

EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION ON INTERNAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Dr. Aminu Abdullahi Shagali
Kaduna State House of Assembly
Kaduna, Nigeria
Email: aminushagali@yahoo.com

Abstract

Corruption has been on increase and therefore becomes an issue of concern in Nigeria especially in the fourth republic, i.e. from 1999 onward. As a result, it is identified as a major problem inhibiting the development of many sectors in the country. One of such sectors is internal security which was weakened by corruption in different manifestations. The substantial part of data for this research was collected mainly through secondary sources. The corruption which took the forms of looting and diversion of public funds meant for the purchase of arms to protect lives and properties weakened the capacity of the police and the military in ensuring effective internal security. This resulted in monumental threats to internal security such as the wave of kidnapping, armed robbery, insurgency and inter communal violence to mention just few. Based on these therefore, the paper makes strong advocacy for anti-corruption crusades by the governments at all levels and vigilance by the citizens. The paper finally recommends that, for effective control of corruption in Nigeria, EFCC should be adequately funded and completely made independent from government's control so that the government in power itself will be kept in check whereas within and outside the courtrooms should be given the needed publicity. The society must develop a culture of relative openness, in contrast to the current bureaucratic climate of secretary.

Keywords: *Corruption, Internal Security, Fourth Republic, Challenges.*

Introduction:

In Nigeria today Corruption has manifested in both private and public sectors. One of the important areas of such development vastly affected by corruption is internal security which involves not only using security apparatus by the state to secure public institutions but also protection of lives and properties. In Nigeria, corruption manifests in many ways the notable of which includes the willful neglect of mandates by public institutions, diversion of public properties and resources meant for development to personal uses, abuse of power, failed contract, institutionalization of mediocrity, e.t.c. In Nigeria's Fourth Republic, specifically between 2010 and 2015, these manifestations have reached an alarming level as is revealed by some probe panels instituted by government at various levels (Emmanuel, 2009).

In particular these tendencies have affected the functioning of many development institutions and endeavors in the country. One of these is the area of internal security where it became clear that institutions like the police, the army and other apparatus have found difficulty in securing the places of worship, public and private institutions as well as lives and properties. Political corruption is persistent and rife in the Nigerian political sphere. In fact, corruption in its highest form is found in the political system, such as: acceptance of gratification; succumbing to inducement and undue influence; embezzlement; conflict of interests, for example, the award of contracts by public officer holders to cronies, family members, and personally held companies; bribery; fraud; nepotism and tribalism in recruitment/appointment, promotion; kickback on contract rigging and tribalism if elections; misappropriation and conversion of public funds for personal gains; procurement scam; leaking tender information to friends and relations; diversion and misappropriation of funds through manipulation or falsification to friends of financial records; payment for favorable judicial decisions, and so on.

Since the creation of modern public administration in the country, there have been cases of official misuse of resources for personal enrichment. Many leaders have helped boost the economics of other nations by depositing embezzled money in foreign banks. According to the former Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) Chairman, Nuhu Ribadu, the over US\$400 billion that had been looted from Nigeria by the leaders is "six times the total value of resources committed to rebuilding Western Europe after the Second World War" (Emmanuel, 2009).

Although these are mostly confined to the North East region of Nigeria resulting from insurgency activities but the wave of insecurity extends to many other parts of the country like the reported cases of kidnapping, armed robbery and vandalisation of public properties in both Eastern and Niger Delta regions of the country. As a result of these, internal security was at its lowest level due to inability of security agencies to assert effective control as a result of ill-funding, lack of modern equipment of crime containment, diversion of budgetary allocation for political party activities and mindless looting of public funds.

This paper therefore attempt to examine how corruption affects internal security in Nigeria. Books have been written, people have talked, and the presses have been writing on the high level of corruption in Nigerian politics and most of them concentrated on the level as well damages caused by corruption to Nigeria as an entity but failed to critically examine the extent through which it affects Nigeria's Internal Security. Political corruption has derailed meaningful developmental goals, resulting in high level of unemployment and disconnection of the people from the leaders with attendant insecurity such as youth restiveness, armed robbery, and kidnapping for ransom.

