

Political Economy of Corruption, Poverty and Protraction of National Integration in Nigeria

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Abstract

It has become a great concern across the globe that corruption and poverty have been integrated as social phenomenon that have over the years infested many societies, including Nigeria. This article examines the political economy of corruption, Poverty and Protraction of National Integration in Nigeria. The paper establishes that there is a link between corruption and poverty. While many people see corruption as rooting from poverty, this paper contends that corruption is instead a source for the emergence and exacerbation of poverty. The paper has established the prevalence of so many cases of corruption involving government agents in Nigeria since 1985. It further argues that such corrupt practices have caused and also promoted poverty in Nigeria. The paper generally adopts the multidisciplinary approach in its methodology to unravel its findings.

Keywords: Political Economy, Corruption, Poverty, Protraction, National Integration

Introduction

Many societies across the globe including the countries of the Global South are faced with the ugly phenomenon called corruption. Corruption is legally seen as a social vice due to its negative consequence on human development particularly and the society in general. Corruption however is not a new concept to human beings. It has lived with man many centuries back. However, the phenomenon has become more pronounced in this modern era as it has taken different and more sophisticated forms and dimensions.

Poverty just as corruption is a social phenomenon that has faced mankind world-wide. Again just as corruption, poverty has assumed diverse forms in the contemporary era. Generally, poverty has been found to be wide spread more largely in the Global south than in the Global North countries. It manifest essentially, in the low attainment of the Human Development Index (HDI), and the attainment by individuals of a high level of the Human Poverty Index (HPI). By all standards records have shown that many countries in the Global South have a low Human Development Index (HDI) and high Human Poverty Index (HPI).¹

The work of N. Garishinkar et al has been able to demonstrate the linkages of corruption to poverty in a general perspective. This essay has taken a cue from the work, but has paid particular attention on Nigeria. Subsequently, the essay historicizes corruption in Nigeria since independence and aims at determining how corruption has reinforced poverty in the country since 1999 when the current democratic political dispensation emerged.²

Some Basis Assumptions and Perspectives

Corruption is a term that defies a universally acceptable definition. This is because many scholars have approached the concept in their different perspectives. It has been asserted by C. Orngu that “like law, truth and beauty, corruption has an avalanche of definitions which make the search for its working definition.” The following are some of the definitions of corruption by scholars. According to Gboyega, corruption is:

The giving or taking of bribe, or illegal acquisition of wealth using the resources of a public office including the exercise of discretion. In this regard, it is those who are compelled somehow to provide inducement to public officials to make them favours.³

Again, the Asian Development Bank contends that corruption is:

The behavior on the part of officials in the public and private sectors in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves and/or those close to them, or induce others to do so by misusing the position in which they are placed.⁴

Similarly, the World Bank avers that Corruption is:

The abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state revenues.⁵

From the above definitions, it can be inferred that corruption involves both the private and public sector. N. Grishankar et al, having noted how corruption prevails, argued that when analyzing the sources and impact of corruption, it is helpful to distinguish between two broad forms of corruption which include state capture and administrative corruption. According to them, state capture corruption distorts the framework of rules and administrative corruption distorts the implementation of rules. They succinctly state that:

State capture refers to actions those individuals, groups or firms in both the public and private sectors take to influence the formation of laws, regulations, decree, and policies to their own advantage. This occurs through elicits and nontransparent transfer or concentration of private benefits to public officials. As a result, biases that serve private interests are encoded in the basic rules of the game, usually, at a significant cost of society.⁶

In the same vein, they argue that:

Administrative corruption refers to the intentional imposition of distortions in the prescribed implementation of existing laws, rules and regulations to provide advantage to either state or non-state participants as a result of the illegal transfer or concentration of private gains to public officials.⁷

These two broad types of corruption encapsulate all forms of corruption that prevails in Nigeria. But corruption becomes more worrisome, when state actors are deeply involved in it using State apparatus to execute the illicit acts. This is because, the state wields instruments of authority which allows the agents to manipulate, coerce,

force, etc, citizens into submission. Consequently the state uses its legitimate authority to compel its citizens submit to the authority. This is incumbent upon the fact that one major role of the state is to create conditions that will provide good living conditions among the citizens. It therefore transcends that if government actors are engrossed in corruption, then the state will fail in creating an enabling environment for the citizens to legitimately engage in their life pursuits. In Nigeria however, state actors most often use their positions and state machinery to perpetuate corruption. This has had serious implications on the Nigerian society and economy.

