

Implication of Bureaucratic Corruption on Political Development in Nigeria

Ezeanya Emeka Vincent¹ and Azubuike Francis Callistus²

Department of Political Science

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State-Nigeria

Email: 1ev.ezeanya@unizik.edu.ng, 2cf.azubuike@unizik.edu.ng

Abstract: After decades of political independence, corruption in Nigeria has continued to manifest in various forms which include corrupt government institutions, police extortion, money politics, and embezzlement of public funds without serious prosecution. Specifically, this seminar paper examined how bureaucratic corruption in Nigeria has affected Nigeria's political development in the specific areas of political stability, transparency, electoral processes, bureaucracy, security and legitimacy of government. The paper used qualitative and descriptive methods. It strictly relied on data gathered from secondary sources such as materials. The Elite theory served as a theoretical framework. Among other findings, the study established that bureaucratic corruption in Nigeria has significant negative effect on Nigeria's political development in the reviewed years. Thus, the paper recommended an urgent need for Nigerian government to come up with strict policy measures; such as total forfeiture of properties corruptly acquired and life imprisonment of any government official found guilty of bureaucratic corruption. In addition, there should be enough funding for the anti-corruption agencies, such as the EFCC and ICPC in the course of carrying out their constitutional duties. These will enable them to investigate corruption cases independently and effectively.

Keywords: corruption, bureaucracy, political development

Introduction

The history of corruption as a social phenomenon has been traced to about 2 millenniums -2000 years ago. As observed in Lipset & Lenz, (2000), the foremost study on corruption is traced to Kautilya, the then Prime Minister of Indian King who wrote a book 'Arthashastra'. Consequently, corruption became globally recognized about Seven centuries ago. The emergence of corruption is traced to traditional Ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome and Greece and became widespread during the era of colonialism. Subsequently, Nigeria inherited her culture of corruption from her colonial masters. Corruption remains one of the major factors influencing socio-political and economic activities of most African states. Focusing on Nigerian administrative system, financial corruption is one of the challenges facing Nigeria since her colonial period.

Subsequently, between 1976 and 1979, a large number of national projects such as building of refineries, expansion of national shipping cum airlines, pipelines among others were awarded to enrich or favour connected politicians and this influenced the extent to which the country could have developed. Between 1983 and 1985, Nigeria was criticized for ethical judgment via the issue of 53 suitcases scandal in 1984 (Emmanuel, 2011). More so, between 1985 and 1993, the administration of IBB refused to give account of the Gulf War windfall of about 12.4 billion USD, the first election in Nigeria was rigged and various government privatization initiatives were used to reward friends and relatives (Emmanuel, 2011). Between 1993 and 1998, there were lots of money frauds such as about 100 millions USD bribe paid to Nigerian government officials to enable the award of a gas plant construction in the country (Igbikiowubo, 2004).

There were corrupt allegations such as Halliburton scandal under the short administration of Abdusallami Abubakar as Nigerian Head of State (1998-1999). There is also the KBR and Siemens bribery scandal which was investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation, Transcorp Scandal, the 5.7 billion Naira scandal of the then IGP, (Mr. Tafa Balogun) among others between 1999 and 2007. From 2007 to 2010, the corrupt practices of James Ibori, Peter Odili, Lucky Igbinedion DSP Alamaisegha among others, came into limelight (Human Rights Watch, 2009). Between 2010 and 2015, there were massive corrupt cases and kickbacks in NNPC, the 255 million naira BMW purchase scandal by the Minister of Aviation (Stella Odua), stealing of money from the Central Bank of Nigeria among others. From 2015 till date, there are many corrupt activities ranging from electoral to financial frauds which made the EFCC revealed that not less than 600 Nigerians had been convicted on financial corruptions (Iroanusi, 2018).

The foregoing revealed much about the trends of bureaucratic corruption in Nigerian body polity. However, at various points in time, the Nigerian government has put in place different measures towards curbing bureaucratic corruption and as well which could serve as a tool to foster political development. According to Adeshina cited in Ego and Onyekwelu (2018), these mechanisms include establishment of anti-corruption agencies such as Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Electoral Act of 2018, Independent Corruption and other Practices Commission (ICPC), Public service reform, sanitization in the Nigeria National

Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC), Whistle blowing policy, War Against Corruption and Indiscipline (WAI) to mention but a few. However, these efforts seem not to have yielded the expected outcomes as corruption remains a serious problem to be adequately tackled in Nigeria's bureaucratic setting.

Bureaucratic corruption has become a quagmire in the global system and gained the attentions of scholars and the International Community. This has facilitated the establishments of corruption reportages/monitoring organizations such as Transparency International (TI), Corruption Perception Index (CPI) among others that have consistently rated countries based on their level of transparency and all forms of corruption. Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for instance has consistently published Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Singapore and Sweden as the five least corrupt bureaucracies in the world (CPI; 2021); thus, these countries are point of references when talking of development of any kind; ranging from socio-economic to political development. Nigeria as a less developed country would have been in the list of these developed countries if not for prevalent acts of bureaucratic corruption in her political system. But unfortunately, Nigeria has lost public funds of between US\$300 and US\$400 billion to bureaucratic corruption since independence in 1960 (Adesina, 2016). These huge amount of money lost to bureaucratic corruption could have been used to develop the political system in the past.