The paper has been divided into five main sections. Following the introduction which is the first part, is the conceptual clarification. Part three examines the causes of corruption in Nigeria, section four deals with insecurity challenges posed by corruption in Nigeria, while part five of the paper handles recommendations and conclusion. It is established in the paper the failure to motivate the security agencies in the country particularly the police and the army through enhanced remuneration, supply of needed equipments as appropriated in the annual budgets, incentives, e.t.c., not only demoralizes the security personnel but also incapacitates them and therefore incapable of responding to varies internal security threats.

Conceptual Clarification and Overview of Indices of Security Threat

Corruption

Corruption is a relative concept, being a function of specific normative, social, historical, cultural, economic and political circumstances as well as legal. Corruption covers a broad range of wrongdoings or corrupt practices that are basically unethical and morally reprehensible, ranging from the giving and taking of bribe, to the use of public office for the advancement of purely private interests, and from the misapplication or misappropriation of public funds, to outright fraud and embezzlement.

In addition to the above, corruption is a cancer-worm that manifests rear its ugly head in so many other practices in Nigeria, like the various forms of election rigging, falsification of census figures, examination malpractices, "sorting", certificate racketeering, visa racketeering, exertion by public official, nepotism, Advance Fee fraud ("419"), the forging of, or issuance of fake medical certificates, driver's license without driving tests, false affidavits, false age declarations, multiple international passports, inflation of contracts, over-invoicing, under-invoicing, purchasing things on behalf of government at seriously inflated and alarming prices, exertion of undue influence on subordinates by superiors to do wrong things, just to mention but a few of such cases.

According to Olusegun (2009), corruption has been broadly classified into two sides including the demand side (bribe-takers) and the supply side (bribe-givers) often provides the role of a third party to whom a bribe is transferred for onward delivery to the bribe taker. The Encyclopedia Americana, (1999), broadly sees corruption in political type, bureaucratic type and electoral type. Political corruption manifests at the highest levels of political authority where it shapes policy formulation and implementation in favour of politicians and decision makers. The Bureaucratic corruption involves all corruption encoered on daily basis at public institutions like police force, hospitals, schools, e.t.c. Electoral Corruption on the other hand, involves money politics as well as the zero sum nature of Nigerian politics.

Other forms of corruption include **bribery** that is taken or given in a corrupt relationship. These include kickbacks, gratuities, pay-off, sweeteners, and greasing palms. Secondly, **fraud which** involves some kind of trickery, swindle and deceit, counterfeiting, racketing, smuggling and forgery. Thirdly, embezzlement that has to do with theft of public resources by public officials. It is when a state official steals from public institution in which he/she is employed. Fourthly, extortion which involves the collection of money and other resources from public by the use of coercion, violence or threats to use force. The fifth important type is **favoritism** which is a mechanism of power abuse implying a highly biased distribution of state resources. The sixth important type is **nepotism which has to do with** a special form of favoritism in which an office holder prefers his/her kinfolk and family members.

Internal Security:

According to Holmlund (2008:6) "internal security" is a state of society where everyone can enjoy the right and freedoms guaranteed by the rule of law and a safe society without the fear or insecurity caused by crime, disruptions, accidents or any other phenomena in any given society or the increasingly globalize world at large". This definition fails to recognize the existence of external factors as threat to internal security. Iweze (1990:238) defines internal security as "totality of the nation's equilibrium state which needs to be maintained so that the nation can carry out its normal function without unnecessary interruption from anywhere". Olsen (2007:71) conceptualized internal security to mean. "Societal security", they further view it as: The society's ability to maintain critical social functions, to protect the lives, properties and health of the citizens and also to meet the citizens'

basic requirements in a variety of stress situation. This implies that, internal security comprises all categories of actions intended to hinder unwanted events or conditions and to reduce the consequences should these occur.

