

MENACE OF CORRUPTION AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL CUM ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA: THE CASE OF NIGERIA

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Abstract: *Do the cases of corruption in Sub-Sahara Africa have any implication on national development? Providing a logical answer to this question motivated the call for this paper. Imperatively, the paper examined how the various cases of corruption in Sub-Sahara Africa, specifically; Nigeria have partly influenced national development in the specific areas of socio-political and economic activities. The paper is both descriptive and qualitative, it made use of data gathered from documented evidence/secondary sources, such as; Transparency International, TheGlobeconomy.com, Shadow Economy index among other corruption reportages from media publications, journal articles and textbooks. Data gathered were thematically analyzed while Collective action theory provided a theoretical guide to the study. Among other findings, the paper strictly established that corruption in Nigeria has impacted negatively on Nigeria's national development over the years. It is on this basis that the study recommended that Citizens of Sub-Sahara African countries should come with serious name-shaming for those who engage in any form of corruption. Word such as "stealing", "robbery" instead of embezzlement, privatization, money laundering should be accorded to anyone who engage in corrupt acts. More so, Sub-Sahara African nationals both home abroad should step up their campaigns against corruption in their distinct countries, particularly, among the political elites. This will go a long way in rebranding the image of the region and its citizens abroad. In addition, elections cum appointments into the position of elites and leadership in Sub-Sahara African countries should be strictly based on merit and should be free from money politics and godfatherism. All these aforementioned served as practical solutions on how to minimize the menace of corruption in Nigeria and as well, foster national development.*

Keywords: Corruption; Development; National Development; Sub-Sahara Africa; Transparency

INTRODUCTION

Corruption as a social problem/phenomenon is as old as human history. There are fears that corruption as a social menace in Sub-Sahara Africa and other countries of the world will likely remain a social problem for many years to come. Biswas and Tortajada (2018) traced the history of corruption globally to the First Dynasty of ancient Egypt between 3100 and 2700 BC; the scholars noted that corruption existed in its judiciary and subsequently in ancient Greek. As observed in Biswas and Tortajada (2018), the Greek Historian Herodotus reported that Alcmaeonid family bribed the oracle of Delphi priestesses one of the most powerful mystical forces of an ancient Greek. About 1400 BC, it was reported that the wealthy Alcmaeonid family offered to lavishly rebuild the temple of Apollo with Parian marble after it had been destroyed by earthquake. As a result of this, Pythia (the high priestess of Apollo) convinced the nation-state Sparta to assist the family to conquer and rule Athens. In essence, the phenomenology of corruption is rooted in Ancient Greek and Egypt. Subsequently, Dante cited in Tanzi (1988: P. 4) also interrogated the issue of corruption in the world and thereafter placed those who give bribes in the deepest part of hell. This studied justified the medieval distaste and hatred towards corrupt activities. Consequently, some of the Shakespearian's plays centered on corruption which influenced the American constitution to make briber and other corrupt activities one of the two most impeachable crimes for every president of the United States.

Subsequently, the spread of colonialism spread the issue of corruption across the world. Colonialism introduced systemic corruption on a large scale across many Sub-Sahara African countries. The repudiation of indigenous checks and balances values, standards and the imposition of western structures destabilized the standard bureaucratic political system. Consequently, this has resulted in the absence of loyalty to the state, oppressive and corrupt state institutions among others (Okolo and Raymond, 2014). Due to the continuous trend of neo-colonialism cum bad leadership, corruption in developing nations are more pronounced than developed nations, consequently, it remains one of the major impediments to good governance and legitimacy in most African countries. Globally, the International Community has established numerous anti-corruption wars cum advocacy to tackle the menace of corruption. Instances of this are; African Union, United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Transparency International, Amnesty International among others. However, these wars cum advocacy

are usually abused by government officials of the most developing countries through embezzlement, bribery, financial fraud, electoral corruption, unfair treatment of opposition, unofficial appreciations among others. Therefore, corruption becomes a major concern for citizens of such countries in relation to their trust, confidence and belief in their government when the resources and fund that are meant to benefit the entire citizenry/ go round to the populace for national development end up in the personal account of the few political office holders, when the corrupt judicial system/electoral commission rather than the choice of the electorates becomes the determinant of who wins or lose in a democratic election, when people are always afraid of speaking the truth or express their views due to dictatorial character among others.

