



**ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES  
COMMISSION (EFCC) UNDER PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI'S  
ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA FROM 2015 TO 2017**

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**Abstract**

*One of the major challenges of governance in Nigeria is corruption especially in the public realm. In response to this challenge, the Federal Government established the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability in governance. In spite of the establishment of EFCC, the fight against corruption seems not to have achieved the desired result in view of the rising incidence of corruption as indicated by Transparency International's negative Corruption Perception Index on Nigeria. The major objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of EFCC under the Muhammadu Buhari Administration in Nigeria from 2015 till date. Specifically, the study intended to; examine the impact of Buhari's anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic and political development, determine the degree of autonomy of the EFCC and to ascertain the level of effectiveness of the EFCC. Both primary and secondary data were sourced using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 20). Findings from the study which relied on both primary and secondary data revealed that the activities of the EFCC were severely constrained by undue political interference. The institution was not adequately funded with feeble financial autonomy. The corruption reporting system in the federal public service was found to be more effective under Buhari Administration. The study concluded that the degree of autonomy of the EFCC under the administration is weak while its level of activities is more noticeable in the public glare in the Buhari regime than other regimes because the regime identified the fight against corruption as a key governance agenda. The study recommended among others, the exercise of greater political will to free the EFCC from political interference with adequate funding and greater financial autonomy for the institution.*

**Key words:** Anti-Corruption Crusade, Corruption, Administration, Effectiveness



## **1. Introduction**

Act of corruption, which Buhari (2015) described as the greatest form of human right violation is a persistent phenomenon in Nigeria. Since the creation of modern public administration in the country, there have been cases of official misuse of fund by many public officials. However, the government efforts at curtailing corruption through enactment of laws and enforcement of integrity system have achieved slow success. As at 2012, Nigeria was estimated to have lost over \$400 billion to corruption since independence (Ezekwesili, 2012). Some writers (Ezekwesili, 2012, Iweala, 2016, Charles, 2016) have posited on the potential causes of corruption in Nigeria, which they blame on greed and status symbol lifestyles of many Nigerians. The attitude of the society, which glorifies and condones corrupt tendencies, is equally adduced as a contributory factor for corruption in Nigeria.

It is a fact that Nigeria has floated many policies and programmes of actions which have been targeted at curbing the menace of corruption in the country. According to Falana (2015), about 40% of the country's past administrations and regimes have taken the problems of corruption as their main priority. Anti-corruption bodies have therefore remained the major agent of fighting corruption in Nigeria. The corruption-fighting commissions in Nigeria include the Code of Conduct Bureau, and the Independent Corrupt Practice and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Public Complaints Commission, the Police, the Court of Justice, among others. However, some of these commissions have not curtailed corruption to justify their establishment despite the huge budgetary allocation given to them. As a result, some of these commissions are indeed moribund and cannot stand a clinical approach to modern anti-corruption practice in Nigeria (Charles Ekpo et al 2016).

Additionally, Past Nigerian government have also experimented social reform policies aimed at ridding out corruption in Nigeria. Such policies include President Shehu Shagari Ethical Revolution, General Ibrahim Badamosi Babagida's Mass Mobilization for Social and Economic Reconstruction (MAMSER), the General Muhammadu Buhari and Brigadier General Idiagbon's Military regime's War Against Indiscipline (WAI), General Sanni Abacha's National Orientation Agency (NOA) and President Olusegun Obasanjo's war against corruption. Many of these policies have not achieved much but instead have defeated the purpose for which they were established. So, their strategies of curtailing corruption have failed largely due to the deceptive mechanism behind their conception and formation (Obuah, 2010). These issues have resulted not only in weakling good governance but also a big stain on the Nation's integrity; the British Prime minister proclaimed that Nigeria is "fantastically corrupt" in his analysis of governance system in Nigeria (Amenaghawon and Udo, 2016).

While recognizing corruption as a mega problem of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo put in place two anti-corruption institutions to curb the problem immediately he was sworn in as President in 1999. These institutions are the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). They were established in 2000 and 2002 respectively. The institutionalization of these anti-graft agencies, at the inception of Obasanjo's administration, raised the hope of Nigerians with the expectation that the measures will provide for means of punishing corrupt public officials and also act as a deterrent to others (Ijewereme, 2013). Unfortunately, these programs and strategies made little impact in the war against corruption in the face of enormous political corruption in the Nigerian public sector. For instance, for three successive years, 2001, 2002, 2003, TI ranked Nigeria as the second most corrupt country in the world (Ijewereme, 2013).

Furthermore, Yar'Adua's government constantly re-affirmed his administration's determination to combat corruption and proclaimed respect for the rule of law and due process, but his actions and



body language revealed the contrary (Aderonmu, 2009; Ijewereme, 2013). Yar'Adua's government through the office of the then Attorney-General of the Federation, Micheal Aandoakaa made frantic effort prevent James Ibori, the former governor of Delta State, from being prosecuted and jailed. James Ibori was a close associate of Yar'Adua as well as one of the major financiers of Yar' Adua's election. Umaru Yar'Adua forced Nuhu Ribadu from office just 2 weeks after he tried to prosecute powerful former Delta State Governor James Ibori (Human Rights Watch, 2011). Therefore, corrupt practices have continued to increase at a worrisome level since President Goodluck Jonathan assumed office in 2009.

Conversely, the anti-corruption campaign, under President Muhammadu Buhari, has triggered unprecedented actions on concerned agencies, especially the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). During the elections, President Buhari based his campaign on a change mantra aimed at eradicating corruption which has frustrated Nigerians over the years. Corruption was blamed for the underdevelopment of Nigeria; hence, according to Buhari, there was the need to kill corruption before it killed Nigerians. Shortly after Buhari won the 2015 presidential election, sources at the EFCC, Nigeria's foremost anti-corruption agency, hinted that public officers started returning money to government accounts, even without being prompted to do so.