Imobeghe (1990) conceptualized internal security to mean: freedom from or the absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability of maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core value and socio-political and economic objects as well as meeting the legitimate aspiration of the people. He further maintains that internal security implies freedom from danger to life and property and the presence of a conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interest within the society.

The above conceptualization simply explains that, Internal Security is the state's ability to maintain critical social functions, to protect the lives, properties and health of the citizens and also to meet the citizens' basic requirements in a variety of stress situation. It means freedom from danger to life and property and the presence of a conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interest within the society. It is a position where everyone can enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the rule of law and a safe society without the fear or insecurity caused by crime, disruptions, accidents or any other phenomena in any given society or the increasingly globalized world at large. This implies that, internal security comprises all categories of actions intended to hinder unwanted events or conditions and to reduce the consequences should these occur. But these definitions fail to recognize the existence of external factors as threat to internal security.

Theoretical Framework

This study has adopted System Theory for theoretical explanations of Corruption and the Challenge of Internal Security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The theory was an offshoot of General System Theory as propounded by one of the behaviouralist scholars, Ludwig Von Bertalanffy. Other proponents of the theory came from different field of studies. They include David Easton from the discipline of Political Science. Gabriel Almond and Talcott Parson are from sociology. Morton Kaplan, Karl Deutsch and Stanley Hoffmann are from the field of international relations. Sani (1994) and Sambo (1999) among others also apply system analysis in the field of public policy. Based on this therefore, the study adopted David Easton's System Theory as its Theoretical Framework.

Easton (1965) wishes to construct an empirically oriented general theory of politics and to that end, seeks to define the kinds of functions and characteristics of any political system through a systematic framework for political analysis. **The theory according to him is based on the following premises:**

- i. That political life is viewed as a system of behavior;
- ii. That political system can be distinguished from an environment in which it exists and opens to influences from it;
- iii. That political system develops some structures and processes to contain any stress that may emerge from environment;
- iv. That political system is based on input-output relations.**

Based on the above premises, Easton (1965:25), further asserts that the theory "takes its departure from the notion of political life as a boundary-maintaining set of interactions imbedded in and surrounded by other social systems to the influence of which it is constantly exposed". System according to him does not exist in a vacuum. It is always immersed in a specific setting that is called boundary or environment. In the light of this point, Easton argues that "there is an enormous variety of influence coming from the environment of a political system capable of disturbing the way in which the system performs its tasks" (Easton, 1965: 108). The way in which a system works will be in a part and a function of its response to the total social, cultural, biological and physical environment (Easton, 1965). It is useful to conceive a political system as having a boundary in the same sense as a physical system. The boundary of a political system is defined by all those actions more or less directly related to the making of binding decisions for a society. It is further argued that every social action that do not partake of this characteristic will be excluded from the system and thereby will automatically be viewed as an external variable in the environment.

Political system is, however, based on inputs-outputs relationships. Inputs as Easton argues, constitutes "any event external to the system that alters, modifies or affects the system in anyway" (Easton, 1965). In line with the system theory, government (at federal, state or local levels) operates in an environment that is composed of inputs coming from masses, in the form of demands for, or support to an action of government. Demands that are translated as societal needs are processed and converted into outputs through conversion mechanism. Political system which serves as a processing unit processes the demands from the public and the output and feed back to the environment. This process goes in a cyclical fashion.

The theory shows how government reacts to people's plight in terms of the provision of basic necessities of life.

The theory highlights how demands of the public/masses are presented to the government, government's actions on these demands and the output/outcome being the programmes that will enhance the well being of the people. The theory argues that demands for policy actions emanate from problems and crisis in the environments and are channeled to the political system by groups and officials. At the same time, environment limits and directs what policy makers and implementers can effectively do (Anderson, 1997). The theory sees environment in terms of social and cultural elements and proposes the concept of universal environment which, according to Easton (1965) has been classified into intra-societal and extra-societal systems. Intra-societal environment which is the focus of this study is made up of social system comprising cultural and demographic variables that affect the workability of the whole system. In this regard, the theory goes further to argue that

A depression in the economy, a change of values and aspirations in the culture, or a shift in the class structure may each have consequences for a political system (Easton, 1965: 71).