Interestingly, after decades of political independence in Nigeria, bureaucratic corruption has continued to manifest in various forms which include corrupt government institutions cum bureaucracies, police extortion, and embezzlement of public funds without any serious prosecution. It is imperative to note that all the aforementioned areas of bureaucratic corruption are likely to pose serious destructive effects on the political development of Nigeria; without bureaucratic corruption, all these funds could have been channeled to the appropriate place to enhance development and Nigeria could have been a better place and presumably one of the politically developed countries globally. However, the destructive effects of corruption arising from Nigeria's bureaucracy have continued to affect political activities in Nigeria thereby influencing her legitimacy of governance, the practice of democracy, good governance, the level of political stability of Nigeria among others which serve as indicators of political development.

Bureaucratic corruption has defiled all kind of responses and its damaging effects cannot be easily measured on the political development of Nigeria. As part of the efforts of Nigerian government towards fighting corruption, the country has implemented various polices in curbing corruptions but none of the responses seem to have significantly fought financial corruptions arising from money politics, embezzlements, misappropriation of public funds in Nigeria's public sectors. It is on this basis the study intends to investigate the implications of bureaucratic corruptions on political development in Nigeria

Methodology

The study is descriptive and aligns with qualitative orientations. In this study, descriptive design provided exploratory approach to the study and this enabled the researcher to study and examine the impacts of bureaucratic corruption on political development of Nigeria in recent times. In essence, Descriptive Research Design enabled the researcher to look deep into the attributes and actions of bureaucratic corruption and political development of Nigeria in this study and assessed them to make reliable prediction for future occurrence. Thus, Descriptive Research design tools such as tables and texts were used in the presentation and analysis of data.

Elite theory served as theoretical framework for this research. Elite theory is rooted in the thoughts of Polybius (150 B.C) when he referred to what we call today Elite theory as simply "autocracy". The subsequent exponents of the theory include Gaetano Mosca, Vilfredo Pareto, Robert Michel. To properly understand and establish the links between bureaucratic corruption and political development of Nigeria, Elite theory is useful. The theory posits that the key power of a state resides in the hand of few individuals (the elites) whose decisions are not subjected to any other authority. Thus, this symbolizes the rule by the few elites who represent the entire society or nation. However, elites occupy every stratum of the society; hence we have administrative elites, religious elites, educational elites, political elites among others. Since power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely and the right to rule is ascribed to the political elites rather than the entire citizenry (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2017), the elites tend to use their power to get what they want at any particular point in time. Hence, concentration of administrative power tends to make the bureaucratic elites in Nigeria use and misuse the state power within their disposal to plunder resources which would have rather been used for Nigeria's political development for their selfish interests and this encourages corruption in the system.

Imperatively, most of the funds that are meant for developmental projects and political development programmes end up in private pockets or personal accounts of the bureaucratic elites. Thus, it is important to note that the Nigerian bureaucratic elites maintain hegemonic circle that drained off the resources meant for political development for personal gain. The bureaucratic corruptions among the public servants cum bureaucratic elites are responsible for low development of Nigeria. In essence, the more the administrative power are concentrated in the hands of the corrupt bureaucratic elites, the lower the level of political development in Nigeria.

Scope of the study

The content scope of the study covers the impacts of bureaucratic corruption arising from Nigeria's public sector on political development of Nigeria. Meanwhile, the content scope of this study also revolves around the area of Nigerian government responses towards tackling the menace of financial corruption in Nigeria. The time scope covers between the year 2008 and 2021

Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy as a phenomenon has been described by different scholars based on their theoretical perceptions but with no general consensus on the meaning of the term. Nevertheless, the major element that runs through out literature on the meaning of the term is that it connotes a body of non-elected governing officials as well as to an administrative policy-making group

Etymologically, bureaucracy was derived from the French two words, and was formed was formed by combining these two French words; bureau 'desk' and -cratie meaning 'a kind of government' (that's bureau+cratie). The English word can refer to an entire body of unelected government officials or to the problematic system (often filled with red tape) that may result from administration by bureaucrats (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 2022)

As observed in American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2016), bureaucracy is considered as a government administration managed by departments staffed with non-elected officials. In the view of the scholar, getting into bureaucratic positions are not done through elections, thus, the member of the public in a bureaucratic settings are not elected officials. On a broader sense, Banton (2022) considered bureaucracy as the administrative system governing any large institution, whether publicly owned or privately owned. In the view of the scholar, public administration in many jurisdictions and sub-jurisdictions exemplifies bureaucracy, but so does any centralized hierarchical structure of private institution which are not limited to, but include hospitals, academic entities, business firms, professional societies, social clubs, etc.

In the view of Weber cited in Swedberg & Agevall (2005), bureaucracy constitutes the most efficient and rational way in which human activity can be organized and that systematic processes and organized hierarchies are necessary to maintain order, to maximize efficiency, and to eliminate favoritism. However, Weber equally considered unfettered bureaucracy as a threat to individual freedom, with the potential of trapping individuals in an impersonal "iron cage" of rule-based, rational control.