In the 365 days of the Buhari presidency, there are three major corruption investigations and prosecuted cases. Unarguably, the most popular among the cases is what is now known as Dasukigate. The arraignment of the former National Security Adviser to former President Goodluck Jonathan, Sambo Dasuki by the EFCC over an alleged embezzlement of \$2.1 billion meant for procurement of arms to fight Insurgency in the northeast of the country. A presidential panel investigating the arms deal indicted several retired military service chiefs and senior military officers who are currently under investigation by the EFCC. Revelations from the investigation led to the arraignment of the former Chief of Defence Staff, Alex Badeh, over financial crimes. A former Chief of Air Staff reportedly returned public funds to the tune of about N2 billion traced to him by the EFCC. The commission also confiscated properties alleged to belong to both serving and retired senior military officers who were linked to the arms deal scam. The presidency recently said the actual amount stolen in the arms deal scam under the watch of Dasuki was \$15 billion. Another high-profile investigation and prosecution case is the arraignment of Senate President Bukola Saraki before the Code of Conduct Tribunal over an allegation of fraud in the asset declaration form he submitted to the Code of Conduct Bureau when he was the Governor of Kwara State. There is also the infamous Diezaniagate, which is linked to the former minister of petroleum resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke and her financial activities in office. Here, the EFCC is tracing billions of naira shared by chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). It is alleged that the former minister released the sum of N23 billion public fund through Fidelity Bank Plc for the 2015 re-election campaign of former President Goodluck Jonathan.

However, it is said the EFCC Investigators tracing the disbursement of the funds have made several arrest and recovered some of the money. The acting chairman of the EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, said: "In just six months, we have secured over 140 convictions, including some elusive high-profile criminals (Vanguard: page12, 2017). We have recovered stolen funds worth billions of dollars and blocked numerous avenues of money laundering." The national coordinator, Procurement Observation and Advocacy Initiative, Mohammed Bougei Attah, in an interview with Channel Television, said that in the last one year, the EFCC had exhibited actions that upheld the integrity of the institution by fighting corruption in a manner that was never before, since its establishment in 2001. He said: "The EFCC we know has taken the fight against corruption far more serious than in previous administrations, even under President Olusegun Obasanjo. They have demonstrated that indeed, no



one is above the law. "In fact, the EFCC has woken up from slumber and now living up to the expectations of the people by bringing corrupt public officers to book

In spite of all the efforts of the Buhari's government to curtail corruption, the menace still remains the fastest way of getting anything done in Nigeria as the anti-corruption institutions established seemed to be suffering from political intervention and inadequate autonomy. This paper appraises the effectiveness of the EFCC on its fight against corruption under the Buhari regime. The study specifically examines the anti corruption strategies of the Buhari regime, the impact of his anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic development of Nigeria and the degree of autonomy of the EFCC in the course of performing its duties. Therefore, the study identifies the effects of anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic and political development in Nigeria under the Muhammadu Buhari administration. . Also, the study tries to ascertain the level of effectiveness of the EFCC in its anti-corruption strategies under Buhari administration; and to explore the extent to which EFCC's level of autonomy influences its activities in its anti-corruption strategies under the Buhari administration.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Conceptual Clarifications**

Francis Fukuyama (2013) defines governance as government's ability to make and enforce rules and deliver services regardless of whether that government is democratic or not. In this conceptualization, the quality of governance is different from the ends that governance is meant to fulfill. Surendra Munshi (2004) views governance as a participatory process of governing that functions in a responsible, accountable and transparent manner based on the principles of efficiency, legitimacy and consensus for purpose of promoting the rights of individual and the public interest, thus indicating the exercise of political will for ensuring the material welfare of the society and sustainable development with social justice. Pierre's view on governance is not extensive enough as he failed to encapsulate management of a country's political, economic and social resources in his conceptualization.

#### **2.1.1 Corruption**

Andrig and Fjelstad cited in Mohammed (2013) are of the opinion that corruption is a "complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes on various forms and contexts" (p. 120). Waziri (2010) views corruption as a pervasion or a change from the generally accepted law or rules for personal benefit. Azelama (2002) defines corruption as any action or omission enacted by a member of an organization, which is against the rules, regulations, norms, and ethics of the organization, and the purpose is to meet the selfish end of the member at the detriment of the organization. The World Bank (World Bank Independent Evaluation Group:16, 2006) defines corruption as "the abuse of office for private gains." Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Agbu (2003) observes that public office can be abused for selfish gain even if bribery does not take place. This implies that political corruption could be defined in the form of patronage, election rigging, and voters register manipulation, favoritism in the award of contract, procurement scam, tribalism and nepotism in recruitment and promotion, unfair punishment/sanctions for public officials. Gbenga, (2008) asserts that corruption is contagious. Corruption includes vices like bribery, fraud and other related offences.

Adigun (2004) by way of contextualizing corruption within the territory of public service listed such factors as pervasion of public rules and misuse of official power for selfish motive and the frustration of electoral process to make free and fair election impossible. To him, corruption also connotes the deliberate refusal to declare one's assets on the assumption and expiration of public office and of



course using one's official status to prevent the administration of justice which is common by the executives (present and past) of different capacities in Nigeria. Akinseye (2000) attempts to describe corruption as mother of all crimes and identifies four forms of corruption as bribery, prebendalism, graft and nepotism. EFCC, a commission that deals with economic and financial issues in the country, defines corruption through Ngwakwe (2009) from economic perspective as the non-violent criminal and illicit activity committed with objectives of earning wealth illegally either individually or in a group or organized manner thereby violating existing legislation governing the economic activities of government and its administration.