Corruption and Internal Security Challenges in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

Corruption stagnates the development of a nation as it has caused a lot of damages to the social, economic and political life of the nation. The civil service, an integral component of societal development in the developed countries of the world, has been converted to an engine of corruption in our darling Nigeria. Civil servants in sincere and/or developed countries are people of knowledge, integrity, discipline, justice, experience, dedication, honesty, commitment and trust. They are the engine of industrialization and development, while the reverse is the case in Nigeria. Ali Pantami (Premium Time Nigeria 2012) experience shows that civil servants do not see anything wrong in using their offices to enrich themselves and they are corruptly acquiring wealth on daily basis. Most civil servants demand for bribe before rendering services to their clients (members of the public). They involve in job racketeering, whereby some top public servants vacant jobs to highest bidders and throw merit to the winds.

The worrisome level of corruption in the civil/public service was properly captured by Ali Pamtami (Daily Trust, 2011) when he stated thus:

Civil servants in Nigeria are the architects of corruption; they design for political appointees and executive officers how to loot resources. Civil servants are the quantity surveyors of corruption; they quantify the amount to be looted. They are also the software engineers of corruption; they use Java programming language, write a source code and develop an algorithm for any corrupt practice. They are self-appointed special advisers of corrupters, they advise ay incumbent officer on the need and necessity of looting, on the basis of regaining what he spent during campaign or lobbying. They are the forensic accountants of corrupters; they illegally, but professionally guide them on how to save their ill-gotten money without being traced or intercepted by the EFCC, ICPC or any other commission locally and/or internationally. They are the lawyers of corrupters, they directly or indirectly protect and represent any corrupter before any Court or Commission of enquiry. They are the medical doctors of corrupters; they diagnose their monetary allocations/budget and prescribe the actual time of looting and amount to be looted. And they are the engineers of corruption, because no any successful looting and corrupt practice will be achieved without their "unofficial official intervention" in the process. They are indeed experts and professionals in this disaster of corruption, and this legally; but shamefully promoted them to the position of "engine" in the mechanical structure of corruption.

The nation has become a major importer of foreign products despite the enormous potentials possessed by the country. The resultant effects are the prevalence of extreme poverty and hunger, inadequate or nonexistent infrastructures, gender inequality and increased discrimination against the vulnerable groups like women, youth and the disabled, high rate of child and maternal mortality and general insecurity which add up to the decline in the living stand-: of citizen" so undermine our democracy. It is however, sad to mention at this juncture that the ruling party in mis-country is often funded through such shady deals. Corruption is mostly connected to the dishonest, immoral and disapproved behavior of those in authority-through decisions, policies, and programmes put in place not to benefit the general citizen but a selected few who are appointed and opportune to be in authority at a given time (Emmanuel, 2009).

Corruption is caused by weak civil liberties in the state. The legal system and judicial process in a

state can also lead to corruption. The socio-cultural values entrenched among the leadership and the followership in a state also determines the level of corruption. It has also been argued that economic factor is largely responsible for corruption in most developing countries like Nigeria. Another factor that contributes to corruption in Nigeria is the decay in our national core values (Edoko, 2007).

According to NOA (2009:1), these core values are the driving engines of development, growth and progress. Where this is lacking, the nation is said to be moving without direction. The Punch Newspaper of April 12, 1984 commented that:

Corruption and abuse of office have been institutionalized as the cherished norms of Nigeria's public service to the extent that the easiest way to financial greatness is to seek either by fair or foul mean, a ticket to serve the people .