On a separate ground, Yolles (2017) considered bureaucracy as a social subsystem of administrative structure that functions within a given frame of reference and that has set of regulations in piece to control activities to deliver services on behalf of some policy directive delivered through corporate or state governance. The same scholar further maintained that bureaucracy needs a political system to operate with some forms of legitimate governance. In the view of the scholar, bureaucracy services operate well where the act of governance conforms to the principle of accepted laws.

Bureaucratic Corruption

Bureaucratic corruption as a concept has been carried over in literature without proper contextualization and elaborated beyond any meaningful use rather than being restricted to certain contexts. However, the few theoretical perceptions of scholars on the meaning of the term are reviewed. In the view of Mbaku (1996), bureaucratic corruption encompasses illegal levies, nepotism, illegal appropriation of public resources among similar others. In the view of the scholar, bureaucratic corruption connotes almost every aspect of corruption in a bureaucratic settings, nevertheless, bureaucratic corruption cannot be limited those mentioned by the scholars; as one cannot overlook favouritism, unofficial appreciation, regionalism among others. The same scholar further maintained that bureaucratic corruption provides civil servants with the opportunity to raise their compensation above what the law prescribes.

Boisvert, Dent & Quraishi (2014) considered bureaucratic corruption as 'petty corruption, which according to the scholars implies the involvement of public administration officials and non-elected officials in corrupt activities. Although, one cannot fail to acknowledge the definitional assertion of the scholars on; however, they failed to identify what the corrupt activities as described entails.

While making an attempt to define bureaucratic corruption, Hussain (2016) considered the concept as corrupt acts of appointed bureaucrats in their dealings with either superiors (that is, the political elites) or with the public. As further asserted by the scholar, under bureaucratic corruption, public officials allow a private agent the privilege they are rightly entitled to, in return for payment in cash or kind. The scholar further maintained the bureaucrats have the resources of power and have the opportunity to exploit if the political elites fail to properly control the apparatus.

Scholars such as Rose-Ackerman (1988) and Jane (2001) pointed out three (3) through which bureaucrats could be considered as corrupt, these according to the scholars include; bribing to equate supply and demand, bribing for an incentive payment and bribery to lower costs. While commenting on the causes of bureaucratic corruption in developing countries of the world, Hussain (2016) considered inability to pay civil servants the appropriate wage for labour; when bribe levels are high or the tendency of detention of fines low, this predicts that the wage necessary to eradicate corruption is low.

On a distinct ground, scholars have equally commented on the positive effects of bureaucratic corruption. In the view of Hussain (2016), there are cases where it has increased productivity of the economy when the corrupt bureaucrats invest in their local economy. The same scholar also maintained that bureaucratic corruption that despite the grave consequences of bureaucratic corruption, it also has positive attributes which could benefit individuals and economic investment. From the assertion of this scholar, bureaucratic corruption can be either good or bad.

Political Development

The concept of development has recently become one of the most used concepts globally, particularly, among the developing nations. The common usage of the term arises from its various meanings, applications and significance. Etymologically, the word “development” was derived from the French verb ‘*velop*’, which means “to wrap”. Invariably, to “de-velop” means to “un-wrap” or to change from a smaller into a larger, stronger, more impressive, successful or advanced status (John & Akpakpan, 2018). From the assertion of these scholars, development generally connotes some form of transformation from an inferior or insignificant condition to a superior or significant one. Subsequently, scholars have debated through their conceptual perspectives on what development entails. The major element in their definitions is that it is synonymous to growth and maturity. More so, the term has been socially constructed by scholars based on their academic exposure.

Contemporarily, political development is a universal concept that is placed in most of nations in the world. In the view of Pye, cited in Ayeni (2018), political development is active involvement in mass participation and popular involvement in political activities. In this viewpoint, the level at which people are voluntarily involved in the political activities of a country goes a long way in determining the level of political development of their nation. Similarly, Agagu & Omotoso (2013) considered political development as a concerted effort geared towards achieving civic-political efficacy of a nation. In their view, political development revolves around the ability of the citizens to determine their own political destiny without undue reliance on external interference. The same scholars equally maintained that political development involves the ability of citizens to develop the skills, attitude and knowledge needed for sustainable democratic governance. Scholars have also defined political development as a process of political change.

As observed in James (2009), political development is seen as political change that results in a durable shift in governing authority. In this sense, political development occurs when political change reconfigures or reconstitutes the locus of legitimate government action; durability is achieved when competing sources of authority, power and influence adhere to these changes, adjust their expectations accordingly, a new modes of political interaction, new modalities of government arise and stabilize

Empirical Review

Financial Corruption In Nigeria’s Public Sector And Political Development In Nigeria

Obialor and Ugochukwu (2017) conducted a study on Corruption and effective public performance in Nigeria. The study investigated how the problem of public performance in Nigeria arising financial corruptions has influenced the development of the political system. It adopted documentary method in and adopted elite theory. Among others findings, the study revealed that financial corruption unarguably is responsible for the abysmal performance of the programmes in Nigerian public sector which have engulfed political development. The study suggested that an attitudinal change and promotional reward system to corrupt free officials.