### **2.1.2 Administration**

Administration is a process common to all group effort, public or private, civil or military, large-scale or small scale (Okoli and Onah, 2002). Although it may vary in form or objects, and although administration of public and private affairs has many facets, there is an underlying similarity, if not identity in the process wherever observed. Anifowose and Enemno (2005) see administration as inevitable in any given situation where a piece of work has to be done, and this piece of work requires the efforts, of more than one person to accomplish. We are involved in administrative behaviour when we co-operate with other people to accomplish such objectives as erecting a community town hall, constructing and managing schools, churches, hospitals, vehicles, assembly plants, etc. In the words of Duru and Tandu (2005), administration is the capacity to coordinate and execute many and often conflicting social demands in a single organism so perfectly that they should all operate as a unit. To MacRae and Pitt (cited in Ezeani, 2005), administration is "the coordination of men and materials within organizations for the accomplishment of identifiable purposes. Similarly, Simon (cited in Ezeani, 2005) defines "administration as activities of groups cooperating to accomplish common goals. Sapru (2009), says the word „administration comes from the Latin word administrare which is a combination of meaning "to" and ministrare signifying to "minister" or serve. Later, the word assumed the meaning "to govern."

### **2.1.3 Effectiveness**

The Operations Evaluation Department (OED) (2000) of the World Bank as reiterated by Huther and Shah (2000) defines effectiveness as the extent to which a project's or institution's objectives are achieved, or expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. This requires measurement of the effect of a given set of anti-corruption activities on levels of corruption or corruption activities. Of interest is the measurement of changes in levels of corruption as well as the degree to which observed changes can be credibly attributed to the anti-corruption interventions by the institutions. In essence, effectiveness is the degree of achievement of the goals and objectives for which an organisation is established. The effectiveness of anti-corruption institutions therefore, is the rate of their achievement in terms of reducing the level of corruption in the Federal Public Service through, prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution for corrupt offences Huther and Shah (2000).

### **2.2 Empirical Review**

Hobbes (1992) painstakingly studied the human nature and gave his verdict on what he thought of to be natural, axiomatic, self-evident, and true of man's behaviour without some forms of societal restraint. Hobbes averred that men are naturally equal in mind and body. Yet, the resources of which man depends on for sustenance are not evenly distributed but scarce and ferociously struggled for. This struggle foments competition. Competition on the other hand engenders strife and fear of extinction. This culminates in distrust or diffidence. Diffidence and insecurity incites invasion and conquest which yields glory to the victor (Hobbes, 1992). Thus, men in their nature are in a condition



of war, of every man against every man. In this state of nature therefore, there is no place for industry; agriculture, navigation, trade; no arts or letters, no society, no amenities of civilized life and worst of all, there is "continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short" (Eyo, Udofia & Edor, 2011).

However, the fear of death and the dire desire for commodious living drive men to give up on their inherent desperation for self-preservation and agree to live a harmonious social life. Since men are naturally prone to renege on promises which have no compulsions attached, there arises the need to create a sovereign authority to which power to enforce peaceful co-existence is transferred. The sovereign is the Hobbesian Leviathan (Hobbes, 1992). Drawing from the above, man's quest for glory, fame, splendor and self-preservation at the expense of the other is innate, natural and congenital. It is an inherent attribute that man would have naturally exhibited but for restraints and deterrence. Thus, selfishness, greed, wickedness and desperation for self-preservation at the expense of fellow mankind is congenital and inherent in every man. Since corruption entails using entrusted public responsibility for personal selfish gratification, it is therefore an exhibition or manifestation of that innate attribute of man. Corruption therefore is that inherent selfish mind-set that compels man to worry about himself only. In an effort to bypass the acceptable norms, laws and regulations to self-preservation, this innate attribute of man is manifested in the form of corruption.

Existence of corruption requires three elements to co-exist (Andvig and Moene, 1990). First, someone must have discretionary power. Defined broadly, this power would include authority to design regulations as well as to administer them. Second, there must be economic rents associated with this power. Moreover, the rents must be such that identifiable groups could capture those rents. Third, the legal judicial system must offer sufficiently low probability of detection and or penalty for the wrong doing. In an extension of Becker's (1968) 'crime and punishment' argument, the first two elements combine together to create incentives for corruption and the third acts as a deterrent. Corruption occurs when higher rents are associated with misuse of the discretionary powers, net of any illegal payments and penalties associated with such a misuse.

Sosa (2000) illustrates the value of penalties in a theoretical model. Ades et al (2012) show that industrial policies become less effective in the presence of cost-enhancing corruption. Governments encourage investments in preferred sectors of the economy by creating large rents for investors through an industrial policy. The existence of these rents, of course, creates incentives for policy-makers to capture a part of the rents. The authors used variables measuring the procurement policies of governments to estimate the strength of industrial policies and examined the effects of these policies on the levels of corruption. They estimate that in the presence of corruption, the total effect of industrial policy on investment ranges between 84 and 56% of the direct impact (Ades et al, 2012). Empirical analysis leads them to warn of 'dangers associated with enthusiastically pursuing interventionist industrial policies in the presence of corruption emphasis added.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

The study adopts low risk-high benefit theory as its theoretical foundation. The theory has a resemblance with the principle of deterrence. In a situation where punishment for unethical and corrupt practices is light, premised on plea-bargaining (as in the case of the convicted former Edo State governor, Lucky Igbenedion), people will not be deterred from involvement in corruption (Ijewereme, 2013). But when the punishment is severe, public servants will be scared from engaging in corruption and unethical practices (Azelama, 2002). Recent development in corruption charges on high-profile cases shows shame in the application of plea-bargaining. A plea bargain refers to an agreement in a criminal case between the prosecutor and the defendant, whereby the defendant agrees





to plead guilty to a particular charge in return for some concession from the prosecutor (Aderale, 2013). That is, the defendant will plead guilty to one of several charges, in return for the dismissal of other charges with a more lenient sentence. The conviction of a former director in the police pensions office, Mr. John Yusuf, alongside six others, for converting public fund (police pension fund) in the sum of US\$203,726,708 (N32.8 billion) to their personal use, with a light sentence of 2years imprisonment with an option of fine in the sum of US\$4,658 (N750,000), which the convict Yusuf immediately paid, is a typical example of low risk–high benefit theory of involving in corruption in Nigeria (Aderale, 2013).