Hence Nigerian politicians do everything possible to ensure that they get to power. Every thing is also done to ensure that those considered to be their real and imaginary enemies are either subdued or made to surrender by force. According to the World Bank (1997):

Corruption is the abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gains when private agents offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profits Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or diversion of state revenue.

As part of corruption, we have interested situations where the governors in Nigeria either remove Local Government chairman at will or dissolve the entire courier's legislative and executive arms. There are also situations in this country whereby presidential powers are abused through arbitrary use of federal might in the harassment and removal of governors like DieprieYeAlamaesiegha (of Bayelsa state). Chris Ngige (of Anambra state), Ayo Fayose (of Ekiti state), Rasheed Ladoja (of Oyo state) and Joshua Darlve (of Plateau state (Pwajok, 2003).

It is very clear from these descriptions that corruption has to do with a complete lack of integrity and openness which is deliberately done by the person doing it. The consequences are that corruption has created fear and suspicions among Nigerians which has often led to negative consequences in the form of violent crises being witnessed in different parts of the country. Insecurity according to the Advanced Learners Dictionary simply means a state of being unsafe. It also refers to the inability to exploit and utilize state resources to achieve national goals. Insecurity is therefore the activities involved in exposing a country or people to attack or danger. According to Imobighe (1983), insecurity involves; *exposure to danger, fear, anxiety or uncertainty It is a condition of being exposed to external aggression and internal sabotage.*

Insecurity in this case affects not only the satisfaction of the needs of inhabitants but perhaps more importantly, the fundamental issue of national survival as a viable entity. It is only under a secured atmosphere that a state can develop and direct its human and material resources towards positive ends. Security therefore emphasize not only the importance of defense as a means of guaranteeing security, but also the socio-economic dimension of security which ha; to do with the satisfaction of the needs of the people. Nigeria is a country blessed with a lot of both human and material resources and all that is required for a nation to be active through economic and political greatness. The inability to exploit and utilize these resources (because, of Nigeria's corruption, leadership and citizenship) to achieve national goals therefore constitutes insecurity.

Effects of Corruption in Nigeria:

The effects of corruption on the socio-political, cultural, economic, and infrastructural development of Nigeria for the period under review has been devastating to say the least. These include but not limited to:

Challenges

Nigeria has been consistently ranked among the failed states of the world. The American magazine Foreign Policy (FP) placed Nigeria on the 14th position out of 20 of the most failed states of the world according to the newspaper "THISDAY" of June 22nd, 2011. This was in its annual Failed States Index (FSI), in which Nigeria has consistently featured in the past few years. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the index of African Governance. This can be seen on the foundation's website and an abridged version showing Nigeria's comparative performance can be seen in the newspaper "THISDAY" of October 4th 2010. The scenario has not changed in subsequent years.

Bad Governance: The political mentality in Nigeria presently is that politics is a means to wealth and that the end justifies the means. Indeed, the highest corruption in Nigeria is in the corridors of power as indicated by the number of state Governors and Local Government Chairmen that have so far been

investigated. At this level, corruption is carried out in over-inflated contracts with selfish motives, contracts are executed and re-executed countless times, monies given to public officers for their respective populace, organizations and sectors are diverted to personal accounts and most times, laundered to foreign accounts. This mentality has invariably permeated to the common man who seeks every means legal or illegal to make his own wealth or in the popular slogan “have his share of the national cake”. It therefore falls on the leadership to take a stand against corruption by living by example which would in a multiplier effect, also assure enforcers of laws that they can perform their duties without fear or favour (Emmanuel, 2009).

Inadequate funding: Inadequate funding of law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies in an era of high technology crimes, corporate and bureaucratic corruption, it would be fatally erroneous to assume that one can fight a war of this magnitude without adequate provisions and funding. A comparison with our foreign counterparts in the Western part of the world shows that the defense and security sectors of these nations take priority and are usually the best equipped with state of the art technological equipments, database and up to date training of personnel. Nigeria is still significantly left behind in this respect (Emmanuel, 2009).