Scholars have attempted at theorizing why corruption prevails in Nigeria. For instance, C. Orngu once argued that poverty has factored corruption in Nigeria. According to him, many Nigerian citizens are going through the excruciating pains of poverty and hunger and are desperate to survive. Consequently, they succumb to the subversion of due process and trivialization of moral integrity for survival. The theory that poverty is a factor for corruption seems to be plausible, however, it does not adequately explain why corruption prevails in the country. This is because, most often, those found to be involved in corrupt practices in Nigeria are those that, at least, on a relative standard cannot be said to be the poor. Consequently, the theory of greed can be adopted as a tool to explain why most Nigerians tend to be corrupt, especially, when they occupy public office. Greed is propelled by insatiable quest for material possession and has served as the source of corruption in Nigeria. This has been aptly captured by C. Orngu when he states that:

Corruption and other sharp practices are propelled by insatiable quest for material acquisition as disastrously and rabidly demonstrated by the political class in Africa. In fact, empirical evidence, notably, the recent World Bank estimates, provides that the wealth which corrupt African leaders (the political class) have stashed away in European banks stands at several billion Us Dollars.⁸

Marxist scholars however see corruption as stemming from colonialism hence capitalism. They agree that capitalism is a colonial creation. They stressed further that the capitalist class which emerged out of colonialism has continued to engage themselves in capital accumulation.

The views of Marxists are captured in the Daily Independent, where it is stated that 'Inflation of contracts, over-invoicing, collection of kickbacks and buying off public enterprises' at giveaway prices are primitive means of accumulation of capital that the emergent bourgeoisies in post-colonial countries utilize.⁹

These various views of scholars in trying to explain the root cause of poverty in Nigeria, to some extent, holds water, but do not exhaustively provide the answer to this regard. This paper is of the view that lack of patriotism and loyalty to the state are the major causes of corruption in the country. It is pertinent to argue that the low level or near absence of patriotism, among Nigerians, is the main factor that has induced, as well as, promoted corrupt practices among the citizens, which in turn, has become injurious to the society. Corruption has infested the Nigerian state in diverse forms and magnitude. All the sectors of the Nigerian economy and society have been engulfed in this heinous act, be it the judiciary, armed forces, governance, education, industry, etc. Every facet of the Nigerian economy over the years has experienced numerous cases of corrupt practices involving those assigned by the law to oversee the affairs in the given sectors.¹⁰

Poverty just like corruption defies a concise and universally accepted definition. The reason for this stems from the fact that the concept is viewed in different contexts by different people, arising from the fact that it is a social issue, which is both physical and relative in nature. There exists a great deal of literature which attempts at conceptualizing poverty. For instance, the works of M.O. Odey, 13 M.P. Todaro and S.C. Smith, The World Bank and M.L. Kankwenda among others, have attempted at defining poverty. From the myriad definitions of poverty, three major perceptions of the word can be inferred to include the following: absolute, relative, and subjective poverty.¹¹ Absolute poverty implies severe economic deprivation that reduces the living standards of the poor that they struggle to survive without self-drinking water, food, housing and other basic human needs. According to C.W. Keyley Jr and E.R. Wittkopf, absolute poverty is deprivation of adequate food intake (in terms of calories, proteins and vitamins), and self-drinking water, sufficient clothing, and shelter, literacy, sanitation, health care, employment and dignity.¹¹

Many scholars have attempted at advancing theories in trying to explain the causes of poverty across the societies of the globe.¹² For

instance, the corruption theory explains that corruption is rooted in poverty itself. According to this theory, most people seek political power does so with the intention to acquire property that will not only be the life time of those individuals, but also sustain the family after they are long dead. Thus, those in political authority adopt corrupt means to acquire available public resources at the expense of the majority of the populace, who do not have the same amount of power and may never be close to the corridors of power, thus leaving them pauperised.¹² This follows that the elements of greed exhibit a strong presence in the exercise of political power by those bestowed with the responsibility of running the economy.