The theory of low risk–high benefit is also adopted because people in Nigeria who are about to carry out corrupt practices first weigh and compare the risk involved in it to the benefit. It is when they find that the benefit outweighs the risk that they go ahead to enact corrupt practices. The risk includes the possibility of getting caught, the social implication for the culprit, and so on. The benefits, however, include the monetary proceeds, privileges enjoyed in the society, increased standard of living, and so on (Azelama, 2002; Ijewereme, 2013). However, when democratic ethos and rule of law are well established, risk of involving in corruption is high, and punishment attached to corrupt practices increased, nepotism and tribalism, which are the trust of the two public theory, will be drastically reduced, oil money will become a blessing, and public servants will not bow to the pressures that society mounts on them as explained by anomie theory.

### 3. Methodology

This research is a descriptive study designed to investigate on assessment of the effectiveness of economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC) under President Muhammadu Buhari’s administration in Nigeria. Both primary and secondary data were used. The population of this study is drawn from Nigeria Bar Association, Journalist Economic and Financial Crimes Commission officials, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission officials, Code of Conduct Bureau, Politicians (the opposition parties and ruling party), Police and staff of some tertiary institutions in Kwara state so as to ensure objectivity and equal representation in examining the effectiveness of the anti-corruption agency mentioned above under President Muhammadu Buhari Administration in Nigeria. The Simple random method is used for this study for avoidance of bias and ensures equal representation in response to questionnaire administered. The number of questionnaire administered was 150 but 122 were retrieved. The first section of the questionnaire captures bio-data information of the respondents while the second section captures information based on the concept of this research, using a 5-point Likert scale with “1= Strongly Disagree and 5=Strongly Agree”. The data gathered would be analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 for easy analysis.

### 4. Result

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	75	61.5
Female	47	38.5
<i>Age</i>		
20-30	28	23.0
31-40	62	50.8
41-50	29	23.8



Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
51-60	2	1.6
61above	1	0.8
<i>Religion</i>		
Islam	36	29.5
Christianity	86	70.5
<i>Income</i>		
50,000 below	7	5.7
50000-100000	14	11.5
100000-150000	36	29.5
150000 above	65	53.3
<i>Qualification</i>		
O'Level	5	4.1
ND/NCE	11	9.0
HND/B.Sc	71	58.2
Masters	30	24.6
Others	5	4.1
Total	122	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017

Table 1 shows the gender basis of the respondents. The number of the male respondents is 75 which represents 61.5% of the total respondents while the number of female respondents recorded is 47 which represents 38.5% of the total sample. It shows the age distribution of the respondents which start from 20-30 (23%), 31-40 has 62 respondents (50.8), 41-50 recorded (23.8%), 51-60 also recorded 2 respondents with (1.6%) and 61above recorded 1 respondent with (.8%) while the total number of the respondents is 122. The educational qualification of the respondents is made known. HND/B.Sc was the educational group that recorded the highest number of the respondents which is 72 which represents 58.2%. O'level has 5 with 4.1%, ND/NCE has 11 respondents with 9%, 30 masters holders while respondents with other qualifications is measured as 5 representing 4.1%. The religion of the respondents was also put into consideration in the course of this research so as to remove the benefit of doubt about siding the government of the day and other religious fanatics. The table shows that 86 respondents which represent 70.5% of the total sample size of the population were Christians and 36 respondents with 29.5% were Muslims.

**Table 2: Buhari Anti Corruption Crusade as a factor**

Items	Opinion	Percent
<i>The Buhari anti-corruption crusade is sincere in its operations.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	8	6.6
Disagree	8	6.6
Neutral	19	15.6
Agree	51	41.8
Strongly Agree	36	29.5
<i>The Buhari anti-corruption crusade operates independently.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	6	4.9
Disagree	11	9.0
Neutral	34	27.9





Agree	55	45.1
Strongly Agree	16	13.1
<i>There is political will and determination to tackle corruption under the Buhari Administration.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	2	1.6
Disagree	6	4.9
Neutral	14	11.5
Agree	59	48.4
Strongly Agree	41	33.6
<i>The Buhari anti corruption crusade has ensured transparency in its operations.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	5	4.1
Disagree	20	16.4
Neutral	36	29.5
Agree	49	40.2
Strongly Agree	12	9.8
<i>The Buhari Administration has recorded remarkable success in tackling corruption in Nigeria.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	-	-
Disagree	11	9
Neutral	15	12.3
Agree	70	57.4
Strongly Agree	26	21.3
<i>The Buhari anti corruption crusade has succeeded in ensuring discipline among public servants.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	4	3.3
Disagree	12	9.8
Neutral	48	39.3
Agree	47	38.5
Strongly Agree	11	9
Total	122	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2017

The level of sincerity of the Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in Table 2 above. 6.6% of the respondents strongly disagree with the independent level of sincerity of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 6.6% of the total population also disagree with the level of sincerity of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 15.6% remain indifferent with the sincerity level and 41.8% agree with item while 29.5% strongly agree with the item. The level of operation of the Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in the table above. 4.9% of the respondents strongly disagrees with the independent level of operation of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 9% of the total population also disagree with the independent level of operation of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 27.9% remain indifferent with the independent level of operation and 45.1% agree with item while 13.1% strongly agree with the item.

The study revealed that 48.4% of the total respondents agree with Buhari administration political will to tackle corruption, 33.6% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 11.5% remains neutral, 4.9% disagreed with this and 1.6% out of the total respondents strongly disagree with this as well. The level of transparency of the Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in Table 2 above. 4.1% of the respondents strongly disagree with the independent level of transparency of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 16.4% of the total population also disagree with the level of transparency of



Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 29.5% remain indifferent with the level of transparency and 40.2% agree with item while 9.8% strongly agree with the item. 57.4% of the respondents agree with Buhari administration remarkable success in tackling corruption, 12.3% remains neutral, 9% disagree with this and 21.3% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well. The table shows that 38.5% of the total respondents were agree with Buhari administration ensuring discipline among public servants, 3.3% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 39.3% remains neutral, 9.8% disagreed with this and 9% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well.