Osakede, Ijimakinwa, Adesanya, Ojo, Ojikutu & Abubarka (2015) carried out a study on Corruption in the Nigeria public sector: an impediment to good governance and sustainable development. The study employed qualitative approach and adopted secondary data. The paper revealed that Nigeria is faced with problems of poverty, insecurity, bad governance, and many more, these problems were partly attributed to financial corruption. The paper suggested that government should urgently initiate moves to work with the National Assembly to review Nigeria constitution to empower the anti-corruption agencies to work without being interrupted by the government.

Lloyd (2019) conducted a research on the effects of corruption on national (political) development between 1999 and 2017 using Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as a case study. Having adopted Marxian Political economy approach, the study revealed that to a large extent, corruption has contributed to poverty in Nigeria. More so, the study established that to a large extent, increases in oil revenues cum oil industry rather than reducing poverty in Nigeria; has resulted in underdevelopment due to prevalent menace of corruption in the country. Accordingly, the study suggested that those institutions have to be free of corruption themselves and be the active players in the fight against corruption. Nevertheless, the study failed to consider the general impacts of corruption in other sectors as it limits its scope to financial corruption in NNPC.

Efforts of Nigerian Government Towards Fighting Bureaucratic Corruption as A Tool in Enhancing Political Development

Igbuzor (2018) carried out a study on strategies for winning the anti-corruption war in Nigeria. It is qualitative and employed data from secondary sources. The study revealed that despite the plethora of legislations cum agencies towards fighting corruption in Nigeria, corruption remains widespread and pervasive because of the failure to utilize universally sustainable anti-corruption

programming and failure to locate the anti-corruption struggle within a broader struggle to transform Nigerian society. In form of solution, the study recommended that anti-corruption fight must be guided by legislative framework for transparent and accountable government; comprehensive strategy that is systematic, comprehensive, publicized, non-selective and non-partisan; protection of whistle blower among others.

Onuche (2018) conducted a study on the examination of the challenges on the fight against corruption in Nigeria. Having assessed the various anti-corruption agencies established to fight corruption in Nigeria and the extent to which they have discharged their duties and overcome the challenges militating against them in the performance of the roles, the study found out that efforts have been made by Nigerian government towards curbing corruption but with little or no achievements to show for it. Thus, the study recommended among others that; anti-corruption agencies must have an independent finance separate from government budgetary to prevent dependence of the anti-corruption agencies on other institutions of government.

A study conducted by Cheeseman and Peiffer (2020) on why efforts to fight corruption hurt democracy, using a Nigeria as a case study. The main objective of the study was to examine the effectiveness of the efforts of Nigeria towards fighting financial corruption in her democratic settings. Having conducted a series of interview, the researcher found out that none of the anti-corruption programmes had a significant impact on curbing corruption in Nigeria. The study recommended that those who use their positions and opportunities to loot should be ultimately and sincerely dealt with.

Table 1: Summary of Empirical Review

S/N	Author(s)	Year	Area of Study	Title	Methodology	Findings
1	Osakede, Ijimakinwa, Adesanya, Ojo, Ojikutu&Abubakar	2015	Nigeria public sector	Corruption in the Nigeria public sector: an impediment to good governance and sustainable development	Qualitative method	Financial corruption in Nigeria has resulted in poverty and all forms of insecurities
2	Obialor and Ugochukwu	2017	Nigeria	Corruption and effective public performance in Nigeria	Qualitative/Documentary method	Financial corruption in the public service has retarded productivity and political development of Nigeria
3	Igbuzor	2018	Nigeria	Strategies for winning the anti-corruption war in Nigeria	Content analysis	Corruption remains pervasive in Nigeria due to the failure to utilize universally sustainable anti-corruption programming and failure to locate the anti-corruption
4	Onuche	2018	Nigeria	Examining the effectiveness of Nigerian government towards fighting financial corruption	Qualitative method	Efforts have been made by Nigerian government towards curbing financial corruption but with little or no achievements to show for it
5	Lloyd	2019	Nigeria/NNPC	the effects of corruption on national (political) development between 1999 and 2017: a study of NNPC	Qualitative method	Financial corruption in NNPC has resulted to the underdevelopment of Nigeria
6	Cheeseman and Peiffer	2020	Nigeria	Why efforts to fight corruption hurt democracy, using a Nigeria as a case study	Qualitative method	None of the anti-corruption programmes had a significant impact on curbing corruption in Nigeria.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Examining the effects of Bureaucratic Corruption in Nigeria's Public Sector on Political Development of Nigeria

Uwak and Udofia (2018) commented that bureaucratic corruption in Nigeria's public sector has instigated insecurity challenges. According to the scholars, the militancy and insecurities in the Southern-Nigeria is a result of the embezzlement of the funds meant for the development of the region by political/ public office holders prompting the youth of the area to take up arms in order to take part of the resources. Accordingly, the scholars further asserted that corruption in the public sectors has degenerated to the extent of disrupting gas supply thereby resulting in poor electricity supply across the country while some youths have decided to take their destiny in their own hands by engaging themselves in kidnapping. All these are crises are being encouraged by bureaucratic corruptions in Nigeria thereby resulting in low political development via insecurities.