The power theory which is closely related to the corruption theory, and which tends to have subsumed it seems to be the most suitable tool that can be applied to explain the cause of poverty in Nigeria. According to the power theory, the structure of political power in society determines the extent and distribution of poverty among the population. The ruling class, constituted by the few establishes and legitimizes an exploitative property system through which it determines the allocation of opportunities, incomes and wealth, relying on the use of state power, including the use of oppressive state agents, such as the police and armed forces.” The above scenario captures the nature of the political behavior of leadership that has ruled the country since independence. Leadership in Nigeria has over the years been characterized by greed, illegitimacy, corruption, oppressiveness and exploitation of the ruled among other vices. This nature of leadership has created fertile grounds for both the emergence and growth of poverty in the country.¹³

An Overview of the Causes and Interplay of Corruption, Poverty and Protraction of National Integration in Nigeria

The discussion in the previous section has attempted at amply demonstrating the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria at least beginning from the military administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida from 1985 to the Jonathan’s administration in 2012. The cases of corruption in diverse magnitude are inexhaustive. What have been demonstrated so far may appear to be grave, it is however just, but a minute show piece of the degree of corruption in Nigeria. Where as when state resources which are channeled into these areas are squandered, the citizens are thus deprived of developing their capabilities,

hence poverty. The linkages between corruption and poverty can be demonstrated in the following few areas: Health, Education, Agriculture-food and nutrition, water and sanitation, energy and transport. All these areas have had fair share of bastardization by the impact of corruption.¹⁴

Corruption can hurt the poor and as well exacerbates poverty in a society which it pervades in various ways. This has been demonstrated by N. Girishinkar et al, when they state that: In a corrupt government, social interest and economic priorities play little role in the allocation of public resources. As capital-intensive defense and infrastructure projects may offer more opportunities for kickbacks than, for instance, spending on primary education, government spending allocations may be biased away from pro-poor expenditure. Spending on operations and maintenance may also be squeezed in favour of new projects for similar reasons, leaving existing roads, hospitals, and other public infrastructure to decay. At the same time, expenditures allocated may never reach the intended recipients, a major source of deprivation to poor people. Corruption in pharmaceuticals... diverts funds from patients... it can mean also that the death toll and loss of assets in earthquakes and other natural disasters are higher than necessary, because procurement and inspection procedures are subverted, and any shoddy materials and building practices prevail. Through various channels, corruptions can compromise basic security and life itself.¹⁵ Corrupt practices disproportionately affect the poor in a variety of ways in a given society.

The numerous corrupt practices that have affected the Nigerian economy in all spheres have caused poverty in diverse ways. This is because corruption either causes the non-availability or inadequacy, or substandard existence of life sustaining goods and services. Corruption has affected efficient health care delivery. Meanwhile there is a connection between health and poverty. The linkages between health and poverty can be seen in the following areas: poverty is both a consequence and a cause of ill-health. In this regard, ill-health, malnutrition and high fertility often cause people to fall into poverty. This has been aptly demonstrated by Mariam Chaeson et al in the following words

Health, Malnutrition, and high fertility are reasons why households end up in poverty, or sink further into it if they are already poor. The illness of a household breadwinner and the consequent loss of income

can undermine a poor household's ability to cope financially out of pocket payments for health services — especially hospital care—can make the difference between a household being poor or not. High fertility additionally places an extra financial burden on households by diluting the resources available to other household members and by constraining earning opportunities.¹⁶

Again, poverty is also a cause of ill health. In this regard, it can be argued that poor people can suffer from a multiplicity of deprivations. According to M. Claeson et al, Poor people suffer from multiplicity of deprivations which translate into levels of ill-health that far exceed the population average... most obviously, they lack the financial resources to pay for health services, food, clean water, good sanitation, and other key inputs to producing good health. It is not just lack of income that causes the high levels of ill-health among poor people, however: the health facilities serving them are often dilapidated, inaccessible, inadequately stocked with basic medicines.... the poor are also disadvantaged by lack of knowledge about prevention and when to seek health care. ... in short, poor people are caught in vicious circles, their poverty breeds ill-health. And this in turn, conspires to keep them poor.¹⁷