**Table 3: Anti-Corruption Crusade of the EFCC and Development in Nigeria**

Items	Opinion	Percent(%)
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has increased free flow of money in the economy.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	12	9.8
Disagree	45	36.9
Neutral	45	36.9
Agree	15	12.3
Strongly Agree	5	4.1
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has improved investment opportunities in Nigeria.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	10	8.2
Disagree	27	22.1
Neutral	36	29.5
Agree	42	34.4
Strongly Agree	7	5.7
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has reduced the cost of commodities in Nigerian markets.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	30	24.6
Disagree	45	36.9
Neutral	30	23
Agree	15	12.3
Strongly Agree	4	3.3
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has improved morality among youth.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	8	6.6
Disagree	35	28.7
Neutral	38	31.1
Agree	35	28.7
Strongly Agree	6	4.9
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has increased chances of employment opportunities in Nigeria.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	14	11.5
Disagree	33	27
Neutral	49	40.2
Agree	24	19.7
Strongly Agree	2	1.6
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has improved the welfare of Nigerians.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	21	17.2
Disagree	28	23
Neutral	44	36.1



Items	Opinion	Percent(%)
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has increased free flow of money in the economy.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	12	9.8
Disagree	45	36.9
Neutral	45	36.9
Agree	15	12.3
Strongly Agree	5	4.1
Agree	27	22.1
Strongly Agree	2	1.6
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has given all Nigerians equal political opportunities.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	21	17.2
Disagree	32	26.2
Neutral	41	33.6
Agree	25	20.5
Strongly Agree	3	2.5
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has made it possible for honest political candidates to be elected.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	18	14.8
Disagree	31	25.4
Neutral	40	32.8
Agree	28	23
Strongly Agree	5	4.1
<i>The EFCC anti corruption crusade under Buhari has reduced the possibility of embezzling public funds.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	5	4.1
Disagree	13	10.7
Neutral	34	27.8
Agree	47	38.5
Strongly Agree	23	18.9
Total	122	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017

The free flow of money under Buhari administration was fully represented in Table 3 above. 9.8% of the respondents strongly disagree with the free flow of money in the economy under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 36.9% of the total population also disagree with the level of free flow of money under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 36.9% remain indifferent with the free flow of money in the economy and 12.3% agree with item while 4.1% strongly agree with the item. The level of investment opportunities under Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in the table above. 8.2% of the respondents strongly disagree with the independent level of transparency of Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 22.1% of the total population also disagree with the improved investment opportunities under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 29.5% remain indifferent with the level of improved investment opportunities and 34.4% agree with item while 5.7% strongly agree with the item. 12.3% of the respondents agree with Buhari administration reducing the cost of commodities in the markets, 24.6% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 23% remains neutral, 36.9% disagree with this and 3.3% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed with this as well.



The level of morality among youth under Buhari anti-corruption crusade was also fully represented in Table 3 above. 6.6% of the respondents strongly disagree with the independent level of morality under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 28.7% of the total population also disagree with the level of morality under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 31.1% remain indifferent with the level of improved morality and 28.7% agree with the item while 4.9% strongly agree with the item. The increased chances of employment opportunities under Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in the table above. 11.5% of the respondents strongly disagree with the chances of employment opportunities under Buhari administration. 27% of the total populations also disagree with the chances of employment opportunities under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 40.2% remain neutral with the chances of employment opportunities and 19.7% agree with item while 1.6% strongly agree with the item. 22.1% of the respondents were agree with Buhari administration ability to improve the welfare of the masses, 17.2% of the total sample size were strongly disagree with this, 36.1% remains neutral, 23% disagreed with this and 1.6% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed with this as well.

Table 3 showed that 20.5% of the total respondents agree with Buhari administration ability in creating equal political opportunities for all Nigerians, 17.2% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 33.6% remain neutral, 26.2% disagreed with this and 2.5% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed with this as well. The table shows that 23% of the total respondents were agree with Buhari administration providing an avenue for honest political party to be selected, 14.8% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 32.8% remains neutral, 25.4% disagreed with this and 4.1% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed with this as well. 38.5% of respondents were agree with Buhari administration ability to reduce the possibility of embezzling public funds, 4.1% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 27.8% remains neutral, 10.7% disagreed with this and 18.9% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed with this as well

**Table 4: Effectiveness of EFCC under Muhammadu Buhari Administration**

Items	Opinion	Percent (%)
<i>The EFCC adequately investigates all corrupt practices.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	5	4.1
Disagree	15	12.3
Neutral	30	24.6
Agree	45	36.9
Strongly Agree	27	22.1
<i>Prosecution of alleged corrupt public servants is properly carried out.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	5	4.1
Disagree	20	16.4
Neutral	31	25.4
Agree	43	35.2
Strongly Agree	23	18.9
<i>The Buhari Administration has reduced the level of corruption in Nigeria.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	1	.8
Disagree	17	13.9
Neutral	25	20.5
Agree	60	49.2
Strongly Agree	19	15.6



Items	Opinion	Percent (%)
<i>There is proper detection of corrupt practices by the EFCC under Buhari Administration.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	-	-
Disagree	15	12.3
Neutral	28	23
Agree	65	53.3
Strongly Agree	14	11.5
<i>The EFCC has reduced the level of corruption under Buhari Administration.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	2	1.6
Disagree	12	9.8
Neutral	26	21.3
Agree	63	51.6
Strongly Agree	19	15.6
<i>The EFCC has recorded remarkable success in its anti corruption strategy</i>		
Strongly Disagree	1	0.8
Disagree	9	7.4
Neutral	23	18.9
Agree	51	41.8
Strongly Agree	38	31.1
Total	122	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017