Another instance of bureaucratic corruption as it affects political development in Nigeria is evident in the work of Aroghama cited in Aliu (2019), who affirmed that bureaucratic corruption undermines the attainment of public policy and the rule of law, repudiates the democratic values of accountability in Nigeria's public sector as well as transparency, equality and popular participation in government and retards political development. This is also affirmed by World Bank cited in Aliu (2019) who affirmed that bureaucratic corruption has adverse implications for institutional and governmental legitimacy. In essence, bureaucratic corruption is a threat to the legitimacy of government and also undermines trust in governance and public sectors.

John & Akpakpan (2018) commented that Nigeria is caught in the web of financial cum bureaucratic corruption and it has seriously impeded her political development in the country. The same scholars equally maintained that funds which are set aside for implementing development policies are usually diverted into private pockets to the detriment of the entire nation. Consequently, Corruption Perception Index between 2015 and 2021 released by the Transparency International has confirmed this claim. It revealed that Nigeria has failed to achieve her socio-political improvement over the last six years due to financial corruption in her bureaucratic settings. It statistically places Nigeria at 134th position out of 176 countries that were assessed.

Ebiri (2020) reported the dramatic scene of the acting Managing Director (Prof. Kemebradi kumo Pondei) of Niger Delta Development Company (NDDC) who slumped during public hearing on allegations of corruption over mismanagement of funds of 81 billion naira. Pondei intentionally lost his composure when the lawmakers started querying him over the alleged corrupt act so as to avoid being interrogated. By implication, the money was meant for payment of scholarship, Lassa fever treatment, Covid19 palliative among others issues that are paramount to political development of Nigeria. By implication, this act must have drawn back the speed of political development in Nigeria and regional development of the Niger Delta. As a result of this corrupt activity and similar others, Nigeria's global rank by Human Development Index which was 145 in 2019 declined to 157 in the year 2020 after the incidence (Human Development Index, 2020 cited in theGloboEconomy.com).

A report by Uwak and Udofia (2016) affirmed that infrastructural decay in Nigeria political system is sometimes not due to lack of budgetary allocations but due to diversion of funds appropriated to institutions of government by the bureaucratic elites. The same scholars further maintained that those in position of authority in Nigeria's public sectors in the quest to enrich themselves; divert government resources meant for development the political system into their personal purse. For example contracts are awarded to contractors and they end up abandoning the project halfway. Sometime government policies and programmes are not fully implemented because those implementing the programmes are corrupt minded individuals. It is important to state that, there is a case scenario where a road contract was awarded for the construction of eight lanes road but the awarding institution connived with the construction company and siphoned the money and ended up constructing just two lanes.

The high rate of bureaucratic corruption as observed by Odeh and Umoh cited in Adelabu (2021) 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 pastures. 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 political development and gradually leading the country to a state of lawlessness where life is nasty, brutish and short.

Table 2: State Legitimacy Index: Nigeria in Country Ranking.

S/N	Year	Nigeria rank in Number of countries covered	Nigeria's rank/Index Value	World Average Value
1	2021	37/173	8.40	5.75
2	2020	44/176	8.10	5.80

3	2019	50/176	8.00	5.90
4	2018	41/176	8.30	5.99
5	2017	32/176	8.60	6.06
6	2016	28/176	8.80	6.14
7	2015	17/176	9.10	6.16
8	2014	23/176	8.80	6.19
9	2013	24/176	8.80	6.26
10	2012	16/176	9.10	6.31
11	2011	17/176	9.00	6.31
12	2010	10/176	9.40	6.41

Source: https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/state_legitimacy_index#Nigeria

The table 2 demonstrated the level of legitimacy in Nigeria among countries of the world between 2010 and 2021 as evident in the table, the annual rank and Nigeria value points surpassed the world average value in the reviewed years. By, implication, this implies that lack of transparency in Nigeria’s public sector has contributed to the poor ranking of Nigeria in the list. Thus, an illegitimate country is usually a country with low political development. In essence, the financial corruption in Nigeria’s bureaucratic settings has partly contributed to her low level of legitimacy and political development in the world ranking.

Table 3: Political Stability Index: the status of Nigeria in Country Rankings

S/N	Year	Number of countries	Average point	Nigeria’s rank in the world by political stability
1	2020	194	-0.07	185 with-1.86 points
2	2019	194	-0.07	185 with-1.92 points
3	2018	194	-0.06	185 with-2.10 points
4	2017	194	-0.05	184 with-2.00 points
5	2016	194	-0.05	182 with-1.88 points
6	2015	194	-0.06	182 with-1.93 points
7	2014	194	-0.05	184 with-2.13 points
8	2013	194	-0.06	186 with-2.09 points
9	2012	194	-0.06	187 with-2.04 points
10	2011	194	-0.06	187 with-1.96 points
11	2010	194	-0.07	188 with -2.21 points

Source: TheGlobeconomy.com

The table 3 presented the status of Nigeria in the Global ranking of Political Stability (development) between 2010 and 2020 (the data for 2021 is yet to be available on the database) using factors that promotes political instability; such as corruption and other unconstitutional factors as indicators. From the table, it is evident that had always been at the bottom list between 182 and 188 out of 194 countries, this also comprehends the reduction in Nigeria’s rank in Transparency International as evident in Table 4. Meanwhile Nigeria had always maintained negative point (that is serious political instability/low political development).