Consequently, the menace of corruption remains a factor influencing legitimacy, the socio-political and economic activities which are paramount to the development of most African states. Focusing on Nigerian administrative system, the social menace of corruption remains one of the major challenges facing Nigeria since the time of her colonial period and it has eaten deep into fabrics of Nigerian political system. During the pre-independence and the First Republic; in western Nigeria, a politician (Adegoke Adelabu) was investigated following charges of political corruption (Adedoyin, 2016). Also, the British administration was accused of corrupt practices in the results of elections which enthroned a Fulani political leadership in Kano and there reports that linked the British authorities to electoral corruption, this marked the genesis of electoral fraud/corruption in Nigeria (Tignor, 1993). Between 1966 and 1975, corrupt activities were kept away from public view; lots of corruption scandal surrounded the importation of cement overwhelmed many officials of the defence ministry and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Yakubu Gowon's administration controlled the major Newspapers (Daily Times and New Nigeria) in order to keep corrupt practices of public office holders from the public view (Panter-Brick, n.d: P. 19). Some of the notable instances of corruption in Nigeria as it affect national development in Nigeria include the stealing of 7.1 billion by Orji Uzor Kalu between 1999 and 2007, diversion of 400 Million Naira received from the office of National Security Adviser, under Sambo Dasuki by Olisa Metuh; the laundering of 702 million Naira by Doyin Okupe (Former spokesperson to Former President Goodluck Jonathan), 100 billion Naira massive pension fraud by Abdulrasheed Maina which made him absconded Nigeria when declared wanted (Sanni, 2020); and more recently, Mr. Abba Kyari (Former Lagos State Deputy Commissioner of Police) involvement in 15kg of cocaine and handling over of over \$16,400 to NDLEA, 47 billion Naira fraud by diversion of 80 billion Naira by the former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (Nsima Ekere), Ahmed Idris (Accountant General of the Federation) among others (Sanni 2020; Omolayo 2022). By implication, between the time of independence in 1960 and mid-2021, Nigeria had reportedly lost 582 billion Dollars to corruption; the country also lost about 1.3 trillion Naira of public fund laundered between 2011 and 2015 alone as reported by Ogune (2021). This huge amount of money would have been utilized towards enhancing economic growth and development of the country. Thus, it is imperative to note that instances of corruption cases in Nigeria have presumable destructive consequences on her national development and more specifically, on Nigeria's economy.

The foregoing revealed much about the trends of corruption in Nigeria body polity. However, Nigerian government has put in place different measures or mechanisms towards checkmating and curbing the menace of corruption, and as well, foster national development. These mechanisms include establishment of anti-corruption agencies such as Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corruption and other Practices Commission, Public service reform, whistle blowing polices, War Against Corruption and Indiscipline among others. On the other hand, the various national development plans in Nigeria such as the first national development plan on health care system, education, housing among other essential services between 1962 and 1968; the second national development plan policy on agriculture, industry, transport, manpower, defence, stable electricity, water supply among others; more so, the third national development plan between 1975 and 1980 on rural development and agricultural sector; the fourth national development plan that focused on employment generation, good standard of living, even distribution of national income among groups and individuals among other national development oriented programmes such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), National Empowerment and Development Strategy, (Akindele, Ogini and Agada, 2013: P. 171) have presumably failed due to corruption; and more recently National Empowerment and Social development programmes such as Npower, Trader-Moni, School feeding among others.

The foregoing established menace of corruption and efforts towards fostering in national development in Nigeria. The menace of corruption has defiled all kind of response/policies for its treatment and its damaging effects seem to be numerous on national development. Despite these efforts of Nigerian government cum various policy recommendations made in the previous studies towards tackling corruption in the country, corruption is still alarming in Nigerian society with presumed negative impacts on national development. It is against this background that this paper interrogated the extent to which the menace of corruption in Nigeria has impacted on national development in the specific area of economic development.

Methodology

The paper is descriptive and aligns with qualitative orientation. It employed documented evidence from the existing literature such as media publications, corruption reportages and content-analyzed them thematically using pictorial, tabular and textual tools while

Collective action theory was adopted as a theoretical guide. Collective action theory was first published in 1965 by Mancur Olson who argues “any group of individual attempting to provide public good has difficulty doing so efficiently. On the one hand, individuals have incentives to free-ride on the efforts of others in certain groups and on the other hand, the size of a group is of high importance and difficult to optimally determine” (Wikipedia). Subsequently, Collective action theory was developed as a contemporary model to explain why systemic corruption persists despite the fact that laws made it illegal and why corruption resists various other anti-corruption efforts in some countries. The application of the theory in this paper rests on the fact that corruption in Nigeria is a collective problem because people rationalize their own behaviour based on the perceptions of what others will do in the same situation. Thus, when corruption has become a social norm rather than exception, everyone starts seeing it as the basic way to get things done. However, people (both the leaders and the citizens) are aware of the negative consequences of widespread corruption in Nigeria, but they engage in corrupt actions because they believe that it doesn’t make sense to be the only honest person in a corrupt system. Thus, anti-corruption agencies, such as, the EFCC, ICPC and measures such as Whistle blowing policy among others will be not be effective as they are not principled principals, that is, the anti-corruption agents are equally corrupt. By implication, corruption in Nigeria has been normalized both at the societal and individual levels. Thus, to combat corruption in Nigeria administrative system, there is need for coordinated and collective approaches, for example; reform coalitions of like-minded organizations. These approaches are called collective actions initiatives.