Table 4 presents how effective and efficient is EFCC in investigating any financial crime brought to them, 4.1% of the total population strongly disagree with the above statement, 12.3% disagree with it, 24.6% remain neutral and indifferent with the statement, while 36.9% agreed with the statement and 22.1% out of the total respondents strongly agree with the item. The prosecution of alleged corrupt public servants is properly carried out under Buhari anti-corruption crusade was fully represented in the table above. 4.1% of the respondents strongly disagree with the proper prosecution of alleged public servant under Buhari administration. 16.4% of the total population also disagree with the proper prosecution of alleged public servants under Buhari anti-corruption crusade. 25.4% remain neutral with the chances of employment opportunities and 35.2% agree with item while 18.9% strongly agree with the item. The Buhari Administration has reduced the level of corruption in Nigeria was fully represented in the table above. .8% of the respondents strongly disagree with the reduced level of corruption in Nigeria under Buhari administration. 13.9% of the total population also disagree with the reduced level of corruption in Nigeria under Buhari administration. 20.5% remain neutral with reduced level of corruption in Nigeria under Buhari administration and 49.2% agree with item while 15.6% strongly agree with the item.

Table 4 also presents the proper detection of corrupt practices by the EFCC under Buhari Administration, 12.3% of the total population strongly disagrees with the above statement, 23% disagree with it, while 53.3% agreed with the statement and 11.5% out of the total respondents strongly agree with the item. The table presents how EFCC has reduced the level of corruption under Buhari Administration, 1.6% of the total population strongly disagrees with the above statement, 9.8% disagree with it, 21.3% remain neutral and indifferent with the statement, while 51.6% agreed with the statement and 15.6% out of the total respondents strongly agree with the item. 41.8% of the total respondents agree with Buhari administration remarkable success in its anti-corruption strategy,



.8% of the total sample size were strongly disagree with this, 18.9% remains neutral, 7.4% disagreed with this and 31.1% out of the total respondents were strongly agreed.

**Table 5: Level of Autonomy of the EFCC**

Items	Opinion	Percent (%)
<i>Recruitment and selection of officers within the EFCC is free from political interference.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	12	9.8
Disagree	17	13.9
Neutral	49	40.2
Agree	31	25.4
Strongly Agree	13	10.7
<i>Operations within the EFCC are adequately financed.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	7	5.7
Disagree	19	15.6
Neutral	51	41.8
Agree	42	34.4
Strongly Agree	3	2.5
<i>Decision making in the EFCC is independently made by the commission.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	7	5.7
Disagree	18	14.8
Neutral	41	33.6
Agree	46	37.7
Strongly Agree	10	8.2
<i>Prosecution and trial of alleged criminals by the EFCC are done without external interference.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	8	6.6
Disagree	23	18.9
Neutral	42	34.4
Agree	38	31.1
Strongly Agree	11	9
<i>All alleged criminals are treated with the same laws.</i>		
Strongly Disagree	10	8.2
Disagree	21	17.2
Neutral	34	27.9
Agree	39	32
Strongly Agree	18	14.8
Total	122	100

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017

Table 5 shows that 25.4% of the total respondents agree that recruitment and selection of officers within the EFCC is free from political interference, 9.8% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 40.2% remains neutral, 13.9% disagreed with this and 10.7% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well. The Operations within the EFCC are adequately financed was fully represented in the table above. 5.7% of the respondents strongly disagree with the finance of the Operations within the EFCC under Buhari administration. 15.6% of the total population also disagrees with the finance of the Operations within the EFCC under Buhari administration. 41.8% remain neutral with the finance of the Operations within the EFCC under Buhari administration and 34.4% agree with item while 2.5% strongly agree with the item. The table showed that 37.7% of the



total respondents agreed that Decision making in the EFCC is independently made by the commission, 5.7% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 33.6% remain neutral, 14.8% disagree with this and 8.2% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well.

The table also showed that 31.1% of the total respondents agree that Prosecution and trial of alleged criminals by the EFCC are done without external interference under Buhari administration, 6.6% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 34.4% remain neutral, 18.9% disagreed with this and 9% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well. 32% of the respondents agree that all alleged criminals are treated with the same laws, 8.2% of the total sample size strongly disagree with this, 27.9% remain neutral, 17.2% disagree with this and 14.8% out of the total respondents strongly agree with this as well.

**Table 6: Normality Test of the Variables**

	BUHARI AS_AV	ANTICORRUPTN_AV	EFFECTVNSS_AV	AUTO_AV
Valid	122	122	122	122
Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean	3.6790	2.8497	3.6708	3.1967
Median	3.8333	3.0000	3.8333	3.2000
Std. Deviation	.69140	.74171	.73088	.75842
Skewness	-.857	-.121	-.405	-.187
Std. Error of Skewness	.219	.219	.219	.219
Kurtosis	.857	.124	-.409	-.660
Std. Error of Kurtosis	.435	.435	.435	.435
Minimum	1.17	1.22	2.00	1.60
Maximum	5.00	5.33	5.00	5.00

*Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2017*

The assumption of normality in this research work shows the value of standard deviation, mean, median, skewness, standard error of skewness, kurtosis, standard error of kurtosis, minimum and maximum values. The skewness and kurtosis values shows that items and the responses are properly skewed with the kurtosis (.857, .124, -.409, -.660) and skewness (-.857, -.121, -.405, -.187) standing at zero respectively.