Again there is a linkage of health and education with poverty reduction and this is seen as one of the key ultimate goals of development and increasingly is seen as a dimension of poverty in its own right. According to Mariam Claes on et al “this is reflected in the fact that no fewer than four of the seven international development goals (IDGs) relate to health”. These are reducing extreme poverty, reducing infant and child mortality, reducing infant and maternal mortality, and reproductive health. The link of education and poverty is multidimensional thus inadequate education is one of the surest most powerful determinants of poverty and unequal access to educational opportunity is a strong correlate of income inequality. According to A Aoki et al, the failure to provide education seriously compromises a country's efforts to reduce poverty. Education is one of the most powerful instruments societies have for reducing deprivation and vulnerability. It helps to lift earning potentials, expand labour mobility, promotes the healthy parents and children, reduces fertility and child mortality, and affords the disadvantaged voice in society and the political system.¹⁸

They argue further that there is a catalytic role of basic education for those individuals in society who are most likely to be poor—that is girls, ethnic minorities, orphans, people with disabilities, and people living in rural areas. Basic education or literary training of adequate quality is therefore an important tool to equipping individuals with the means to contribute to and benefit from economic growth. Education and literacy promote quality institutions in a society, as well as social cohesion. It is observed that nations which have high population of literate persons have higher-quality institutions, stronger democratic processes, and as a consequence, more equitable development policies.” The equitable conditions then create conditions for which the citizens would sustain better living conditions. The point therefore is that corrupt practices, which, in turn, affect education will create poverty.¹⁹

Again there is a link between transport and poverty. Poverty is noted to be associated with low income and low consumption. According to C Gannon et al, it manifests in various ways including malnutrition, ill-health, illiteracy, vulnerability, physical isolation and political and social exclusion. They argue further that each of these dimensions, of poverty tends to reinforce the others, and they all share important linkages with transport. Good transport policy can therefore help reduce poverty in all its dimensions while stimulating economic and social development and creating opportunity. Transport and communication enhances better access to markets, which, in turn, creates opportunities for poor people to sell their goods and services including labour. Good transport infrastructure and services facilitate access to schools and health clinics. It also contributes to economic growth by lowering transaction costs, promoting economy of scale and specialization, thus, lowering domestic production costs, widening opportunities and extending connections to both rural hinterlands and urban areas, expanding trade, integrating markets and strengthening effective competition. All of these have positive growth. Economic growth is a crucial factor in reducing poverty in a given society. Brian Armes observed this, when he succinctly state that economic growth is the single most important factor influencing poverty. Facilitating empowerment. When transport causes accessibility at reliable level and affordable rate is facilitate the flow of information. This then prompts political and socio- economic participation and accountability which then facilitate empowerment.²⁰

Enhancing security: A reliable transport system enhances adequate security to lives and property of individuals in a given society. The role of transport in enhancing security and the impact on poverty is captured by some scholars, Thus: A reliable transport system helps a country to respond to economic and natural shocks, such as major drops in export demand, or drought, as well as to more personal needs. For example, in rural areas, good transport can ease the impact of famine, allowing food to be easily moved from areas with surplus to those with deficit. All-season basic-access road and transport services can also greatly reduce vulnerability to household-level risks as medical emergencies. In urban areas, access to public transport can facilitate job hunting. "Transport is an intermediate service as such its demand derives from the activities of the other sectors like agriculture, industry, health, education etc. Conversely, the effectiveness of interventions in these sectors depends on the adequacy of transport infrastructure and effectiveness of transport policy."²¹

Water infrastructure is central to human existence and everybody is in a continuous and regular use of water. One of the important roles of water infrastructure to human being is the impact it has on human health. Consequently, there is a relationship between water and poverty. The availability of clean water in high quantity for human consumption reduces poverty levels and the none availability of adequate clean water causes poverty. Inadequate water and sanitation services increase living costs, lowers income earning potentials, damage the well being of humans as well as makes life riskier for them. Water and sanitation related sicknesses put severe burdens on health services and as such, impact on poverty levels. Unclean water is a source to many killer diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, intestinal infections, trachoma, schistosomiasis and malaria. Scarcity of water in any given society may cause the poor to face higher water prices, which, in turn, will impact negatively on their income. Again, the poor will face longer treks for lower quality and quantity of water.²²

The role of energy in poverty reduction is enormous. This implies that there is a link between energy and poverty. While inadequate energy creates room for the exacerbation of poverty, its inadequacy creates room for poverty reduction. Some of the key facts concerning energy and the poor are enumerated by R. Lamech and R. Olsulliva as follows:

Energy can alleviate the drudgery in the lives of millions who today consume insufficient modern energy. They must walk instead of using transport. ..