Evaluating the efforts of Nigeria Government in the fight against Corruption as a tool in enhancing Political Development.

Since bureaucratic corruption has negative effect on Nigeria’s political development as revealed in the previous analysis; any attempt to fight bureaucratic corruption, is indirectly an attempt to promote Nigeria’s political development. In response to the efforts of Nigerian Government towards fighting financial corruption and as well, improve political development, the following suffice:

Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC): Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) was established to investigate financial corruption among others. The ICPC investigates corrupt practices in public sectors which include bribery, gratification, graft, and abuse or misuse of office. Consequently, the global ranking of Control of Corruption Index by World Bank (using the ability of government to control of all forms of corruption exhibited within a political system as indicators) cited in theGlobalEconomy.com ranked Nigeria 168, 167 and 177 in the year 1996; 1998 and 2000 respectively among 190 countries in the world before the establishment of ICPC in 2000 (Awopeju, 2015).

After the establishment of ICPC, Nigeria’s rank in Control of Corruption Index dropped from 177 to 189 in 2002, as the data for 2001 was not available. In essence, the efforts of ICPC towards curbing corruption were to no avail because it has not significantly reduced corruption in Nigeria’s public despite its establishment. Awopeju (2015) affirmed that slow pace of movement of cases in the Nigerian judiciary as well as slow movement of all the ICPC cases that are being investigated by the police which has tended to portray the ICPC as a non-performer to the society. More so, the report also maintained that underfunding by government is also a

factor that accounts for the institution’s failure. Poor funding has become an obstacle to the successful prosecution of corruption cases by the ICPC.

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC): Another war against bureaucratic corruption in Nigeria’s public sector is the establishment of EFCC in the year 2003, in response to the international pressure from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) against money laundering which named Nigeria among the 23 non-cooperating countries in the International Community’s effort against money laundering (Eseiwanbevo, 2020). Control of Corruption Index (CCI) ranked Nigeria 189th in 2002 and 181st in 2003 as at the time EFCC was established.

Subsequently, after the establishment of the EFCC in 2003, Nigeria was ranked increased to 178th in 2004, 166th in 2005 and dropped to 169th in 2006, 162nd in 2007, 152nd in 2008, 158th in 2009 and 160th in 2010. Between 2010 and 2011, Nigeria’s ranking in CCI had significantly reduced from 160th to 170th in 2011 and 2012; 173rd in 2013, 176th in 2014 (theGlobalEconomy.com). In essence, the efforts of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) did not yield any significant positive result towards curbing bureaucratic corruption and as well improve political development.

The Implementation of Anti-corruption and anti-graft war: Another effort towards curbing bureaucratic cum financial corruption in Nigeria is the Anti-corruption cum anti-graft war, introduced by President Muhammad Buhari in April 2015. This was said to be a war against all forms of corruption in Nigeria. Although, the anti-corruption was endorsed by the International Community such as the United States, World Economic Forum in Switzerland among others (Press, 2016). Since 2015, numerous numbers of corruption cases were not tackled due to nepotism. Based on this, some have criticized and accused the president of leading a selective war against corruption.

A report by Ugwuanyi (2016) claimed that the President Buhari’s war against corruption focused anti-graft war against corruption as weapon in dealing with members of the opposition party (the People’s Democratic Party) rather the Nigeria’s public sectors.

The Implementation of Whistle blowing Policy: Whistle-blowing policy is an anti-corruption programme by President Mohammed Buhari’s Administration in 2016 to encourage people to voluntarily disclose information about fraud, bribery, looted government funds, financial misconduct, government assets and any other form of corruption or theft to the Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Finance. As reported by Tukur (2016), a whistle-blower who provides information about any financial mismanagement or tip about any stolen funds to the ministry’s portal is rewarded or entitled to 2.5% - 5% percentage from the recovered funds by the Nigerian government.

Regrettably, the whistle blowing policy has become less effective and failed to tackle corruption cum improving national development. One of the reasons for its failure is affirmed in the work of Kokemuller (2018), who asserted that the attacks of the whistle blowers face from the public and colleagues has weakened the efforts of the institution towards getting information from the whistle blowers. As at the time the anti-graft war and whistle blowing Policy were implemented in 2015 and 2016 respectively; Nigeria was ranked 165th in 2015 and 2016 by CCI. After their implementations, Nigeria’s rank dropped from 165 to 167 between 2016 and 2017, 165th in 2018; 167 in 2019 (CCI; World Bank cited in the theGlobalEconomy.com). From these statistical reports, the efforts of Nigerian government towards curbing corruption were to no avail.

