institutions, like the political institutions (with political violence, election rigging, political god-fatherism, etc), economic institutions (which are often manipulated with a view to allow politicians and bureaucrats appropriate resources for personal gains) and the informal institutions with strong emphasis on loyalty and reciprocity all combine in encouraging corruption and corrupt practices. It therefore becomes quite easy to manipulate these institutions for personal gains.

Third, Poor Remuneration

The public sector salary in Nigeria can be said to be among the poorest in the world. This is particularly more embarrassing when viewed against the backdrop of the fact that Nigeria is an oil producing country. Most civil servants in Nigeria will readily say that “their take home salaries do not take them even to the nearest bus stop from their offices”. They then have to look for other means of getting extra income which results in corruption often by need. This is also in agreement with the study by Rijckeghem and Weder (2001) which argued that low salaries force public servants to supplement their income illicitly while high salaries

Fourth, Political Culture:

The political culture of politicians in Nigeria is a great impetus for corruption. This culture revolves round the “win at all cost syndromes”. Former President Obasanjo openly boasted during the electioneering campaign for the 2003 general election that the election was a ‘do or die’ affair. This statement served as a marching order for politicians, mostly of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP)-the President’s political party to engage in all manners of election malpractices and cheating. Also, the presence of “political godfather” who acts as a sponsor with the agreement that on assumption of office, the politician will make the largesse of office readily accessible to the political godfather is another strong factor encouraging corruption.

Fifth, Cultural Determinants

The traditional values in Nigeria as in most other African countries allow gift giving to the king, parents, friends and even the boss in an office. Directly or indirectly, knowingly or unknowingly, the gift giver expects some kind of reciprocity in the form of protection as in the case of the king, promotion by the boss in the office and love from the parents. These easily serve as oil in the

wheel of corruption since there is a give- and expect- to be given- relationship. This attitude is carried over by politicians and bureaucrats in their public lives, making it virtually impossible for them to differentiate between public and personal responsibilities. This agrees with the study by Lipset and Lenz (2000). (Lambsdorf, 2005).

Theoretical Discourse

The social action theory of Max Weber and primitive accumulating wealth by Karl Marx were explored in this paper. The social action theory explained that an action of an individual is social when it has relationship with the present, past or future behaviours of others. It further argued that to explain an action, we must interpret it in terms of its subjectively intended meaning, that is, a person's action is to be explained in terms by the consequences he or she intended purposely rather than in terms of its actual effect. Thus, the prevalence of corrupt practices in Nigeria is as a result of the past trends in the act which was not contained. This is evident in the historical trace of the ugly practice of the corrupt behaviour since independence in 1960, whereby each successive administration is guilty of the problem. It is also instructive to note that apart from this, individual public office holders who are involved in corrupt practices did it purposely and not as a result of other consequential factors.

On the other hand, primitive accumulation as explained by Marx deals with gathering together of commodities, gold and silver and money by which nascent capitalism created the material base through the systematic exploitation of labour and expropriation of resources which facilitated its dominance in economic and political spheres. As explained by Asobie (2012),

a system embroiled in primitive accumulation in the absence of the rule of law, the brazen breach or perversion of public rules and social norms, great inequality of income and much social distance between the people and the ruling class. In such a society, corruption is merely dimension of class exploitation and an instrument of class formation.

The above citation is a depiction of current crisis that plague Nigerian society. The bid towards acquiring wealth, have social recognition in the society, acquire exotic cars, expensive building at the detriment of the large masses of people trigger corruption among the public office holders. Thus, in order to make such easy perpetration, rule of law are broken as well as various rules guiding public services are by-passed. Furthermore, as observed by Oke (2013), Obasanjo is a very wealthy man today not because of his business acumen or artistic endeavours, but for the sheer fact of been Nigerian president for two terms. According to him, if Obasanjo had left office the same way he did as military head of state, he would have gone hungry again in no time so he made massive financial security for himself and members of his family. The same thing is applicable to former president Goodluck Jonathan. Sometime in June 2016, his cousin was remanded in Kuje prison for allegedly diverting a whopping sum of \$40 million meant for the supply of tactical communication kit for Nigeria's Special Forces (Premium Times Newspaper, June 7, 2016). Moreso, a whopping sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000.00) altogether was traced to the account of Mrs Patience Jonathan, wife of the former President Jonathan which is currently under investigation. (Punch Newspaper, 11th September, 2016). These instances cannot be exhausted and this justifies why corruption persists in Nigeria.