Corruption

Corruption has been viewed by social scholars from their different theoretical perspectives. Osimen, Adenegan & Balogun (2013: P. 87) posited that corrupt practices is as old as the world itself (i.e. corruption practice did not begin today), as it was found in democratic and dictatorial practices, feudalism, capitalism, socialist economies, among Christians, Muslims, Hindu and Buddhist cultures. The scholars maintained that Ancient civilizations have traces of corruption as experienced in the old Egypt, Rome, Israel and Greece down to the present and modern societies. However, the assertion of these scholars does not justify that the level of manifestation of corruption in every society is equal as some societies are more corrupt than others in reality. Similarly, Ogbunwezeh cited in Osimen et al (2013: P. 88) considered corruption as colonization of fraudulence; the brazen celebration of impunity which pollutes the ethical hygiene of a society. The scholar also considered corruption as a global phenomenon but more prevalent in Third World Countries, particularly in Africa.

Corruption had also been viewed by scholars as a social problem found in various degrees and forms in all but the most primitive societies (Stauts cited in Ekiyor, 2004). In a similar view, Ekiyor (2004) perceived corruption as the unlawful use of official power or influence by an official of the government wither to enrich himself or further his course and/or contrary to the conventions or laws that are in force. From the assertions of the above scholars, corruption was seen only in a political term as an oppressive instrument in the hand of political office holders. The view of these scholars can be interred as being too narrow and specific on two main ground that corruption is found everywhere, even in the churches and among religious bodies and also, they failed to take into cognizance that corruption exists among the citizens and government workers. Iyanda (2009) maintained that corruption is a common phenomenon that is found in both developing and developed countries of the world irrespective cultural and structural differences. From the view of this scholar, it is evident that corruption is endemic in both developed and developing countries of the world. Put differently, Stiglitz cited in Iyanda (2009) argued that corruption is systematic; a continuous cycle of deliberate initiative erected by those in authority and beneficial to political structured groups. The description of this scholar about corruption is less embracing and too narrow and also can be subjected to the question of whether corrupt activities only reside with those in position of authority only.

On a similar ground to the above, Egwakhe (2007) observed that institutional agent extortive corruption contexts are perfectly distinguishable and independent, and as a result less difficult to validly specify the order of casualty or precedent between the perpetuator and the beneficiaries. The assertion of the scholar can be jettisoned as it lacks definitional softness and flexibility. While commenting on the forms of corruption, Afolabi (2007), stated fee fraud, money laundering, fraudulent trade, bribery, false declaration, abuse of office and collection of illegal tolls. Although, one cannot overlooked the multi-dimensional perspectives of corruption as mentioned by the scholar, however, the description did not encompasses all facets of corruption as the scholar failed to include others such as electoral corruption. In a broader view, Alanamu cited in Egwakhe (2009) posited that corruption is like a disease that can cause total pathology for an organization and in relation to the society; corruption is endemic in the areas of economic, social, political and religious aspects of the society.

Theoretically, Adefulu (2007) opined that the process of economic and political development in developing societies tends to breed inequality, political instability and corruption which may be defined in the perception of the use of political power to achieve private goals. The major thing that can be understood from the view of this scholar is that embezzlement and privatization of public funds and resources are the major reasons ground for corruption. However, this is not so in reality. Corruption had also been used by scholars to mean a broad range of behavior. For instance, Nye (2005: P. 18) perceived corruption as bribery, where an illegal payment is made to government official in return for some type of official, state-sanctioned, authoritative act that has a selective and tangible impact and that in the absence of the secret payment would not otherwise have been made. However, the scholar failed to consider

some other facets of corruption such as kickbacks which operates much like a bribe but where illegal payment is made after rendering services. Similarly to the above, Heywood (1997: P. 25), distinguished many forms of corruption, according to the scholar, the first is, 'Transactive' corruption which involves the mutual arrangement between a donor and a recipient, the second is 'extortive' corruption which in the scholar opinion implies some form of compulsion usually harming a party, the third is 'defensive' corruption, which refers to the act of the victim of extortion is compelled to engage in; the fourth is what he termed 'investive' corruption which involves an act with no immediate payoff, but an understanding of a favour sometimes in future, the fifth is what he described as 'nepotistic' corruption, this relates to family members being appointed to positions in the government while the sixth is 'autogenic' corruption which entails one person acting alone with no official-citizen exchange and 'supportive' corruption which the scholar referred to the acts designed to protect and strengthen existing corruption. While commenting on forms and typology of corruption, Robinson cited in Bardhan (2006: P. 344) identified three forms of corruption, the first is what the scholar termed 'incidental' corruption which means misconduct on the part of the individual and this is considered rare, the second is, 'institutional' corruption referring to certain institutions that may be fond of corruption due to the absence of control while the last, is 'systemic' corruption, in the view of the scholar, this connotes the situation where corruption is deeply rooted and pervasive throughout a society.

