

Geography of Corruption in Nigeria's Democratic Institutions
and its Implications for Socio-Economic Development

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Abstract

This study examines the geography of corruption in Nigeria's democratic institutions and its implications for socio-economic development with particular reference to the three arms of the government. The study utilizes documentary research method where the data used for analysis in the piece were collected from government's documents and relevant literature. It reveals that the level of corruption in Nigeria over the years has had negative impacts on the socio-economic and political development of the nation. The study argues that there can never be development in a society where there is high level of corruption owing to the fact that development is only achievable in a society devoid of corruption where there is good governance through responsible leadership. It concludes that the rampancy of corruption in Nigeria signposts failure of good governance, lack of transparency and accountability. It recommends among others that Nigerian government should as a matter of serious concern attack corruption in all ramifications to see that it has no base in Nigeria, adding that if Nigeria fails or refuses to combat corruption, the image of the country will continue to remain dented and will consequently emerge as a quasi-state in the comity of nations.

Keywords: Corruption, Socio-economic, Development, Causes, Implications

Introduction

Corruption which exists at all levels of government in Nigeria is perceived in many quotas as the major cause of poverty in the country. It is a disease that has eaten deep into the fabrics of the Nigerian society. The issue of corruption in Nigeria has continued to generate passionate commentaries and scholarly debate due to the high degree of its practice in the country. Corruption has created challenges in Nigeria such as poverty, unemployment, lack of quality and affordable education, standard health care facilities and a host of others. In the words of Chinua Achebe (1983), Keeping an average Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating Yam.

Nigeria is one of the world's most endowed nations with abundant human and natural resources. There is practically every vital mineral deposit in all the states of the federation; from crude oil to gold, cocoa to coal, uranium to gypsum, palm oil to rubber, coffee to timber, and cattle to fish, all in commercial quantities. Conversely, Nigeria remains one of the developing but under-industrialized nations of the world (Ajibewa, 2008:261).

Nigeria being a developing country recommenced another democratic governance in May, 1999 after a prolonged military rule which was a result of the corrupt nature of those at the helm of the nation's affairs (public office holders), who had mishandled the various sectors of the nation's economy for

private gains. This made Ogundiya cited in Adamu (2017:71) to admit that the impact of corruption on Nigeria's democracy is undoubtedly more severe and devastating with weak economic base, fragile political institutions and inadequate control mechanisms. He further stated that the country faces severe crisis in its economic, social and political development that is not unconnected with the problem of endemic corruption. This therefore, retards the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria.

However, a number of factors have been blamed or responsible for corruption while looking at greed and stupendous lifestyle as the main cause of corruption in the world and Nigeria is not an exception to this fact. This is to say that some societies who have flair for luxurious lifestyle are bound to delve into corrupt practices so as to live the lifestyle and to also welcome the style of public sleaze and lack of decorum. Another factor responsible for corruption is sometimes caused by ethnicity and pressures on public officials from family and friends who always see holding public office as an avenue to loot or milk public treasury dry. No wonder (Mundt and Aborishade, 2004:7) stressed that the Nigerian public is highly ambivalent about the corruption problem, frequently complaining about it and condemning it, but generally resigned to its pervasive presence. Supporting the above assertion, (Adesina, 2011:56) opined that in Nigeria it is not only that the officials are corrupt but that corruption is official.

It is regrettable to note that the phenomenon of poverty in Nigeria appears to be assuming a worsening dimension due to the peoples urge to get rich quick. It is against the foregoing that this paper examines the interface between corruption and socio-economic development in Nigeria with keen emphasis on the three arms of the government- the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.

Conceptual Clarifications

This section thematically focuses on the conceptualization of the basic concepts which this study sets out to interrogate i.e. corruption and development.

Corruption: the word corruption originates from the Latin verb *rumpere* which means to break. From the above therefore, corruption means breaking of a certain code of conduct for the personal benefits of the perpetrators. Meanwhile, there are many definitions of corruption given by different scholars from different perspectives. For instance, Sen cited in Aluko, (2009:2) defines corruption as the violation of established rules for personal gain and profit. Corruption is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes on various forms and functions in different contexts, (Andrig and Fjeldstad, 2001:4).

In another development, ICPC Act section 2, states that corruption includes vices like bribery, fraud and other related offences. It also sees corruption as the abuse of power or position of trust for personal or group benefit - monetary or otherwise. Garner (2004) defines corruption as the "Act of doing something with an intent to give some advantages inconsistent with official duty and the right of others, a fiduciary's official's use of a station or office to procure some benefits either personally or for someone else contrary to the right of others".