They must toil without the benefit of powered machines. Poor people can save a lot of time by shifting to modern energy saving-making time available for productive pursuits, education and leisure. This time would otherwise have been required to collect traditional fuels, and in less productive manual effort. Modern energy services can enable individuals to engage in, and extend, activities that generate income. Electric lighting extends the working day, electric machines (such as sewing machines and looms etc) increase productivity.²³

Women and children are disproportionately affected by the lack of modern energy services it is them who collect traditional fuels in remote areas, carry large loads and tend primitive fires. As a result they suffer animal bites, fatigue, smoke inhalation and burns. The reduction in collection of traditional fuels and improvements in indoor air quality made possible through the availability of modern cooking fuels have a huge positive impact on the lives of women and children. And much economic activity would be impossible without energy, and economic growth that raises incomes (or reduces income poverty) is strongly correlated with increased energy use.

From the above linkages therefore, it can be said that corruption in the energy sector which results in inadequate energy will surely affect the poor disproportionately. Similarly, the brazen corrupt practices carried out by the government agents forestall general development of the Nigerian economy. This has also affected human development, hence poverty. The resources which were meant to develop Nigeria's health, educational, agricultural, environmental and infrastructural sectors, etc, were fraudulently cornered. In this manner, the sectors are left undeveloped, which further implies that the benefits which would have emerged from them if developed are denied. The denial of those benefits translates into deprivation among the citizens. It can be argued that incumbent upon this fact, poverty in Nigeria is rooted in corruption as have explained earlier that Nigeria ranks very tall in corruption among the countries of the globe, so also do her citizens fall into the poorest in poverty ranking. That is to say that high level of corruption leads to high level of poverty.²⁴

Taming Corruption, Poverty and Protracted National Integration through Meaningful Fresh Poverty Reduction Programme among others

Over time, efforts to bring corruption down to the barest minimum in Nigeria have not quite yielded significant results. Three particular agencies responsible for checking corruption in the country, namely, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) and the Public Complaints Bureau have all recognized their limitations in the long debacle. Even corrupt individuals know that it is bad and have even condemned it publicly. However, nothing has changed for the better. Some have satirically addressed corruption as “the grand commander of the federal republic of Nigeria”, while others have sternly warned that if Nigeria does not kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria. ‘Corruption in Nigeria has gone almost out of control over a long period of time for a number of reasons, ranging from lack of political will to absence of proper laws or specific legal backing as well as the insincerity and apathy on the part of those who should enforce it. Law enforcement agencies connive indirectly or they sometimes make laws that are obviously corrupt, contradictory and without statutory foundations. Corruption goes on because; culprits are hardly punished for others to learn from them. Above all, most people are completely ignorant of its lingering impact on economic growth. But even if all these efforts are capable of curbing corruption without dealing with the problem of poverty in Nigeria appropriately, corruption may still not be brought under control but will continue to remain like vampire in the nation’s political economy.’²⁵

More fundamentally, corruption remains a national problem due to a radical approach and insufficient attention to it in the nation’s public policy formulation and towards the problem of poverty and the dangers it is posing in the nation’s political economy and to corruption in particular. For instance, the UNDP Report sees the nation’s public policies as out of date and unrealistic, which, as it were, can be linked to the leadership question in Nigeria drawing a parallel from the famous Socratic dictum that Knowledge is virtue, which argued that What is required for a good society is knowledge of the good or of the most fundamental ethical values in the realm of contemporary Socio-political action. It is generally argued that what is required are leaders who know what the

society needs and in whose hands? The welfare of the society is to be entrusted. Such leaders are to formulate and equip themselves with the body of ideas or a system of ideology that ideally expresses the goals which the society ought to pursue.²⁶

Against this background, and at this particular point in time of the nation's history, the notion underscores the necessity for the political leadership in Nigeria to have a reasonable level of consciousness in their ideological formulation about the suffering of the poor masses, as well as the capacity to initiate programs that are capable of attacking poverty effectively and reduce it substantially or get rid of it entirely. To several analysts, the weaknesses and failures of Poverty Programs in Nigeria, sixty years after the Independence, have several manifestations such as plunder, frustrations, widespread poverty" and inequality in almost every sector of the nation's economy. The implication of this is general stagnation of social life, low purchasing power of the vast majority of people and very slow economic growth. Thus, the privileged few always tend to plunder on available resources to the disadvantage of the poor, the Vulnerable and the unemployed who are in the majority.