**Table 7: Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
BUHARI AS_AV	3.6790	.69140	122
ANTICORRUPTN_AV	2.8497	.74171	122
EFFECTVNSS_AV	3.6708	.73088	122
AUTO_AV	3.1967	.75842	122

**Table 8: Pearson Correlation Analysis between Variables**

	BUHARI AS_AV	ANTICORRUPTN_AV	EFFECTVNSS_AV	AUTO_AV
BUHARI AS_AV	1	.503**	.565**	.474**
ANTICORRUPTN_AV	.503**	1	.551**	.484**
EFFECTVNSS_AV	.565**	.551**	1	.655**
AUTO_AV	.474**	.484**	.655**	1
	0.000	0.000	.000	





The Pearson correlations of this research work show the level of relationship that exists between/among the values of the variables under study. The closer it is to 1, the stronger the relationship. Hence, the level of correlation in this research work can be seen at the point value of .565, .551, .474, .484 and .503 that is, the point at which the value of all independent variables and dependent variable correlate with each other. This value points that Effectiveness\_AV and Auto\_AV has the highest relationship at the point value of .655 which is closer to 1or -1 and the lowest being Auto\_AV and Buhantcstr\_AV at .474.

#### 4.2 Hypotheses Testing.

**Decision Rule:** The strength of evidence in support of a null hypothesis is measured by the p-value. If the p-value is less than the significance level (0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. However if the p-value is higher than the significance level, the null hypothesis is accepted.

**Hypothesis One:** *There is no significant difference between socio-economic development in EFCC Anticorruption strategy under the Buhari administration.*

**Table 9: Paired Samples Test**

	Paired Differences				T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower				Upper
soceco_AV - Poldev_AV	-.34016	1.10042	.09963	-.53740	-.14293	3.414	121	.001

The null hypothesis one states that there is no significant difference between socio-economic development effects in EFCC Anticorruption strategy under the Buhari administration. The result of the paired sample test indicates a mean difference of -.34016 at 95% confidence interval of the difference coupled with the associated significant level of .001 which is lesser than the conventional significant level of 0.05.

**Decision:** Hypothesis one is rejected and therefore there is a significant difference between socio-economic development effects in EFCC Anticorruption strategy under Muhammadu Buhari Administration.

**Hypothesis Two:** *There is no significant relationship between Buhari Anti corruption strategy and political development.*

**Table 10: Model Summary**

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change	Durbin-Watson
					F	df1	df2		
.565 <sup>a</sup>	.319	.314	.57283	.319	56.280	1	120	.000	1.997



**Table 11: ANOVA**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	18.467	1	18.467	56.280	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	39.375	120	.328		
Total	57.843	121			

*Note: Dependent Variable: BUHARIAS\_AV; Predictors: (Constant), EFFECTVNSS\_AV*

**Table 12: Coefficients**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.717	.267		6.439	.000
EFFECTVNSS_AV	.535	.071	.565	7.502	.000

The null hypothesis two states that there is no significant relationship between effectiveness of the EFCC and Buhari's Anti corruption strategy. The result of the multiple regression test (ANOVA) indicates 56.280 Fcal value at the associated significant level of .000 which is lesser than the conventional significant level of 0.05, with an R-Square value of .32 which indicates that about 32% of variation in Buhari Anti Corruption Strategy would be accounted for by the effectiveness of the EFCC.

**Decision:** Hypothesis two is rejected and therefore there is a significant relationship between Buhari's Anti corruption strategy and political development.

**Hypothesis Three:** *there is no significant relationship between Buhari Anti corruption strategy and EFCC level of autonomy.*

**Table 13: Model Summary**

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change	Durbin - Watson
					F Change	df 1	df2		
.474 <sub>a</sub>	.225	.218	.61135	.225	34.764	1	120	.000	2.080

**Table 14: ANOVA**

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	12.993	1	12.993	34.764	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	44.850	120	.374		
Total	57.843	121			

*Note: Dependent Variable: BUHARIAS\_AV; Predictors: (Constant), AUTO\_AV*



**Table 15: Coefficients**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	2.298	.241		9.546	.000
AUTO_AV	.432	.073	.474	5.896	.000

The null hypothesis three states that there is no significant relationship between Buhari’s anti corruption strategy and EFCC level of autonomy. The result of the multiple regression test (ANOVA) indicates 34.764 Fcal value at the associated significant level of .000 which is lesser than the conventional significant level of 0.05, with an R-Square value of .225 which indicates that about 23% of variation in Buhari anti-corruption strategy would be accounted for by autonomy in the EFCC.

**Decision:** Hypothesis 3 is rejected and therefore there is a significant relationship between Buhari Anti corruption strategy and EFCC level of autonomy. .

**4.3 Discussion of Findings**

Findings relating to the first objective show that “there is no significant difference between the effects of anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic and political development in Nigeria under Buhari Administration”. The hypothesis was tested and rejected based on the decision rule. (p>0.05). The findings, therefore, reveal that there is significant difference between the effects of anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic and political development in Nigeria under Buhari Administration. This is also in line with what Babalola Akinyemi (2014) posited that anti-corruption strategy has its own inherent multiplier effects(social, political, economical cultural effects etc ) in any country especially the less developed countries but only depends on the country’s pro-activeness to overcome the challenges therein. This is in line with the responses from the respondents as there was significant difference between the effects of anti-corruption crusade on socio-economic and political development in Nigeria under Muhammadu Buhari administration.