According to Ayoola cited in Adamu (2017:72), "the commonest form of corruption in Nigeria used to be bribery but in recent years this has overtaken in level of prevalence by embezzlement and theft from public funds, extortion, abuse of discretion, abuse of public power for private gain, favouritism and nepotism, conflict of interest, extortion and illegal political party financing". From the above definitions, it is crystal clear that corruption includes financial crimes, immoral behaviour, election malpractices, disobedient to the rule of law and so on.

Development: There are different definitions of development as there are different scholars and writers. For the purpose of this study however, we shall limit our conceptions to the opinion of Rodney (1974:1), who viewed development in human society as a many sided process. At the level of the individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. Some of these are virtually moral categories and are very difficult to evaluate depending on how they do on the age in which one lives, one's class, origins and one's personal code of what is right

and what is wrong. While at the level of social groups, therefore, development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Much of human history has been a fight for survival against natural hazards and against real imagined human enemies. To some, Development is the increase in wealth of the social group and indeed to infringe upon the freedom of others irrespective of the will of the people within the society involved.

Development from the Rodney's (1974) perspective signifies that, it exist when people have the freedom to make decision, capacity to use the available resources for survival, creativity in the sense of initiating ideas and alternative of providing prompt solution to emerging problems, general discipline to respects formal regulations and informal societal values, norms, culture and moral behaviours.

Theoretical Framework

There exist a number of theoretical assumptions on why people engage in corrupt practices especially in the public sector. But for the purpose of this study, corrupt behavior will be explained using the socio-cultural perspective from stand point of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

In the opinion of Olayiwola (2007), on the socio-cultural perspective, the theory focuses on the impact of people and social forces within the environment on individuals. It is mainly designed to identify the relationship between individuals and the environment. This is to say that the causes of corruption may go beyond an individual, other people, community and culture to a large extent, contribute to such behavior. To Jatau (1992), the role of the society in bringing about corruption is what we refer to as societal pressure which induces officials to be corrupt.

The above is followed by human needs theory put forward by Maslow (1954). This theory contends that human needs are numerous and as such, cannot be satisfied at a time. According to Garba, (2005) these needs are psychological needs which he categorized into five different levels viz: food, shelter, clothing, sex, etc., security and safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs. However, once a particular level of need is achieved such need no longer motivates them. Such a person would turn to another level of needs to seek satisfaction (Durosaro 2000 and Maslow 1954). This is to say that the strength and potency of the needs may also vary in different situation. As a result of humanist theory, it is believed that people are inherently good and responsible because of pressure and standards set by the society, many who are unable to meet such standards experience or exhibits psychological problems, conflicts and pressures, (Olayiwola 2007).

The relevance of this theory to the study finds expression in the fact that a person attempts to satisfy basic needs before directing behavior towards satisfying upper-level needs. And this to an extent, affects their behavior.

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria

Many reasons have been given as causes of corruption in Nigeria, one of which is sudden disappearance of good morals and ethical values. Nwaobi (2004) stated that Nigeria is one of the very few countries in the world where a man's source of wealth is of no concern to his neighbours, the public or the government. This is because wealthy people who are known to be corrupt are regularly courted and honoured by communities, religious bodies, social clubs and private organizations.

Another fundamental reason is the weak enforcement mechanism (lack of legislative, executive and judicial independence, etc) as another major cause of corruption in Nigeria. For instance, the anti-corruption agencies' such as the ICPC, EFCC, Code of Conduct Tribunal etc which are authorized by the FGN to deter corruption are often weak as some, if not most, of the law enforcement agencies are themselves corrupt even though recent events proves that there us a little improvement in the fight against corruption by the EFCC essentially under the current leadership of Ibrahim Magu. In the past, the EFCC made no real attempt to investigate credible allegations that officials in the presidency attempted to bribe members of the National Assembly into voting in favour of former president Olusegun Obasanjo's abortive attempt at changing the constitution to allow himself a third term in

office, Ogunديya in Adamu (2017:73). Also, by virtue of Sections 80 and 81 of the 1999 constitution, it is the National Assembly that gives authorization to the President for all expenditures from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), thus, affording the representative body an opportunity to rigorously debate and rationalize the budget.