In view of Boisvert, Peter and Ophelle (2014), corruption was viewed from different perspectives which include supply versus demand corruption, grand versus petty corruption, conventional versus unconventional corruption, public versus private corruption. However, despite the divergent classes of corruption claimed by these scholars, they are unable to caption all the other aspects as posited by previous scholars. Put differently by Shehu (2006), corruption was perceived as the bribery and extortion cases, the taker and the giver are both revealing the occurrence of corruption. On a separate ground Frazier-Moleketti (2007: P. 246), considered corruption as "a transaction or an attempt to secure illegitimate advantage for national interests, private benefit or enrichment, through subverting or suborning a public official or any person or entity from performing their proper functions with diligence and probity". This scholar's definition also takes into cognizance the forms of corruption that exists in both developed and developing country; and also in private and public sectors. Gyimah cited in Frazier-Moleketti (2007) considered it as a word that has been defined differently by both academics and practitioners who studied corruption. The scholar maintained that the term means different things to different people depending on individual's cultural background, discipline and political system.

The foregoing assertions and positions of scholars on the conception of corruption showed that there is no generally agreed way of defining the concept, therefore, it concept is socially constructed depending on the culture, society and kind of political system, in essence any attempt to define corruption must go beyond single perception and must encompass all views and angle, however depending on who is defining it and the perspective.

National Development

Scholars through different conceptual perspectives have debated on what National Development entails. The major elements that run through their definitions are that; it is synonymous to the growth and maturity of a Nation. More so, the term has been socially constructed among scholars of thought based on academic exposure. Thus, what scholars view development depends on their field of study. For instance, to a political scientist, development is synonymous to good governance and stable political system while economists consider it to mean development in economic activities among other disciplines. It is based on this view that Obasi (1987) gives reasons for the difficulty encountered in defining the concept. He holds that the term is ambiguous and is perceived differently by different people. It is on this ground that Obasi (1987) made an encompassing definition of National development, in his view, national development is considered as progressive transformation of the economic, social and political structures of a society from relatively less complex, less efficient and less desirable forms to relatively more complex, more efficient and more desirable forms.

Put differently, Seers as observed in Oni (2015: P. 85) considered national development as not only involving economic growth but also a condition in which people in a country have adequate food and jobs and the income inequality among them is greatly reduced. Similarly, Oni (2015: P. 85) sees economic progress is an essential path to development, however, the scholar further asserted that economy is not the only way of viewing development. From this definitional assertions of these scholars, national development as a concept is not just about a Nation's economic development, it is also more than political development. Thus, it is all embracing and multi-dimensional. Development is a multi-dimensional concept that involves in it re-organization and re-orientation of the entire economic, political and social institutions

Similarly, in the view of Gboyega (2003: P. 45) national development to some countries resolves around the attainment of self governance, to others it signifies the provision of essential infrastructure that create a healthy atmosphere, proper provision of education, communication and ability to evolve an amiable business environment for its citizenry while some even sees it as achievement in technology advancement. From the assertion of the scholar, development embraces an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence. In the same line of thought, Naomi cited in Akindele, Oginni and Agada (2013: P. 171) emphasized that development involves not only economic growth but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of

health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improve the individual and collective quality of life. From the foregoing assertions, development can be said to mean a process of societal advancement.

On a separate ground, Nnoli observed in Okereka (2015: P. 8) viewed development in term of technical artifacts physical structures, while other view it in term of social development which encompasses economic, political, cultural and ideological aspects. Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017: P. 15) considered national development to mean “the capacity of nation state to pull all its resources both human and material to achieve set objectives for the good of the state and the citizenry”. From the definition, national development revolves around the total commitment on the part of the rulers and the ruled. From this perspective, leaders are to create enabling environment for the citizens to actualize their dreams without any hindrance. Having cited Longman dictionary of contemporary English, the same Scholars considered national development as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. From the foregoing definitional conceptions, it is imperatively to note that national development as a term is socially constructed. Thus, any attempt to describe or define it to embrace all indices of development of a nation.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

From the previous assertions of scholars cum literature on what National Development entails; it is made known that National Development encompasses specifically; both socio-political and economic development. However, the paper analyzed and evaluated the effect of Corruption on these specific issues. As observed in Adelabu (2021: P. 9), the misappropriation and diversion of state resources by senior political office holders in Nigeria has negatively affected the economic growth of the country by diverting resources that should be invested in productive sectors such as manufacturing, production, agriculture, power and domestic savings. The same scholar equally maintained that corruption has also affected the provision of social amenities leaving the country with bad roads, erratic power supply, ill-equipped hospitals. In essence the manifestation of corruption in Nigeria has consequently deepened unemployment, inequality and generated abject poverty among majority of the Nigerian population.