Absence of comprehensive database: Nigeria lacks a comprehensive database to provide vital information on its citizens. This cripples investigation and even exchange of information with foreign counterparts. Where proper records showing vital information including criminal records are kept, it will be a major deterrent.

The Need for Reforms in the Public Sector: The public sector contributes more than 70% of the corruption in Nigeria. Countries where corruption is the exception rather than the norm have achieved this by reforming their public institutions such as the Civil Service, the Parliament and the Judiciary. Reforms in these sectors will greatly reduce the challenges of combating corruption (Edoko, 2007).

Effects of Corruption on Internal Security in Nigeria

The relationship between corruption and insecurity is therefore incontestable. Corruption denies the citizens access to good life and security especially when it has eaten deep into the fabric of a nation's political economic and social life. According to Edeko (2007), corruption and theft form the core of political leadership and administration in some African Countries including Nigeria. The following points highlighted some of the effects of corruption as it affects internal security in Nigeria;

Internal insecurity: Security is one, if not the primary responsibility of any nation to its citizens, but when the money budgeted for it cannot be accounted for, no jobs for the university graduates, pensioners not paid, universities on strike most of the academic year. That is the reason for the insecurity that bedeviled the whole country which include; armed robbery, kidnappings, ritual killings and so many other vices that are on the increase. There is overwhelming evidence that despite being naturally endowed with abundant natural and human resources, corruption has reduced Nigeria to a state of hopelessness. With more than five decades since the colonial masters left the shores of Nigeria, the country is yet to find its feet and bearing in the area of governance and accountability to its citizens. Despite the huge resources flowing into its treasury from the sale of crude oil, more than ninety percent of the population survives below the poverty margin. It is evident that with responsible management and accountability in governance, the monster called corruption will be reduced drastically. The leaders must lead a transparent life-style for their followers to see and emulate.

Debt Burden: Corruption has created artificial stock of both local and international debt. These loans were obtained and stolen instead of being used for the original purposes for which they were intentioned. Nigerian political leaders have stolen public funds amounted to Billions and Trillions of Naira either directly or indirectly through the inflation of contract fees, those of their chosen relations and cliques or only awarded in paper. Adisa (2009), blame all the institutions in Nigeria for the high level of corruption in the country. It is not surprising therefore, that the high level of corruption in Nigeria has earned the nation unenviable position of being among the most corrupt nations in the world -base on a rating by Transparency International in its 2009 Global corruption Barometer report.

Poor Investment Opportunities: Donor nations and International Conglomerates looking for where to invest their capital outside their home countries shy away from Nigeria because of the level of corruption. This is equally the cause of capital flight from Nigeria, when those companies that are already there can no longer cope, they move to neighboring countries.

High Poverty Level: Level of poverty is high in the country for obvious reasons. Money budgeted for economic development and empowerment of the citizenry is diverted into private pockets and bank accounts abroad. The citizens are left impoverished. Even when poverty alleviation programs are initiated, the funds for it end up in private accounts here and overseas.

Nigeria has been consistently rated low by Transparency International since 2007, (Edoko, 2007), though

this may not be counted as an effect of corruption but Nigeria consistently appears in this unholy list because the system is totally corrupt. Speaking of ratings, the UNDP human development report/ index for 2017 has been published. Nigeria because of corruption and poor human and infrastructural development found itself at no.152, out of 188 nations that took part. Smaller and less prosperous nations around Nigeria performed much more better.

Poor Infrastructural Development: The bane of any nation saddled with corruption is poor infrastructural/ national development. Hospitals are non-existent, where they exist, they are not stocked with medicine and medical facilities, there are no qualified personnel. Nigerians now engage in medical tourism more than any other nationals worldwide. In this 21st century, in some parts of Nigeria, there is no pipe-borne water for drinking. People resort to drinking whatever water they see thereby increasing and spreading diseases. Motor-able tarred roads are non-existent in most urban and rural areas of the country. Electricity that is the main ingredient of industrialization is still non-existent in some parts of the country, most factories and industries resort to running generator sets thereby increasing the cost of production and cost of their final products in the market. Lack of funding has reduced our universities to less than secondary schools. Nigerian universities that ranked very high in the sixties now has deteriorated to the level that our students are found all over the world in some funny and less acceptable universities. A four year course in a Nigerian university now takes eight years to finish because most of the time lecturers are on strike because money budgeted for education has grown wings and vanished (Pwajok).