In the opinion of Oyelowo (2007:21) the performance of the legislature has fallen woefully below expectation, as the National Assembly members have been, sometimes, involved in bribery and corruption as an incentive to pass appropriation bills. In addition, rulers, politicians and civil servants are highly corrupt, and professional organizations may be incapable of sanctioning their members. Maduegbuna quoted in Sowunmi, Raufu, Oketokun, Salako, and Usifoh, (2009:11) argued that the benefits of corruption are greater than the consequences of being caught and disciplined.

Another cause of corruption in Nigeria could be linked to high risk of insecurity and the fear that characterized the Nigerian state which can be attributed to a number of reasons apart from the breakdown of law and order. Political insatiability, conflicts, hostile national environment, high level of criminality, etc are the correlates here (Okeshola, 2009:342). There have been reports from the International Police (Interpol) and Crime Intelligent Unit of America (CIA) regarding the money siphoned by gullible personalities such as former governor of Bayelsa State, late Depreiyе Alamesigha, former governor of Plateau State and now a senator, Joshua Dariye of capital flight in Nigeria to foreign banks abroad and many others who have been on trial.

The money siphoned was meant to develop their states by providing necessary facilities for their citizens in order to improve their standard of living. Regrettably, instead of using the money judiciously, it was rather diverted into personal accounts and lodged in foreign banks abroad. One of the most unfortunate scenarios in Nigeria is that most leaders want to acquire wealth/property through quick syndrome motive-corruption. They seek public office in order to acquire wealth illegally, to compete among themselves in building mansions, buying expensive cars and taking their children abroad to study thereby paying little or no attention to improve the various sectors of the nation's economy, such as health, education, housing, transport etc.

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Another cause of corruption in Nigeria is the traditional values of gifts giving and tributes to leaders often lead to what Brownsberger (1983) describes as polite corruption, the extent of such corruption is relatively small. According to Dandago (2008), traditional chieftaincy titles and membership of board of directors of government-owned corporations are only for the influential individuals in the society who has made it economically or politically.

of the worrisome situations in the words of Sowunmi et al, (2009) is that, honest and dedicated public servants who have not accumulated dirty wealth do not command much respect from the society. These attitudes serve to encourage a new-breed of public servants who engage in corrupt practices.

Again, the National Bureau of Statistics in 2005 attributed the high rate of poverty as one of the causes of corruption in Nigeria. The 54.1% high level of poverty put by the Bureau contributed in no small amount to the desperation of Nigerians to acquire wealth through any means. While the few employed receives low wages, unemployment is high. The unemployed are mostly youths, engaged in anti-social

activities such as cyber crime, drug peddling, prostitution, political thuggery, paid assassins, oil bunkering, kidnapping, militancy (Niger Delta), Boko Haram (Northern parts), among others.

Geography of Corruption in the three Arms of Government in Nigeria

The Executive: Since the return to democratic governance in Nigeria in 1999, a number of corrupt practices have taken place within the executive arm of the government at all the levels. Corruption in the executive arm of the government includes but not limited to embezzlement, mismanagement and misappropriation of public funds, diversion of public funds into personal pockets, award and inflation of contracts, employment into the public service illegally and many more.

Example of corrupt practices carried out at the state level by many former governors who were at the helm of affairs in their various states between 1999 and 2007 as alleged by the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for financial recklessness includes Saminu Turaki of Jigawa state, Peter Odili of Rivers state, Lucky Igbinedion of Edo state, Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia state, Ayo Fayose of Ekiti state, Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu state, James Ibori of Delta state, Rev. Jolly Nyame of Taraba state, Late Diepreye of Bayelsa state etc.

For instance, Saminu Turaki of Jigawa state allegedly spent N36 million of public funds to acquire oil block from the federal government; Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia state was arraigned on a 191 count charge of money laundry, criminal diversion of public funds, official corruption to the tune of N5.2 billion (Tell, 2012) and was also accused of using his stolen money of N3.1 billion to fund SLOK Airline and two banks in the Gambia and Sierra Leone in addition to owning houses in London and US (Kofarmata, 2005); James Ibori was arraigned on a 170 count charge (Tell, 2012) of money laundering to the tune of over N9.1 billion, (Kofarmata, 2005); Rev. Jolly Nyame of Taraba state was charged with stealing N1.6 billion belonging to the state; and Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu state has been standing trial for his alleged illegal diversion of public funds to the tune of N5.6 billion alongside two of his commissioners- Peter Mba and Sam Ejiofor and some companies linked to him; and the late Diepreye Alamieyeseigha of Bayelsa state was arrested on a 40 count of corruption and money laundering. In July, 2006, British Authorities returned about 1 million pounds (USD1.9 million) of the alleged illicit gains that he stashed in British banks, (Kofarmata, 2005).