Table 4: Corruption Perceptions: Transparency International- The Status of Nigeria

S/N	Year	Number Of countries	Highest/ lowest point by transparency	Average point	Nigeria’s rank in the world by transparency
1	2021	176	88/13	43	153 with 24 points
2	2020	177	88/12	44	153 with 25points
3	2019	176	187/9	43	149 with 26points
4	2018	177	88/10	43	146 with 27points
5	2017	177	89/ 9	43	148 with 27points
6	2016	173	90/10	43	138 with 28points
7	2015	165	91/8	43	135 with 26 points
8	2014	173	92/8	43	138 with 27 points
9	2013	175	91/8	43	146 with 25 points
10	2012	171	90/8	43	137 with 27points
11	2011	159	95/10	41	132 with 24 points
12	2010	157	93/11	41	123 with 24 points

Source: TheGblobaleconomy.com

The table 4 presented the trend of corruption in Nigeria's public sector. As evident in the table, 12 years trend of transparency were captioned globally and Nigeria is ranked poorly in the list of countries that valued transparency in the world, Nigeria throughout the reviewed years fell far beyond average points of 41-44. In essence, the various activities of Nigerian government cum anti-corruption agencies have not improved the status of Nigeria in the rankings of Transparency International which have earned the country a serious disrepute in the global community.

Findings

1. The study found out that the prevalent bureaucratic corruptions in Nigeria's public sector have continued to weaken political development of Nigeria. The various reports such as Transparency International, theGlobeconomy.com, Political Instability Index among others documented evidence from Journal articles and media publications affirmed that bureaucratic corruption has significant negative effects on political development of Nigeria.

2. All the documented evidence analyzed revealed that bureaucratic corruption is prevalent in Nigeria's public sector amidst various anti-corruption agencies, particularly among the political office holders cum bureaucratic elites and this has resulted in poor ranking of Nigeria by Political Stability Index, Transparency International among others. The prevalent bureaucratic corruptions in Nigeria have continued to weaken the strength of political development of Nigeria while the various efforts of Nigerian government towards curbing corruption were to no avail

Summary

In the reviewed years, Nigeria encountered low level of political development due to bureaucratic corruption arising from money politics and this has continued to influence negatively her legitimacy of government, political stability among others. More so, the study found out that financial corruption in Nigeria's public sector has significantly threatened the political development of the country as money that are meant to develop the political system were being diverted into personal account. In addition, the study revealed that the efforts made by the Nigerian government towards curbing bureaucratic corruption as a tool in improving political development were to no avail.

Conclusion

The main thrust of this study is to examine the implication of corruption on political development of Nigeria. From the foregoing, it is evident that bureaucratic corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of Nigerian political system in the reviewed years. More so, it has continued to serve as signals to the world that Nigeria is a bureaucratically corrupt nation as evident in the annual reports of Transparency International and other corruption reportages. Based on this, an urgent solution is ultimately needed. Thus, bureaucratic corruption is therefore a serious threat to political development of Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on findings; the paper made the following recommendations;

- ❖ Since most of the cases of bureaucratic corruption presented were mostly committed by public office holders cum bureaucratic elites; there is urgent need for Nigerian government to come up with a strict policy measure; such as total forfeiture of properties and life imprisonment of any government official found guilty of corruption. This will ensure smooth and transparent public administration.
- ❖ There should be enough funding for the anti-corruption agencies; such as Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission in the course of carrying out their constitutional duties. This can be done by having an independent finance separate from government budgetary to prevent dependence of the anti-corruption agencies. This will enable them to sincerely investigate corruption cases independently and effectively without interference.

REFERENCES

- Adelabu, N. (2021). The manifestation of Grand corruption in Nigeria's Fourth Republic and its implication on national development. *Global Journal of Political Science and Administration*, 9 (2), 1-14. Retrieved from <https://www.eajournals.org/> on February 20, 2023
- Agagu, A. and Omotoso, F. (2013). *Citizenship Education and Governmental Process*. Ibadan, Julius and Julius Publishers.
- American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (2016). *Bureaucracy*. Fifth edition. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt on March 1, 2023