Juxtaposing the two theories explained above, the social action may thus be suitable in explaining this discourse because there are other public office holders in Nigeria who maintain clean records and uphold accountability and integrity who equally did not think of what becomes for them and their families of them after their tenure in office as excuse for embezzlement of money laundering with their family members. It can therefore be logically argued that our leaders and other public office holders who indulged in corrupt acts did so intentionally and purposefully because of the interpretative or subjective meaning attached to it as a national cake which past leaders have been sharing and which they must also share during their own era too.

Governance, Corruption and Development: A Nexus

As mentioned earlier, rule of law and control of corruption among others are some of the indices of measuring governance in a country in which Nigeria is not an exception since the return of democracy in 1999, each administration has experienced a number of perpetration of corrupt practices

which are caused by ineffective rule of law and less control of corruption. In a bid towards controlling the menace, Obasanjo's administration established Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crime Commission. Unfortunately, despite the existence of these anti-graft bodies, corruption was still pervasive. This is evident in the indictment of some top officials in his administration such as former Minister of Education and Housing Professor Fabian Osuji and Mobolaji Osomo. Others were former Senate President, Adolphus Wabarra, former Inspector General of Police, Tafa Balogun and former Governor of Bayelsa state, Late Diepreye Alamieyeseigha. Recently too, The current senate president Dr Bukola Saraki,

The late President Yar'dua, during his tenure attested to the fact that his election was marred by electoral corruption but vowed that his administration will ensure zero tolerance to corruption and corrupt practices but later died while still in office. With regard to Goodluck Jonathan's administration, the inability of his administration to effectively tackle corruption and corrupt officials also marred his administration. Funnings enough, some of those who are charged with corruption cases were being given state pardon and appointment at Federal level. For example, the Late Alamieyeseigha who was convicted of enriching himself at government's expenses was granted state pardon by Jonathan Administration (The Nation May, 2013) Moreso, individuals like Mike Okiro, Salisu Buhari and Adeseye Ogunlewe who were involved in different corrupt cases embezzlement and certificate racketeering were given university Board Appointment. Furthermore, former governors during Jonathan's administration like Suswam, Akpabio, Lamido, Dakingari were also accused of financial misappropriation and embezzlement. All of these instances are pointers to failure of his administration in controlling corruption. The corruption fight of President Buhari's administration as well has not made any headway due to judiciary and legislature factors. Buttressing this fact more, Nigeria as at 2015 in corruption perception Index was ranked 136th. The breakdown in the rule of law especially among the law makers and the lack of political will to pursue cases of corruption to logical conclusion enhance corrupt practices especially since some of them are also involved in the nefarious act. Below are just a few of the scandals the National Assembly did not resolve before the end of the 7th Assembly as documented by Akinwumi, Olufemi and Ugonna, 2015 as cited by (Onuigbo, 2015)

The Maina Pension Scam

There was a probe into pension funds that affected about 141,790 pensioners. Abdulrasheed Maina, the Chairman of Pension Reform Task Team, was accused of looting N195 billion. The Senate set up a committee to investigate the matter. During investigation, Mr. Maina alleged that Aloysius Etuk, representing Akwa Ibom State, demanded \$100,000 dollars from him as bribe. A former director of pension in the office of the Head of Service of the Federation, Sani Shuaibu Teidi, who was prosecuted along with 31 others, also alleged that Mr. Etuk and other members of the committee collected a bribe of N3 billion from him. Although the Senate seemed furious about the allegation, it did not take decisive steps to investigate. The National Assembly also did not push the executive hard enough to implement its report on the pension scam and punish offenders.

Kerosene subsidy scam

The kerosene scam is considered monumental fraud by the average Nigerian. Kerosene, which is supposed to be sold for N50 to consumer, sells for between N100 and N120 per litre. Many years after a presidential directive ended subsidy for kerosine, the NNPC claimed it had continued to subsidise the product. Yet, Nigerians are not benefiting from the subsidy as the product sells for far above the official price at the pumps. Several billion naira are believed to have been stolen under the guise of kerosine subsidy. The National Assembly made a feeble attempt to get to the root of the matter. But it issued no indictment and did not take concrete steps to resolve the matter. No official of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, and the petroleum ministry have been sanctioned over the matter.