It is noteworthy that most of the governors who served between 2007 and 2015 are currently facing trials over corruption allegation especially in the area of misappropriation of public funds. Prominent among them are the former governors of Adamawa state- Murtala Nyako, Bauchi state-Isah Yuguda, Benue state-Gabriel Suswam, Katsina state-Ibrahim Shehu Shema, Niger state-Muazu Babangida Aliyu and many others.

At the federal executive arm of the government, the noticeable corrupt practices since the rebirth of democracy has been in the areas of award of contracts especially road contracts across the six geo-political zones of the country. Different governments at different times in Nigeria have awarded contracts in huge sums and most of the road contracts have not been completed. The report of the Central Bank of Nigeria on the survey of the Federal Highways in Nigeria reveals the total number of federal roads to be constructed throughout the six geo-political zones of the country between 1999 and 2001 but was not properly constructed as a result of outright embezzlement. The report revealed that less than 10% of the funding request made by the Federal Ministry Works and Housing for roads maintenance was appropriated. It revealed further that despite the funds released to that effect across the country between the period which were N509.29 million, N742.72 million and N779.84 million respectively, yet, most of the roads across the zones were in very bad conditions, (CBN Report, 2003).

It was equally revealed that no fewer than 37 contracts were awarded by the Federal government for the construction and rehabilitation of roads between 2002 and 2010 through the Federal Ministry of Works valued at N131.13 billion but were yet to be completed. Details of the contracts as contained in a document titled "Completed and Substantially Completed Projects and Projects awarded under

Appropriation reveals that 11 road projects valued at N131.13 billion were awarded between 2002 and 2009, while 26 projects with the total of N176.6 billion were awarded in 2010. Some of these projects includes the N36.3 billion Benin-Shagamu road project; N42.3 billion expansion of Abuja-Abaji road contract awarded to three different contractors in 2006; N15 billion contract for the construction of the Kano Western bypass awarded in 2007 and the N30.85 billion contract for its expansion into dual lanes of the Onitsha-Owerri expressway and Onitsha Eastern Bypass awarded in 2002 (The Punch, Tuesday August 2, 2012).

The Legislative: The process of governance of any democratic nation cannot be successful without the positive input of the country's legislative body. Thus, effectiveness and efficiency of this body plays pivotal role in the nature of governance that particular country will possess and how the society can be governed.

The legislative arm of the government that should serve as checks on the abuse of power by the executive and the recklessness of the opportunistic politicians is also inefficient and ineffective. Effective legislature contributes greatly to the governance of a country. This is done by the legislative arm of government through the performing of oversight functions on the implementation of government policies and programmes to ensure that the nation's annual budget is implemented appropriately. It is also important to note that the responsibilities of legislature in a democratic society have gone beyond the mere law making and representation. The legislative arm of government is equally saddled with the responsibilities of keeping close watch and control over the executive arm of government and the control of public expenditures and taxation. A legislative arm must not only be capable of making laws for the safety and general wellbeing of the people, but must also be able to manage funds in order to provide good life for the entire citizenry (Ogundiya, 2010).

Relating the above assertions in the discussion of corruption in the Nigerian legislature, as a Nigerian, one will not hesitate to agree that the process and the practice of legislations are highly antithetical when we talk of effective and efficient legislature. Nigerian legislators have paralysed the capacities of the body due to their insatiable appetites to loot the nation's treasury in the name of making laws.

A virile legislature is more likely to manage the available resources and funds to achieve the objectives of the state with minimum or no wastages and this engenders transparency, openness, accountability which represents the tripod of good governance. The failure of the legislature to perform this important function in Nigeria has denied people the gains of democratic governance. Rather than enhancing good governance through equity in the distribution of resources, legislators in Nigeria have been preoccupied with how to amass wealth to themselves at the detriment of majority of the populace. The case of 2009 budgetary allocation is a typical example. A breakdown of the 2009 national budget shows that the members of the National Assembly and the personnel of a part of presidency will be paid 47.8 billion naira as emoluments during the year. The 360 members of the House of Representatives were to receive 26.67 billion naira while the 109 senators were to get 16.3 billion naira. When the provisions for the legislative aids, the National Assembly Service Commission and the National Assembly offices are factors in the total allocation to federal legislature which stood at 61.6 billion naira. This is so because, the forces behind these was that, Nigeria's legislators are not qualitatively appointed and elected through competitive, fair, free and credible elections (Ogundiya, 2010).