Ola, Mohammed & Audi (2014) pointed out that corruption diverts resources from the poor to the rich; increases the cost of running businesses, distorts public expenditures, and deters foreign investment. According to the scholars, corruption saps a Nigeria's economy, hampers tax collection and undermines the enforcement of important regulation. More so, the scholars maintained that corruption creates loss of tax revenues and monetary problems leading to adverse budgetary consequences and is likely to produce certain composition of capital flows that makes a country more vulnerable to shifts in international investors. Philip & Moses (2013: P. 82) observed that corruption remains wide spread in contemporary Nigeria. According to the scholars, corruption has continued affecting virtually all public institutions. The scholars further maintained; “audit report on federal government finances, which covered key institutions such as ministries and departments; public corporations, the judiciary, the federal legislature and the presidency among others, authored by the Auditor-General of the Federation, revealed that as much as 23 billion naira have been lost to corruption in 2002 alone”. As a result of this Nigeria which was ranked between 1999 and 2001 in the rank of countries based on political stability and development consequently dropped to 167 and 180 in 2003 and 2004 respectively (theGlobeconomy.com), this is an indication that the 23 billion naira embezzled in 2002 has serious negative effects on Nigeria's political development and stability. Socio-politically, Oguniye cited in Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017: P.17) pointed out corruption as a huge challenge in public administration in Nigeria. Accordingly, the scholars maintained; “it is the core of crisis of governance and legitimacy, the establishment of stable democratic order, rule of law, development and the welfare of citizens of all forms of corruption, political corruption has posed a major obstacle to national progress in Nigeria”. More so, the scholar maintained that the crisis of national development in Nigeria can be attributed to a history of poor governance characterized by corruption, social injustice and political instability. From assertion of the scholars, it is obvious that corruption has partly contributed negatively to socio-political aspect of development of Nigeria as a nation.

FIGURE 1: Nigerian acclaimed ‘Super Cop’ (Abba Kyari) involvement in the stealing of 15kg of Cocaine



Source: Jeremiah (2022).

The pictures in Figure 1 demonstrated the involvement of the former Deputy of Commissioner of Police in drug cartel case. As presented in figure 1; Mr. Abba Kyari was subsequently filmed handing over \$16,400; the promise proceeds from the sale of 15kilogram (kg) of cocaine to undercover officer whose car was had been rigged with video and sound recorders. Mr. Abba Kyari's involvement was made known to the public after Nigeria's National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) declared him wanted him of being a "member of an international drug cartel that operates the Brazil-Ethiopia-Nigeria illicit drug pipeline" (BBC News, 2022; Jeremiah, 2022). A statement by NDLEA in the report reads; that it gave "green-light" to its officer to play along and alleged that Mr. Kyari plotted to steal 15kg of the haul located in Enugu and leave behind a "dummy" (claimed to be white flour) weighing the same amount" More so, it is imperative to note that the same Abba Kyari was already suspended for allegedly helping a notorious internet fraudster (Hushpuppi; as popularly known) to launder his money in the United States. In essence, the corrupt activities by the Nigeria Police officers have contributed to the underdevelopment of Nigeria because every case of corruption is being documented and reported globally and these forms indicator for the rankings by Transparency International thereby shaping of FDI inflow in Nigeria. A study conducted by Nzeribe (2017: P. 8) affirmed that the level of poverty is high in Nigeria because of corruption. Accordingly, the scholar emphasized that money budgeted for economic development and empowerment of the citizenry is diverted into private pockets and bank accounts abroad. In essence, the citizens are left impoverished. Even when poverty alleviation programs are initiated, the funds for it end up in private accounts.

FIGURE 2: Dramatic faint of NDDC Managing Director during Corruption probe at the National Assembly, Abuja on July 20, 2020



Source: Ebiri (2020).

The images in Figure 2 depict the staged scene of Kemebradikumo Pondei (the acting Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Company, NDDC) who slumped during public hearing on allegations of financial corruption over misappropriation of about 81 billion naira. The NDDC acting Managing Director intentionally lost his composure when the National Assembly was interrogating him over the alleged financial corruption in order to avoid being interrogated. The 81 billion Naira embezzled was meant for COVID-19 palliative, payment of scholarship, Lassa fever treatment, COVID-19 among other important issues that are germane to socio-political and economic development of Nigeria. In essence, this instance of financial corruption must have resulted to low socio-political and economic development in the Niger Delta region and Nigeria at large.