Underdevelopment: In all the nations like Nigeria where corruption has become the norm in the government, one thing that is glaring clear, is national underdevelopment. No one genuinely wants to occupy an office because of what he or she wants to contribute to national development. Their primary aim, interest is how they can better their own life through the office they are called to serve. Budgets for their offices disappear unceremoniously without trace. With such mindset and trends the nation will remain underdeveloped unless something drastic is done.

The survey conducted by NBS/EFCC Business Survey on Crime and Corruption Awareness of EFCC in Nigeria (2009), confirmed that corruption has posed very serious obstacles both to the deliverance of democracy dividends and to business activities in Nigeria. Nigeria is expected to be a great nation and one of the leading economies in the world considering the great human and material resources that the country is endowed with. This has however become a great challenge to the country's quest for peace since independence. The interventions of the military in Nigerian politics have worsened the situation as they are not accountable for their actions towards the citizens. Since no one can question their actions, the economic policies of military governments only protected the interest of the force. The naira was deliberately devalued in order to advance the cause of the thieving public office holders who had fraudulently stashed much of the nation's funds into their private foreign accounts.

Public opinion could only make a little impact on government policies between 1999 and 2011. The major difference was that the government from 1999 was "elected by the people". The billions of naira that was injected into the federating units and the centre does not make much desired impact because of the corruption that bedeviled the nation even as the democratic Nigeria continue to manifest itself in mismanagement of public funds and unnecessary diversion of state resources. The current sharing formula in this country gives the Federal 52.6% against U.S. sharing formula which allotted only 17% of Federal grants to the states and Local Government. The states and Local Governments in the U.S. are however doing well than their counterparts in Nigeria because of their ability to manage their revenues and means of allocation prudently. The Chief Executives at the various levels of governments in Nigeria prefer to use their resources in maintaining their thousands of aides whose salaries are non-negotiable than to afford to pay N18,000.00 minimum wage being demanded for by the civil servants in recent times.

Nigeria is endowed with all that a modern community requires in achieving economic and industrial greatness. Under this situation, a lot of Nigerians remain poor without food, shelter; good job, education, and homes (Uchenna and Garba. 2009). The results of these are manifested in the nation's decayed social amenities such as bad roads, poor educational and health facilities, and most importantly violent crises. The youths are in this case forced into tables whether good or bad. They easily become either ethnic or religious militants. Subsequently they are recruited by groups whose activities are fast becoming a threat to the survival of this nation such as Boko-Haram (North), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (South-South), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (South-East), Odua People's Congress (South-West) and ethnic-religious militants of the North central. Others who are possibly not filtered into any of the above groups easily ventured into kidnapping as a means of livelihood.

Mohammed Yusuf (erstwhile leader of the Boko-Haram sect) in an interview with. -the Daily Trust