It is imperative to note that when the procedures are manipulated, the outcome cannot be free from manipulation. The level of corruption in Nigeria provides an atmosphere vulnerable to all forms of menace capable of rendering the nation incapacitated in providing for her citizens the basic needs of life and the lawmakers only make laws for their selfish and primitive accumulations of wealth. This situation made Ogban cited in Ogundiya (2010) to posit that; when a few people control the governance of a polity and have the preponderance force to continue to maintain such a control, a National Assembly that emerges from the dictation of such a group, is more likely to be corrupt and subversive of democracy and democratization than the one that emerges from the dictate of the popular forces.

It is incontrovertible that the States and the Federal Houses of Assembly in Nigeria are products of corruption and undemocratic procedures and processes. Thus, it is not surprising that their activities subverts rather than promotes democracy and good governance. These are how implication of corruption in the legislature marred the country's attempt in the developmental processes.

The Judiciary: One of the unhealthy implications of corruption in Nigeria is its change in the value and integrity of the judicial arm of the government. The judicial arm as an indispensable component of good governance is also corrupt. In the Nigerian context, it is a known fact that the notion of the judiciary as *primus inter pares* (first among equals) is one that is yet to be fully imbibed by the political elites irrespective of the judgements on gubernatorial elections in Edo, Imo and Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-River and Taraba states. Judiciary in Nigeria has to a large extent been subjected to whims and caprices of the executive arm. This is so because, democracy is not only financially dependent on executive but has also been excessively politicised. The upshot of this state of affairs has been the corruption of the judiciary. While judicial corruption relates to unprofessional or infamous conduct by judicial officers, it is also taken to mean attempt by extraneous bodies to undermine the judiciary either inducement, cajoling, intimidation or some other means, (Oyebode cited in Ogundiya, 2010). Worthy of note is that when the judicial officers are constituted by corrupt and manipulated procedures, its tendency to be incapable is highly inevitable. One of the alleged evidences of corruption in the Nigerian judiciary is the judgements in Nigeria on Akwa Ibom, Cross-River, Rivers and Taraba states 2015 governorship elections. After the Election Petition Tribunals had earlier nullified those elections on the ground of irregularities that marred the conducts, the Court of Appeal equally upheld the judgements of the tribunals but the Supreme Court ruled contrary to the two lower courts which later favoured the governors that allegedly rigged elections in their various states for their political parties. This has to a large extent discouraged many Nigerians from having confidence in the Nigerian Judiciary by looking at that arm of the government as the last hope of the common man.

Consequently, when Nigerian masses ought to perceive the Judiciary as “the last hope of the common man”, the political elites have sought to humiliate and exploit the judiciary to their own advantage. The situation is compounded by the country's economic wretchedness which makes an individual susceptible to corruption. In a society bedevilled with social insecurity, political instability and economic woes, it “requires near human superhuman guts to be upright and stand firm on the side of judicial integrity, independence, due process of the law and kindred virtues of democratic polity” (Oyebode cited in Ogundiya 2010). Thus, the rule of law becomes the rule of the jungle and good governance is jeopardized.

The issue of corruption in the Nigerian Judiciary is worrisome as it plays between the accused persons and the trial judges. To the accused, nothing is impossible in Nigeria, justice must be bought and he starts making the necessary contacts including frustrating court process to get as many adjournments as possible. If you are fortunate to be a high ranking politician then consider yourself lucky, on every court appearance you are not going only with army of Senior Advocates, your fellow colleagues are there with you in the spirit of solidarity including paid agents who pose as your supporters. To our judges, most of them have thrown the ethics of their profession at the behest of their higher bidder which has tarnished the image and ethics of the law profession in Nigeria and the judicial system in general.

In all attempts by government, there is nothing which should be more jealously maintained than the spirit of obedience to law. In the world over, the rule of law is inseparable from good governance, it invariably points to government establishment by the will of the people; one where there are laid down procedures for the settling of conflicts etc. Therefore, a free and independent judiciary is a *sin qua non* for good governance. This is currently a mirage in Nigeria (Udo, 2003). The current Nigeria's judiciary situation is totally unacceptable and unhealthy for development and good governance. Judiciary in Nigerian context is currently used to witch-hunt perceived political opponents, inconclusive verdict, contradictions of constitutional interpretations by the judiciary, improper and late judgement delivery and personalization of the core benefits of the constitution and the laws.