FIGURE 3: Police Men caught on Camera while using POS machine to collect bribe from Motorists



Source:

Jonathan (2019); Oluwasegun (2018).

The pictures in Figure 3 demonstrated the usual daily corrupt activities of some Nigerian security agents; particularly the Police officers. As shown in the pictures, it is evident that some Police officer are seen collecting cum extorting money from the passengers to the extent of using a Point of Sales (POS) machine while on official duty. The Nigeria Police corrupt practices must have contributed to the level of Poverty, high cost of living and illiteracy among the populace. In essence, when travelers pay a huge amount of money to settle police officers at every check points, it will lead to increase in the price every commodity they are carrying thereby contributing to poor economy and poverty on the side of the citizens.

As observed in the EFCC Annual report (2012), the pervasive activities of corruption in the country in the year 2012 led to the loss of government's legitimacy, increase in insecurity especially in the forms of kidnapping, robbery, ethnic and religious violence, deterioration in the standards of living and political instability. In the previous year, Nigeria was ranked 186th globally in the list of political stability was ranked 187th in 2013 due to the numerous reports of corruption cases in 2012. In essence, a country where armed robbery, kidnapping, nepotism persists due to corruptions are likely to be at the lowest level of development because these serve as indicators through which national cum political development of every nation is measured globally. Terlumun (2015) affirmed that corruption has posed serious effects to Nigeria's socio-political development. As reported by the scholar, corruption leads to killing of political opponents, upturns ethnic balance and cause serious problems in the areas of political integration and the legitimacy of government in Nigeria. From the assertion of the scholar, it is evident that corruption as a quagmire has continued to pose significant negative effect on the social political development of Nigeria in the areas of legitimacy of government, ethnicity and tolerance of opposition which are core principles of every democratic system among others.

Figure 4: Recovered looted money found in Ikoyi gate apartment



Source: Daniel (2017).

The above pictures demonstrates a huge amount of looted money discovered by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in April 12, 2017. The sum of over 43million U.S Dollars; 27,800 Euro; and about 23million Naira kept in Ghana must-go bag (Jute bags) and iron cabinets. The money was reportedly belonged to the wife of a former Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (Ayo Oke, Folashade) who owns the apartment. However, the money and the building were later forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria. In essence, the looted money was meant to be embezzled from the Nigerian Government which could have been used to foster national development.

The high rate of corruption as observed by Odeh and Umoh cited in Adelabu (2021: P.10) has equally contributed to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. Since the Youth are being marginalized by the corrupt political elites, insecurities have increased over the years due to lack of productive opportunities for the youth and the antagonistic struggle for scarce resources and basic necessities of life. Job opportunities for the many graduates have become dimmer and it is common to see many young people struggling to leave the country for greener pastors. In essence, the endemic corruption by some senior public officials has also escalated insecurity in the country thereby drawing back the speed of Nigeria's national development and gradually leading the country to a state of lawlessness where life is nasty, brutish and short.

More so, Nigeria has been consistently rated low by Transparency International since 2007 due to high rate of corruption as reported by Uzochukwu cited in Nzeribe (2017: P. 8), according to the report, Nigeria has consistently appeared in the unholy list of Transparency International because the system is totally corrupt. Consequently, the UNDP human development report/ index for 2017 rated Nigeria No. 152 out of 188 Nations because of corruption and poor human and infrastructural development (UNDP; HDI; 2017). From this assertion, it is obvious that corruption has seriously affected human and national development in Nigeria because human cum infrastructural development are essentials ingredients of national development.

Table 1: Top 10 countries with Shadow Economy in the world:

YE AR AIP	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
1	Zimbabwe 67.00	Zimbabwe 65.85	Zimbabwe 64.55	Zimbabwe 63.69	Zimbabwe 63.89	Zimbabwe 65.62	Zimbabwe 69.08	Georgia 67.93
2	Haiti 56.38	C.A. Rep. 55.96	Georgia 56.57	Georgia 58.67	Georgia 60.86	Georgia 64.73	Georgia 68.46	Zimbabwe 61.66
3	Georgia 53.07	Georgia 54.10	C.A. Rep. 52.64	Benin R. 53.64	Benin R 55.12	Gabon 58.02	Gabon 63.47	Gabon 60.07