Endemic corruption in Nigeria has become an issue of major political and socio-economic concern in recent years. This has led to a resurgence of interest in analyzing the phenomenon and the diverse forms that it assumes in developing polities with an expectation that the democratization and economic liberalization offer potential route to dealing with the problem. Another effect is that it has discouraged the foreign investors and the depreciation of Nigeria currency which invariably has contributed to the existing rate of unemployment in the country. more so, the resultant effect of this is that inflation is at its increased rate making cost of living high because of increase in the price of goods and services

Finding on the second research objective reveal that “there is no significant relationship between effectiveness of the EFCC and Buhari anti-corruption strategies”. The hypothesis was tested and was rejected based on the decision rule (p>0.05). The findings, therefore, reveal that there is significant relationship between effectiveness of the EFCC and Buhari anti-corruption strategies. This is also in line with proposition and opinion of Vanguard news paper The acting chairman of the EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, said: “In just six months, we have secured over 140 convictions, including some elusive high-profile criminals (Vanguard: page12, 2017). We have recovered stolen funds worth billions of dollars and blocked numerous avenues of money laundering.”The national coordinator, Procurement Observation and Advocacy Initiative, Mohammed Bougei Attah, in an interview with Channel Television, said that in the last one year, the EFCC had exhibited actions that upheld the



integrity of the institution by fighting corruption in a manner that was never before, since its establishment in 2001. The level of effectiveness of the EFCC under president Muhammadu Buhari Administration can be seen in the high profile investigation and prosecution case of the arraignment of Senate President Bukola Saraki before the Code of Conduct Tribunal over an allegation of fraud in the asset declaration form he submitted to the Code of Conduct Bureau when he was the Governor of Kwara State. There is also the infamous Diezaniagate, which is linked to the former minister of petroleum resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke and her financial activities in office. Here, the EFCC is tracing billions of naira shared by chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). It is alleged that the former minister released the sum of N23 billion public fund through Fidelity Bank Plc for the 2015 re-election campaign of former President Goodluck Jonathan. However, it is said the EFCC Investigators tracing the disbursement of the funds have made several arrests and recovered some of the money.

The third objective shows that “there is no significant relationship between Buhari anti-corruption strategies and autonomy of the EFCC”. The hypothesis was tested and was rejected based on the decision rule ( $p > 0.05$ ). The findings, therefore, reveal that there is significant relationship between Buhari anti-corruption strategies and autonomy of the EFCC. This is also in line with the current step being taken by the EFCC whereby the senate commenced the process of granting autonomy to the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) which is presently domiciled in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with the passage of the bill for second reading. The Senate initiative is in response to the recent suspension of the EGMONT Group of financial intelligence unit, which serves as backbone for monitoring international money laundering activities. Chairman of the senate committee on EFCC Senator Chukwu Utazi had moved a motion on “Dire Implications of the suspension of Nigeria from the EGMONT Group of Financial intelligence Units” The senate then pledged its resolve to do everything possible to ensure the reversal of Nigeria’s suspension from EGMONT Group. Nigeria has up to December 2017 to effect the statutory autonomy for NFIU to avoid expulsion from the EGMONT Group.

##### **5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The study concludes that the level of autonomy of the anti-corruption institutions for the period under study was high. The corruption reporting system was effective while the rate of enforcement of punishments for corruption offences was also high. The anti-corruption institutions were found to be effective in combating corruption in federal public service under Muhammadu Buhari. The hypotheses tested indicated that the level of autonomy of the anticorruption institutions has affected their level of effectiveness in fighting corruption in the federal public. From the test of the second hypothesis, the study also concluded that the effectiveness of corruption reporting system in the public service has affected the effectiveness of the anti-corruption institutions in combating corruption in the federal public service. With the result obtained from the test of the third hypothesis, the study also concluded that the level of enforcement of punishments for corruption offences has affected the effectiveness of the anti-corruption institutions. Therefore, the establishment of EFCC is not negligence to the constitutional provisions and legal process, thus a creation of the highest law making body in the country with strict adherence to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Federal Government should be committed to the sincere translation of the expressed political will of fighting corruption into reality by allowing the anti-corruption institutions to operate without political intervention in order not to compromise with their statutorily assigned responsibilities. The adequate funding of the EFCC should be sustained and possibly improved upon in view of increasing



incidence of corruption. The ICPC should be adequately funded to enable it establish more state offices and employ more staff. Adequate funding of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) will enable it employ more staff, make its presence felt at the level of senatorial districts and later at all local government area headquarters in Nigeria in view of the enormous responsibilities of the agency. The anti-corruption institutions should be directly funded rather than through the presidency in order to ensure their financial autonomy. An effective anti-corruption strategy that will embrace system approach of prevention, detection, investigation, enforcement, public awareness and institution building should be adopted. The identity of corruption reporters should be kept confidential in order to protect them from potential danger of harassment. A closer relationship and confidence building measures between the citizens and the institutions should be enhanced to facilitate effective corruption reporting.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) bill should be passed and signed into an act in a timely manner to facilitate transparency in public institutions and anti-corruption institutions. Paragraph 3, part 1 of the third schedule of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 should be amended to ensure compulsory public declaration of assets and liabilities of public servants. This will enable citizens have access to assets disclosure forms of public servants and petition the commission of any breach of the Code of Conduct. Privacy should not be an obstacle to vetting the origin of unexplained wealth. The reform of the country's legal, judicial and prosecution system is required by among others employing more competent prosecutors and reorienting the judges to demonstrate more courage in trying corruption cases. In the interim, special anti-corruption courts can be established for the speedy trial of corruption cases to relief the currently overburdened judiciary. As part of the reform, section 308 of the constitution that confers immunity on the president and his vice should be amended to exclude prosecution for corruption offences. Punishments for corruption offences should be reviewed and made more severe in order to serve its purpose as a preventive and deterrent measure. A minimum of ten years jail term without option of fine to life imprisonment for cases relating to corruption is recommended. The anti-corruption institutions especially the CCB and ICPC should also follow-up declarations and cases under investigation. The whistle blowing strategy and whistle blower protection bill should be made more effective, these will have far reaching effects in reducing endemic corruption in Nigeria.

The limitations to the study include time and financial constraints, non-availability of some documents that are relevant to this study. The sample size of the respondents was small compared to number of government officials, lawyers, politicians and journalists in Nigeria. The sample size should be bigger. It should cut across every department in Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Code of Conduct Bureau, Increase numbers of Lawyers, Journalists and Politicians should be done. The duration of the questionnaire should be longer so as to give respondents convenient time in filling questionnaires rather than filling up in the office instantly. The observation and interview methods should be adopted.

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