Police Pension Fund Fraud

Five people, including former Director of Police Pension Fund, Esai Dangabar, were accused of misusing N32.8 billion from the Police Pension Fund. Mr. Dangabar accused some committee members of the Senate of benefiting from the loot. The senate denied the allegation without ordering

an investigation. The world may never know whether indeed the Senate joint Committee on Establishment and Public Service Matter, and State and Local Government Affairs indeed took bribes from the pension thieves.

Stella Oduah

Before her removal as Aviation Minister, Stella Oduah was embroiled in a N255 million armoured car scandal. She was accused of abusing her office by compelling an agency under her ministry to buy her expensive cars. The House of Representatives has so far failed to release a detailed report of its investigation into the matter. Although Ms. Oduah was later dropped as minister, other officials involved in the matter remained untouched till date. Recently, a Federal High Court in Abuja granted Media Rights Agenda (MRA) leave to apply for an order to compel the House to furnish it with transcripts of the proceedings of the House Committee on Aviation at the hearing of the Committee on the procurement of the two bulletproof BMW cars by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) through Messrs Coscharis Motors Limited.

Missing N20billion Naira oil money

In 2013, the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi, alleged that the NNPC failed to remit billions of naira in oil proceeds to the state. This caused a huge rift between the CBN governor and President Goodluck Jonathan, leading to the president suspending Mr. Sanusi from office. The National Assembly investigated the matter but was unable to bring it to closure.

\$15million private jet/arms scandal

A private jet conveyed \$15million in cash to Johannesburg for a purported arms deal between Nigeria and a South African firm. That deal seriously embarrassed Nigeria, but the National Assembly failed to investigate. Attempts by lawmakers of the All Progressives Congress to table the matter at the House of Representatives were frustrated by their Peoples Democratic Party's counterparts.

Abba Morro Immigration Scandal

Despite the death of over 15 individuals who went to write entrance examinations into the Nigerian Immigration Service on March 13, 2015, the Minister of Interior, Abba Morro, has remained in office. Before the entrance test, candidates were made to pay N1,000 for application forms. A private company, Drexel Nig Ltd, was also implicated in the recruitment scam. Although federal lawmakers commenced investigation into the incident, nothing has been heard of the matter ever since. Nigerians suspect cover-up, especially because the minister involved, Mr. Morro, is a core loyalist of David Mark, the President of the Senate, who doubles as the Chairman of the National Assembly then.

Ekiti Gate

A leaked tape of the alleged electoral malpractices during the gubernatorial election in Ekiti State caused a major stir in the country. Four principal characters were heard discussing how to manipulate the election. The voices were those of former Minister of State for Defence, Musiliu Obanikoro; the Minister of Police Affairs, Jelili Adesiyun; former Deputy governor of Osun state, Iyiola Omisore, and the eventual winner of the election and current governor of Ekiti state, Ayo Fayose. Despite the huge evidence in the public domain, the Presidency said it would not investigate the matter. The National Assembly has failed to investigate the matter, which is clearly a major assault on our democracy. Mr. Obanikoro indeed went ahead to receive a National Assembly approval for ministerial appointment.

Farouk Lawan

House of Representatives member, Farouk Lawan, was caught on tape collecting \$620,000 out of a \$3million bribe while his committee investigated the fuel subsidy scam. He was seen collecting the money from oil mogul, Femi Otedola. The House of Representative referred the bribery allegation to its committee on ethics.

Flowing from the above illustrations, it is evident that the legislature whose sole aim is to make laws and look into the matter that may be bordering on corruption and other criminal offences were equally found guilty of these offences and as such, corruption continues to thrive everyday in the country. Moreso, because they lack the political will to investigate and bring to book those involved in the act, corruption keeps growing and eating deeper everyday into the nooks and crannies of the country.

Unfortunately, the aftermath effect of all of the aforementioned discourse in terms of weak governance and increased rate of corruption manifest itself in the area of obstruction of development in which the country is battling with at the moment. Some of the areas are examined below as explained by Olatunji, Fagbamila and Lawal (2014).