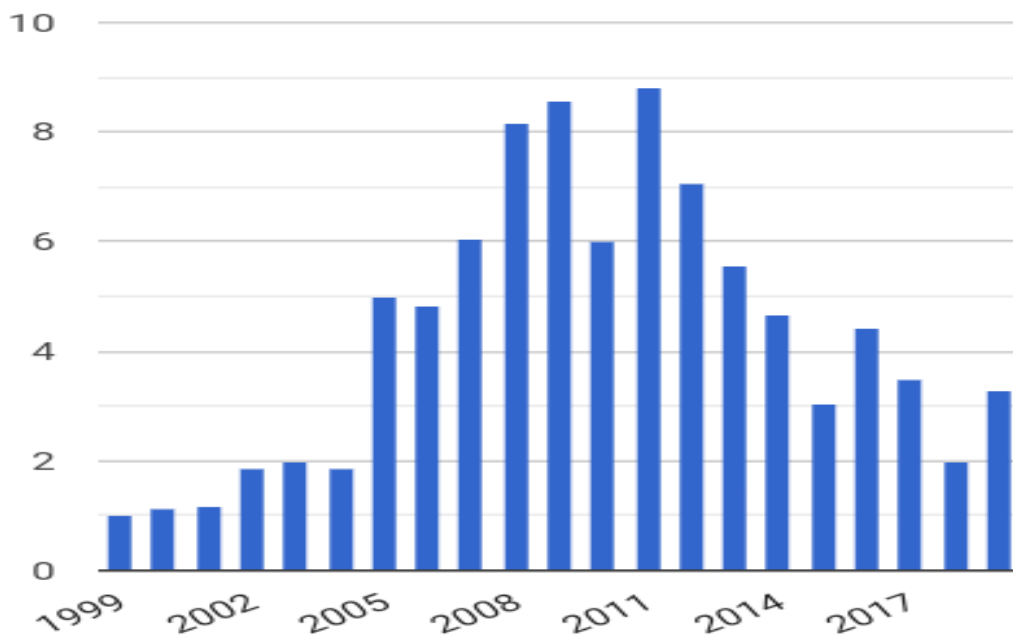
4	Nigeria 52.49	Gabon 53.48	Gabon 52.52	Gabon 53.50	Gabon 54.75	Bolivia 56.06	Bolivia 58.40	Bolivia 54.65
5	Gabon 52.01	Haiti 51.21	Haiti 51.84	Haiti 52.49	Haiti 52.30	Benin R. 54.49	Benin R. 56.63	Haiti 54.15
6	Burma 50.99	Nigeria 50.64	Nigeria 51.70	Nigeria 51.56	Bolivia 51.82	Haiti 52.93	Nigeria 53.98	Benin R. 53.52
7	C.A. Rep. 50.71	Guatemala 47.82	Benin R. 50.71	Guatemala 50.62	Guatemala 51.76	Nigeria 52.80	Haiti 53.72	Nigeria 53.06
8	Benin R. 48.28	Thailand 47.25	Guatemala 50.48	Bolivia 49.64	Nigeria 51.51	Guatemala 52.23	Guatemala 53.26	Guatemala 50.47
9	D.R.C 46.95	Bolivia 46.93	Bolivia 48.18	Thailand 46.67	Gambia 48.57	Thailand 48.65	Thailand 51.22	Burma 49.89
10	Guatemala 46.88	Benin R. 46.33	Thailand 46.74	D.R.C. 45.98	Thailand 47.88	Burma 48.60	Tanzania 49.49	Thailand 47.84

Source: TheGlobeconomy.com

The data presented in table 1 demonstrates the profile cum status of countries with shadow economy. Shadow economy means black market or underground economy that is deemed illegal. From the table, it is evident that shadow economy is prevalent in Nigeria as the country is found within the top 10 countries who engaged in its practice globally between 2008 and 2015. Comparably, according to Transparency International, in 2006, Nigeria was ranked 151st based on the level of transparency and ability to shun corruption in her political system. By 2008, Nigeria’s rank reduced by 14, from 151 to 165 due to the menace of corruption and it marked the first time Nigeria was enlisted (ranked 7th) in the list of countries with shadow economy (this is a negative indicator of socio-economy development). Due to persistent menace of corruption, Nigeria’s level of transparency seriously declined, Nigeria was enlisted in the bottom list (ranked 173) of Transparency International in the year 2014; and consequently, Nigeria’s rank in the list of countries with shadow economy increased to 4, this marked Nigeria’s first highest ranking of Nigeria in the list. In essence, this is an indicator that corruption has serious negative effects on Nigeria’s socio-economic development. The more the rank of Nigeria reduces in Transparency International, the higher her rank increases in shadow economy in the years ahead. .