- Awopeju, A. (2015). An appraisal of Nigerian Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), 2001-2013. *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 3(7), 58-67. Retrieved from www.arabianjbm.com on February 25, 2023
- Banton, C. (2022, June). What is a Bureaucracy and how does it works, with examples. Investopedia. Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bureaucracy.asp#axzz2938hwENQ> on February 16, 2023
- Boisvert, A., Dent, P. & Quraishi, O. (2014). Corruption in Canada: Definitions and Enforcement. Research Brief no. 48, pp. 1-3. Public Safety Canada.
- Cheeseman, N. & Peiffer, C. (2020). Why efforts to fight corruption hurts democracy: Lessons from a survey experiment in Nigeria. Working paper, pp. 1-37. University of Birmingham. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net on February 17, 2023
- Ebiri, K. (2020, July). NDDC probe takes dramatic turn. *The Guardian Nigeria* (online). Retrieved from <https://guardian.ng/news/nddc-probe-takes-dramatic-turn/> on February 23, 2023
- Ego, D. and Onyekwelu R. (2018). Corruption and democratic governance in Nigeria: The nexus. *Global Journal of Political Science and Administration*, 6 (2), 26-35. Retrieved from www.eajournals.org on February 18, 2023
- Emmanuel, A. (2011, March). 53 suitcases saga: Buhari blasts Atiku, Jonathan. *Vanguard News Nigeria (Online)*. Retrieved from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/03/53-suitcases-saga-buhari-blasts-atiku-jonathan/amp/> on February 15, 2023
- Eseiwanbevo, D. (2020, July). Corruption, Police destroyed the EFCC. *Vanguard News Nigeria* Retrieved from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/corruption-police-destroyed-the-efcc/amp/> on February 19, 2023
- Hussain, T. (2016). Authoritarianism and Corruption. Essay 2, pp. 1-17. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net on February 14, 2023
- Ibrahim, B. & Ahmad, A. (2017). The Impact of Corruption on National Development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Social Sciences & Management Studies (IJSRSSMS)* 2 (1), 13-23. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net on February 17, 2023
- Igbikiowubo, H. (2004, December). TSKU saga: Swiss Government freezes \$ 100M Accounts. *Vanguard News Nigeria (online)*. Retrieved from <https://vanguardngr.com> on February 19, 2023
- Igbuzor, O. (2008). Strategies for winning the anti-corruption war in Nigeria. *Briefing paper no 2*. Central Business Area, Abuja, Nigeria.
- Iroanusi, Q. (2018, March). Senate claim on EFCC's audit report incorrect. *Premium Times Nigeria. Premium Times (Online)*. Retrieved from <https://premiumtimesng.com/news/> on February 27, 2023
- James, S. (2009). Historical Institutionalism: Political development and the presidency. *The Oxford Handbook of the American Presidency*, Edward Publishers.
- John, E. & Akpakpan, D. (2018, July). Political development and the need for strong institutions in Nigeria – a philosophical assessment. *Ifiok: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 4 (1), 37-63. Retrieved from <http://ifiokjournal.com> on February 15, 2023
- Kokemuller, N. (2018). Advantages and disadvantages of whistle blowing. *eHow*. Retrieved from https://www.ehow.co.uk/info_8480004_advantages-disadvantages-whistleblowing.html on February 26, 2023
- Lloyd, C. (2019). Effects Of Corruption On National Development (A Case Study Of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation 1999-2017). *International Journal of Innovative Research and Advanced Studies*, 5(2), 160-168. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332333303> on February 27, 2023
- Mbaku, J. M. (1996). Bureaucratic corruption in Africa: the futility of cleanups. *The CATO Journal*, 16 (1), 1-17. Retrieved from <http://www.cato.org> on February 20, 2023
- Merriam Webster Dictionary (2022). Bureaucracy. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bureaucracy> on March 1, 2023 February 18, 2023
-

- Obialor, C. &Ugochukwu, O. (2017, December) Corruption and effective public performance in Nigeria. Corruption and effective public performance in Nigeria. *International Journal of Advanced Studies in Economics and Public Sector Management (IJASEPSM)*, 5 (3), 70-80. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net on February 21, 2023
- Onuche, S. (2018). Examination of the challenges on the fight against corruption in Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344836316> on February 18, 2023
- Osakede, Ijimakinwa, Adesanya, Ojo, Ojikutu&Abubarka (2015, December). Corruption in the Nigeria public sector: an impediment to good governance and sustainable development. *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 4 (8), 76-87. Retrieved from www.arabianjbm.com/RPAM_index.php on February 28, 2023
- Press Release (2016, January). Buhari's Anti-corruption war "hugely successful" APC. Retrieved from <https://www.premiumtimesng.com> on March 1, 2023
- Rose-Ackerman, S. (1999). *Corruption and government: causes, consequences and reform*. Cambridge University Press.
- Swedberg, R. &Agevall, O. (2005). *The Max Weber Dictionary: Key words and central concepts*. Stamford University Press. Retrieved from https://books.google.com.ng/books?id=_c3Mcnh8hCgC&pg=PA19&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false on February 22, 2023
- TheGlobeconomy.com (2018). Shadow economy-Country rankings. Retrieved from https://www.theglobeconomy.com/rankings/shadow_economy/ on February 23, 2023
- TheGlobeconomy.com (2022). Corruption perceptions- Transparency International- Country rankings. Retrieved from <https://theglobeconomy.com> on February 19, 2023
- TheGlobeconomy.com (n.d). Political Stability: Country rankings. Retrieved from https://www.theglobeconomy.com/rankings/wb_political_stability/ on February 19, 2023
- Tukur, S. (2016, December). Expose corruption and make money as Nigerian Govt. adopts new whistle blowing policy. Retrieved from <https://www.premiumtimesng.com> on February 23, 2022
- Ugwuanyi, S. (2016, February). Why I won't support Buhari's war against corruption- Wike. *Daily Post Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://dailypost.ng> on February 27, 2023
- Uwak, U. and Udofia, A. (2016, May). Corruption in Nigeria's Public Sector Organizations and Its Implications for National Development. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences (MCSER)*, 7 (3), 27-35. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net> on February 20, 2023
- Yolles, M. I. (2017) Understanding bureaucracy. IGI Global publisher of timely knowledge. Retrieved from <https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/understanding-bureaucracy/174839> on March 1, 2023