Newspaper in 2007 had this to say: *Democracy and the way it is being practiced in Nigeria must be changed*". By this, he was referring to the attendant corruption that accompanied our democracy. Our democracy needs to be restructured and the participants need to play the game fairly. Honesty and transparency must be their watch words. Building of trust between the leadership and followers is very effective instrument in fighting corruption in the country. With the establishment of the EFCC especially, a lot of revelations have been made into the activities of both the public and private sectors where corruption has been thinking unnoticed for so many years. There are many obstacles still standing against the success to the fight against corruption in this country and which has continued to contribute to the general insecurity being witnessed in this country.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study reveals that, corruption in Nigeria has been very rampant and the anti-corruption campaigns by the anti-graft agencies and the public have been low in enforcement aided by the inability of the judiciary to dispose cases of alleged corruptions. This has greatly reduced public confidence in the ability and commitment by the Nigerian judiciary system and the government's political will as a whole to combat the menace. The commitment by the EFCC specifically to fight the menace is very clear. The judiciary and lack of political will by government to fight corruption has made these anti-graft agencies mere "toothless buildings". They can bark but cannot bite. Our economy is one of the worse and the living standard of the citizenry is far beyond standard. The fight against the menace should therefore be a priority and central in our desire to have good governance and transparency is also required to make Nigeria one of the most peaceful and secured nations in the world. The paper therefore recommends that, the citizenry and the leadership at the various levels of government to know that the foundation for our progress as a nation is damped. The leadership must live as exemplary and the law enforcement agents must maintain a tolerable level of public morality. All these are necessary in achieving the desired change which could also lead to the achievement of our national goal.

The EFCC Act 2004 should be amended to include the provision that would tighten the process of appointing the chairman of the EFCC such that it will make it hard, if not impossible for the president to sack the agency's chairman. This will provide for the independence of the commission to pursue its cases without any fear of political interference.

The bill before the National Assembly seeking negotiation and forfeiture of properties by corrupt government officials is unacceptable and should be withdrawn. Those found guilty of embezzlement of public funds must be punished so that it will serve as a deterrent to those who might want to indulge in same actions.

EFCC should be adequately funded and completely made independent from government's control so that the government in power itself will be kept in check whereas within and outside the courtrooms should be given the needed publicity. Limit should be given to interlocutory appeals as related to cases to be handled by EFCC and other anti-graft agencies including the consideration of constitutional amendments.

Finally, for effective control of corruption in Nigeria, the society must develop a culture of relative openness, in contrast to the current bureaucratic climate of secrecy. And a merit system (instead of the tribal bias, state of origin and nepotism or favoritism, which have colored the landscape) should be adopted in employment and distribution of national resources, etc. More importantly, the leadership must muster the political will to tackle the problem head-on (see report on *Second Global Forum on Fighting and Safeguarding Integrity*, May 28-31, 1999). Regardless of where it occurs, what causes corruption or the form it takes, the simple fact remains that corruption is likely to have a more profound and different effects in less developed countries, than in wealthy and developed societies. This is due to a variety of conditions, which cannot deviate significantly from the nature of their underdevelopment (Pwajok, 2003).

References

- Adias, O. P. (2009). The rule of public force in a democracy dispensation: The Nigerian experience. *International Journal of Social and Policy*, 18&2(1), 185-192.
- Black's Law Dictionary (8th Edition), p. 371.
- Dabit, B. (2009). *The Mwachavul people and the challenges of Anti-Corruption Campaign in Nigeria. A paper presented at the occasion of the conferment of Awards held at the Jos campus of the Plateau State Polytechnic BarkinLadi on July 15, 2009.*
- Daily Trust. (2009, November 24). *Daily Trust Editorial*. Pp5&9
- Daily Trust. (2011, September 27). *Daily Trust Editorial*. Pp27
- Edeko, S. E. (2007). Military, Political and Social Challenges to African Security: *International*

Journal of Law and Contemporary Studies, 2(1&2), 55-64.

Emmanuel. N. S. (2009). Corruption and structures for reducing rent Seeking behaviour in governance and business. *A paper presented at a round table discussion on issues of development of Plateau State held at the centre for Good Governance, A 76 Liberty Boulevard. Jos on July 2nd, 2009.*

National Orientation Agency (2009). *A Survey of Nigerian core values*. Ibadan: Safari Books.

Olusegun, O. (2007). The press freedom and corruption in third World countries. *I n t e r n a t i o n a l Journal of Social and Policy Issues*, 6(1&2), 270-284.

Pwajok, G. N. S. (2003). *The substance of citizenship*. Jos: Mani Press.