While commenting on the impacts of corruption socio-economic development in Nigeria, Sverdsen observed in Bamgboye (2018) noted that corruption has hampered economic policies and development of Nigeria; as economic resources that would have stimulated the economy are sabotaged or undermined due to corruption. Consequently, corruption has also caused a huge loss of public funds that would have been channeled towards the economic development of the country. More so, the scholar maintained that corruption has negatively shaped the inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) as the prospective foreign investors are wary of investing in Nigeria due to pervasive corruption reported in the country; poor economic growth rate as reflected in poor Gross Domestic Products (GDP) as well as poor infrastructural development.

Figure 5: The trend of Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment, billion USD (1999-2019)



Source:

Owoeye, Okafor and Chinonso (2021: P. 62).

The data presented in Figure 5 demonstrated the annual chart of Foreign Direct Investment into Nigeria in billion USD; it ranges from 0 to 10 billion USD between 1999 and 2019. As evident in the table, there was a continuous increase in Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment in the first 11 years (1999-2009), there was a significant increase in Nigeria's FDI, from 1.0 billion USD to 8.56 billion USD. However, the serious cases of corruption in Nigeria between 2011 and 2015; such as Diversion of Ebola fight fund of about 1.9 billion Naira, Enormous scam in weapons and defence procurements and misappropriation of 3 trillion naira defence budget between 2011 and 2015 under the guise of fighting Boko Haram, Diversion of 60 percent of 1 billion Dollars foreign loans obtained from the Chinese Ministry of Finance, 60 million barrels of about 14 billion Dollars of oil discovered stolen under the watch of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation among other serious cases of corruption consequently led to gradual decrease in Foreign Direct Investment into Nigeria between 2011 and 2015. The significant increase of FDI into Nigeria between 2015 and 2016 was a result of the introduction of anti-corruption and anti-graft war in 2015 as the major agenda of the President Mohammad Buhari towards fighting corruption. However, the failure to effectively tackle corruption due to nepotism cases and accusation against the president of leading a selective war against corruption focusing majorly on the members opposition party (PDP) while ignoring the corrupt politicians in All People's Congress, APC (Ugwuanyi, 2016).

The impact of Corruption on political development of Nigerian Nation is evident in the work of Philip and Moses (2013), accordingly, the scholars commented that "corruption causes a serious development challenge, in the political sphere; it undermines democracy and good governance by weakening political system. Corruption in elections subverts accountability and representation in policy making, in the judiciary it suspends the rule of law and in the public service it leads to the unequal distribution of services. More so, it is on this basis that Obadan cited in Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017) subsequently maintained that the evidence of misallocation of resource, diversion of resources for personal gain among others creates an unstable political environment. This assertion is line with Centre for Democracy and Development (CDI, 2001) that pointed out that corruption promotes social and political instability, prevents the ability of state foster rule of law and corrodes trust and undermines legitimacy of government.

More so, Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017) asserted that the core effect of corruption on socio-political development of Nigeria includes bad governance, poor government service delivery, inadequate infrastructural amenities, absence of rule of law and constitutionalism, poor management of public corporations cum enterprise among others which are unfavourable to political development of Nigeria. World Bank observed in Ibrahim and Ahmad (2017) pointed out bad governance as one of the impacts of corruption on political development. It was observed that bad governance has many features, among which are failure to make a clear separation between what is public and what is private, hence a tendency to divert public resources for private

gain, failure to establish a predictable framework for law and government behaviour that is conducive to development or arbitrariness rules, regulations, licensing requirements among others which impede the functioning of political system.

CONCLUSION

The subject matter of this paper is to examine the impacts of corruption on socio-political and economic aspects of National development in Sub-Sahara Africa, specifically; Nigeria. From the analysis of data, It is evident that corruption has been a serious threat to socio-political and economic development in the specific areas of Human development, economic activities, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Nigeria, Public projects among others in Nigeria, a sub-part of Sub-Sahara Africa; more so, it has become a signal to other regions/continent of the world that Nigeria like other Sub-Sahara African countries is corrupt nation/region as evident in the various corruption reportages. Based on this, an urgent solution is needed. Thus, corruption is a serious quagmire cum threat to national development in Sub-Sahara African Countries via Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings from the data previously analyzed; the following recommendations are made;

- ❖ Citizens of Sub-Sahara African countries should come with serious name-shaming for those who engage in any form of corruption. Word such as “stealing”, “robbery” instead of embezzlement, privatization, money laundering should be accorded to anyone who engage in corrupt acts.
- ❖ More so, Sub-Sahara African nationals both home abroad should step up their campaigns against corruption in their distinct countries, particularly, among the political elites. This will go a long way in rebranding the image of the region and its citizens abroad.
- ❖ In addition, elections cum appointments into the position of elites and leadership in Sub-Sahara African countries should be strictly based on merit and should be free from money politics and godfatherism.

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