Implications of Corruption on the Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria

Corruption has been a destructive element to the development of Nigeria economically and politically. This explains why the Transparency Initiative (TI) (2008) rated Nigeria as one of the most corrupt nations in the world. Thus, according to Maduegbuna (2005), effects of corruption in Nigeria includes loss of government revenue, negative natural image, poor governance, brain drain, electoral malpractices, poor investment climate, business failure, removal of subsidies on goods and services, unemployment and poverty.

Suleiman (2011:14) opined that corruption is believed to be the bane of development in Nigeria. It has been largely responsible for the stunted economic growth of the country and for the mass poverty that reigns in the land (Nigeria). The quality of public infrastructure and services has continued to be low as a result of corruption. Nigerians have long suffered from bad roads, epileptic power supply and lack of potable water and affordable housing. Avoidable accidents happen on the highways daily largely due to bad roads, many factories and businesses have closed shop/shut down due to rising overhead costs as a result of poor power supply from the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). Most of the country's cosmopolitan cities and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have been turned into glorified slums because there are no housing schemes for the masses to live in.

In another development, Ribadu (2006) argued that corruption is responsible for perpetual collapse of infrastructure and institutions; it is the cause of the endemic poverty in Africa, it is behind the underdevelopment and cyclical failure of democracy to take root in Africa. Corruption is worse than terrorism. Public officials who are corrupt should receive worse treatment than that reserved for terrorists.

The effects of corruption on any nation, according to Ogundiya (2009a:152), are socially, economically and politically damaging. In Nigeria, corruption has been responsible for gross social and political instability which had bedeviled the country since her independent nationhood in 1960. Ogundiya (2009a) further stressed that in Nigeria, politics is money and money is politics. The 'outside elites' are always determined to force the 'inside elites' out of the corridor of power, while the later are also obstinate in retaining power by force. For this reason, contract killing or political assassinations have become part and parcel of Nigeria's political culture. Above all, corruption has been used by many scholars as potent explanation for Nigeria's development tragedy/backwardness. Infrastructural decay, widespread poverty, preventable waterborne and airborne epidemics and diseases, slums, rural and urban violence, acute low standards of living are consequences of corruption.

The causes and implications of corruption in Nigeria lead to a growing gap between the rich and the poor and deeper poverty by enriching a few at the expense of fellow citizens under a corrupt system. There is a concentration of wealth in the hands of the minority over the majority. Resultantly, income distribution becomes highly skewed, closely associated with the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few-who are not ready to inject it into the country's economy for others to benefit, and a distorted consumption pattern aimed at meeting the luxurious lifestyle of the urban elites emerges. These causes and implications make governments to embark on various anti-corruption reforms/measures to tackle and combat corruption in Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is fundamental to note that the rampancy of corruption in Nigeria signposts failure of good governance, lack of transparency and accountability thereby preventing Nigeria's development in all spheres. Corruption in Nigeria has totally changed from how other countries of the world see and manage it. Corruption is threatening every aspects of the country development and that is why the country is still at the existing state which ordinarily she should have been at the desired state.

Worthy of note is that the grand corruption that is springing up daily in Nigeria has indicted many prominent Nigerians and verbal songfest that emanates afterwards from paid agents of those indicted absolving their principals of corruption leaves a lot to the imagination. Pertinent questions that deserve answers in the issue of corruption allegation in Nigeria are: are there institutions or sectors that could be absolved of corruption in Nigeria? Is it the policeman who the only guaranteed way to remain at the check point is by making returns to his superiors? Or our judges, most of them have thrown the ethics of their profession at the behest of their higher bidder? Not forgetting our teeming unemployed youths who have resorted to crime as a means to an end. Corruption has turned Nigeria into a Frankenstein's monster that is now threatening our collective existence as a nation and even in the era of progressive politics no one among the country's political class is yet convicted of corruption.

It should be noted that there can never be development in a society where there is high level of corruption owing to the fact that development is only achievable in a corrupt free society where there is good governance through responsible and responsive leadership. Nigerian leaders have been unable to fight corruption since the birth of the country due to the fact that she is yet to produce responsible leaders. The country has been producing rulers who have been masquerading as leaders and they have not been able to make life meaningful and comfortable for majority of the populace.

Finally, Nigeria has what it takes to build a strong and virile economy, reduce poverty to a minimal level, build qualitative and affordable academic institutions and provide quality healthcare facilities. But the only and surest way to achieve these is to fight corruption to a halt. Nigeria should as a matter of serious concern attack corruption in all ramifications to see that it has no base in Nigeria. It should be noted that if Nigeria fails or refuses to combat corruption, the image of the country will continue to remain dented and will emerge as a quasi-state in the comity of nations.

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