Poverty reduction in Nigeria also requires clear and radical national macroeconomic policies to stimulate economic 'growth and sustainable development in the country. Most of the policies are ill-conceived, faulty and highly mixed up from the point of formulation of objectives to the stage of implementation. This is regarded as a process of modernizing hunger and poverty in Nigeria, through the "institutionalization of an inequitable socio-economic system even when the ' economy appeared to have recovered with poverty reduction from 43 per cent to 34 per cent of the population between 1985 and 1992. Unfortunately, the gains were erratic, unsustainable and mixed and the poor still remained vulnerable in the different geo-political zones and did not still in the gains of the recovery. In fact, the severity and the depth of poverty went ahead of the gains during the period".

The failure of those policies is sometimes linked to the nature of colonial legacies which post-colonial governments in Nigeria have not been able to completely break off from. However, the current problem is more of the recklessness and inexcusable failure of the Nigerian political class who, overtime are more conceded about their own interests and cannot figure out national priorities clearly and carry them to logical

conclusions in the craft of governance to make poverty history. This is a clear indication of the absence of a genuine democratic practice in Nigeria which is expected to have solved the problem of poverty and corruption simultaneously.²⁷

The emerging poverty policies must be free from politicization and be characterized by a genuine concern for the poor and generally driven by all the attributes of good governance and participatory democracy for the purpose of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Nigeria must for once 'in our life time be free from the Diarchy of military dictatorship and sham civilian democracy each with its peculiarities of corruption. One other way to douché corruption and reduce poverty in Nigeria is to endeavor to manage the nation's oil wealth well through the equitable distribution of its resources and develop the non-oil sectors of the economy. Apart from this, government has to use the available oil wealth to maintain and expand the oil facilities "for maximum capacity utilization.

That Nigeria is rich in oil and other natural resources does not make sense to anyone if the vast majority of the population remains poor and hungry, while just a few cliques and cabals have everything to themselves. The benefits from the fuel subsidies are not just reserved wealth to be expropriated by those in power but one way by which the living conditions of poor Nigerians can be improved. There can be no meaningful dialogue in Nigeria without a clear and easy plan to follow on how to tame poverty and engage in an equitable "distribution of the available wealth, especially to create employment opportunities and job satisfaction which the oil sector is capable of doing.²⁸

Conclusion

From the foregoing, several important issues worth paying special attention to regarding the twin problems of corruption and poverty in Nigeria have emerged. One is that the problems of corruption and poverty, as well as their solutions have inseparable links. Besides, increase in corruption exacerbates poverty through inequality and hurts the vulnerable groups in society more, especially single parents, women, the aged and children. Worst of all, corruption undermines and retards economic growth and development. For all these national maladies, it is clear to see that the economic costs of corruption in Nigeria are enormous. It imperative to ûght and keep corruption under control aimed

at drastically reducing poverty, hence, paving the way sustainable development. At the moment, the combined efforts of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences) Commission, ICPC and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC to check corruption are not just enough. The need for a better weapon against corruption in Nigeria has for so long been required. Therefore, all hands should be on deck to fight corruption, and poverty reduction. However, one individual or a few groups of people cannot fight corruption effectively and achieve the desired results because of its widespread nature. The rule of the thumb for effective control of corruption in Nigeria lies in the political will and giving more attention to the promotion of sustainable economic growth. Against this backdrop, the paper argues that, it is imperative to emphasize on broadband rural- based policies which are capable of stimulating sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Furthermore, because poverty in Nigeria is mainly a rural phenomenon, such policies should be focused on land reforms and improvement to boost income distribution and higher productivity as well as reduce income inequality. Finally, one of the most expected results from this is that such reforms will boost the human capital of the vast majority, who are poor and vulnerable, indeed those whom corruption hurt most. By way of conclusion, there is no reasonable basis to argue that, Nigeria is not the only corrupt nation in the world, or to say that, some corrupt nations develop along their own lines.

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