First, infrastructure. Infrastructures are those social amenities which make life easier for the people of a society. Conventionally, the provision of these facilities is always one of the basic duties of government and it has been established that the level of infrastructural development of a society is one of the yardsticks of measuring the level of development of that country. In other words, when infrastructures of a country are not developed, such countries are being regarded as an under-developed society. This is because infrastructures are required for personal well-being and societal general development. Infrastructures such as good standard roads; stable power supply; viable rail system; good water transportation system; standard housing facilities; provision of good health services and so on are important ingredients of good life and where these facilities are lacking, life is bound to be short, brutish and nasty. It is highly regrettable that Nigerian government has failed in the provision of these basic social infrastructures and these have been a source of havoc and an instrument of mass destruction of the people of Nigeria. This failure can be traced to the high prevalence of corruption among those who ought to make these facilities available. Most states and Federal roads in Nigeria are not in good shape despite the huge amounts of money allocated for their construction and maintenance. The bad state of these roads have made them a death trap as accidents have become an everyday occurrence on the roads and the roads are recording higher numbers of casualties than ever. For instance, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), (2012) reported that at least 905 persons died in Tanker/Trailer road crashes accidents in 2011. Similarly, it also reported that that about four crashes were recorded daily in the year 2012, and each crash occurred with people having different degrees of injuries, some sustaining permanent disabilities and loss of lives. In the same year, it was also reported that 109 Tanker/Trailer crashes were averagely recorded in a month. It also reported that the crashes are on the increase as the records for the first few months of 2012 shows that 62-72 crashes has been recorded. (*The Tribune*, 29th August 2012). More recently, it was reported that about 51 accident victims got mass burial amidst anger, tears and confusion (*The Nation*, April 14, 2013).

Health facility is another infrastructural facility which corruption has severely affected in Nigeria. Provision of good health facilities is another important function of government the world-over, this is because good health is undoubtedly the foundation of good living and every other activities of man depend on his/her state of health (Metiboba, 2011). That is why it is often said that 'health is wealth'. In other word, a healthy individual is a wealthy one. Similarly, a healthy nation is a wealthy nation and vice versa.

However, it is important to know that one of the ways by which good health could be promoted among the populace is by providing quality and standard health facilities for the people of the society. However, the reverse is the case in Nigeria as corruption has brought about a situation whereby money meant to equip hospitals so that adequate facilities could be available to take good care of people's health has been embezzled by some few individuals in the health sector.

Reacting to the prevalence of such practices, Soyombo (2006) observed that corruption is lethal and kills because several lives have been lost due to corrupt practices by public officials who for instance embezzle or misappropriate health funds, thereby depriving hospitals of essential equipment and essential materials thereby causing unnecessary death. In other words, the health sector in Nigeria has been marred by corruption and probably one of the most corrupt sectors in the country. Corruption is so rife in the health sector in Nigeria that our health -providing institutions are not trusted to give a standard health services for the people. Health service provision is so un-trusted that scores of Nigerians have to travel abroad to get good health services. Whereas, it is not that money are not allocated to the sector on a yearly basis but because of the deep-rooted status of corruption in the

society, this has made the stakeholders in this sector misused most of the health funds for their own personal gain through corrupt means. As a result of the failure of the sector, people are dying of lots of curable diseases due to lack of facilities or negligence in the hands of health providers. In other words, lack of adequate health facilities which was majorly caused by corruption is another way by which corruption is massively destroying the lives of people in Nigeria.

Furthermore, high level of youth unemployment is one of the major consequences of high level of corruption in Nigeria. Unemployment is a serious social problem in Nigeria due to the catastrophic effects it has on the present and the future of Nigeria. Although the 2011 Federal Office of statistics put the unemployment rate in Nigeria at 23.9% (Abdul Ganiy, 2012) but critics of this figure are pessimistic of the figure that it does not represent the actual figure of unemployment rate in Nigeria. They are of the view that the rate would have been well over 40% if well measured. In a report from *The Guardian*, 25th June 2012, unemployment rate in Nigeria is put at 37% noting that over 40 million Nigerians are jobless and the poverty index is put at 60.9%.

Generally, some of the reflections of the high level of unemployment in Nigeria is manifested in the numbers of criminal activities carried out by the youths in the country; that is the reason many have tied the cause of Boko Haram uprising to the problems of high rate of unemployment in the country. Another devastating consequence of unemployment in Nigeria is reflected in the numbers of Nigerian youths living in foreign lands illegally or living there legally but sustaining in illegal activities. Because youths cannot find a secure economic future in the country, they migrate to foreign lands most of them without appropriate travelling documents, some with valid travelling documents but do engage in different types of illegal deals which most often lead to their un-timely deaths or leading to their arrest and eventual jail. Holders of the green white green passport are often singled out for thorough scrutiny and in the process embarrassed and meted with dehumanized treatments. President Goodluck Jonathan himself exclaimed by the numbers of Nigerian youths in South Africa Prison (*Premium Times*).

Similarly, it was reported that Nigerians are walking prisoners in Australia. More so, there are several reports on the worrisome numbers of Nigerians in Chinese prisons and many in-human treatments they were often exposed to. In India, it was a personal experience seeing Nigerians wandering about in different cities in India such as Mumbai and New Delhi, some engaging in illegal activities such as drug trafficking.

Even the trend in which Nigerians are migrating to Ghana to get a greener pasture is becoming worrisome. Every day, youths from Nigeria are fluxing into Ghana because they assume that Ghana is becoming a better place to survive than Nigeria. Generally, one of the main reasons why Nigerians especially youths are gushing out of this country is because of lack of gainful employment in which corruption has been identified as the major reasons for such high level of unemployment in the country. For instance, absence of vibrant energy source such as Good electricity which is supposed to be provided by PHCN (which has been plagued by the problem of corruption) is one of the major reasons why lots of indigenous business has failed in Nigeria and the same reason why most multi-nationals has migrate to other African countries such as Ghana and South Africa. NACCIMA (2012) reported that over 800 companies close shop in Nigeria in two years due to harsh condition of operation in the country. Generally, instances such as this have combined to make un-employment and poverty endemic in Nigeria.

Insecurity is a problem but it is important to note that the major cause of high level of insecurity in Nigeria is corruption. Insecurity has several destructive implications and it could be said that it is what caused destruction most to lives and properties of people in Nigeria. For instance, it was reported that lately that Nigeria recorded 400 bomb explosions between 2010 and May 2013 (*The Guardian*, May 22 2013) In Nigeria, houses has been burnt and properties worth trillions in Nigeria has been damaged and human lives are been wasted on daily basis in Nigeria as result of insecurity. Instances such as the *Baga* massacre in which close 200 persons were killed the *Ombatse* cult which killed over 180 security officials and so on and so forth are minimal examples of how insecurity has been destroying lives and properties in Nigeria.

The educational sectors are characterized by poor academic standards, unorganized extra curricula activities and wretched infrastructures and facilities. The various campuses are unkempt and in a serious state of disrepair. They appear like archaeological artifacts due to lack of maintenance. Many educational administrators are no longer and as such, they don't really care about what happen

to education in the country apart from maintaining their jobs and enhancing their financial wherewithal through embezzlement of allocated school funds, threats and unexplainable indirect fees imposed on students.

Conclusion

This paper has thus far examined how poor governance aids corrupt practices and its prevalence in every part of Nigerian society and especially among political office holders. The paper equally argued that the ineffectiveness of the rule of law among political office holders as well as lack of political will to investigate corrupt cases thrives the menace. It is also instructive to reiterate it here that individuals who engage in corrupt practices did so intentionally and purposefully because of the interpretative or subjective meaning attached to it as a national cake which past leaders have been sharing and which they must also have their own share too during their time.

Recommendations

Based on the aforementioned discourse, the following pragmatic recommendations are imperative.

First, value re-orientation. There should be an orientation and awareness towards repositioning the core values that our society embraces which are honesty, integrity, hardwork and accountability. Having consciousness of these value system will go a long way in desisting from illicit acts such as corruption which our society disapprove.

Secondly, government should equally launch anti-corruption war and have a strong political will to successfully prosecute those found guilty. Such prosecution will serve as a deterrence to other individuals who may subsequently want to indulge in such criminal acts.

Lastly, religious leaders should also be tasked with the responsibility of preaching honesty, hardwork and integrity among their worshippers and remind them of life after. This equally will go a long way in reducing the problem of corruption in Nigeria.

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