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THE IMPLICATION OF CORRUPTION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: (USING NIGERIA AS A CASE STUDY)

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ABSTRACT

The scenario of the rise of corruption in Africa particularly in Nigeria is so much a problem. It cuts across the various Private Sectors including different tiers of government. This research paper applied collected secondary data from library materials, government publications, journals, the internet and daily newspapers. The kernel of the research paper is on the facts that corrupt practices among the class of political leadership have led to the undermining of the stability and growth of the country's economy. Also, it is discovered that corruption maximizes the poverty level that triggers criminal exercises in the Nation. The paper suggests that corrupt leaders need to be probed as well as demanded to return the stolen and embezzled money. Apart from the setting up of anti-corruption organizations, these organizations should no more be under the influence of the executive organ of government but under the dominance of the Judiciary particularly the Apex Court.

Keywords: *Criminal Activities, Poverty, Leadership, Corruption, Development*

INTRODUCTION

Corruption in its different forms is widely attested to be the reason for the underdevelopment in Nigeria and it is so severe to the Nation and also wrecks the image among the League of Nations. It is presently becoming a lifestyle in the Nation as integrity is presently eroded.

Iyanda (2012) emphasized that it is a cankerworm that has deeply eaten into the whole fabric of Nigeria as a Nation

According to Chinua Achebe as cited in Keeper (2012); anyone that can emphasize that corruption in the Nation has not been alarming and outrageous is either a crook, a fool or does not inhabit Nigeria. Corruption has allowed development to be backward in Nigeria. You bribe to almost get all done in the Nation, People eat and benefit where they did not sow For example, Tokunbo (1992) confirms the fact that you pay to get a job; you bribe to allow your child into a school and you need to coherently pay in some scenarios to retain it.

Corruption is the only major challenge to social and economic development. It disrupts development by undermining the role of legislation and wrecking the Institutional stronghold on which economic growth concentrates (World Bank). It disrupts public policy, undermines transparent government and it results in misuse of resources, wrecks the private sector development and private sector and especially negatively affects the poor (Transparency International)

The peril of corruption by Nigerian Leaders has also emerged as a major challenge to National Development. Tallying to this; Human rights Watch (2007:40) emphasized that Nigeria has some of the deteriorating socio-economic indicators in the globe and the general picture has not enhanced since the end of the military regime. Research has indicated that the emergence of corrupt leaders in the Nation has a serious negative implication on the quality of life, national psyche and standard of living. It is on these notes that this research study concentrates on evaluating the level to which corruption affects Sustainable Development in Nigeria



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Corruption remains a global challenge that has been in occurrence for a longer period and always has negative implications for society. It has overtime wrecked the hopes for a better tomorrow and also wrecked the value system in the Nation severely that the globe starts to see us as women and men without dignity, honor and purpose

It has resulted in a hesitant pace of files in the office, queues at gas stations, police extortion and many traffic jams on the highways, election irregularities, port congestion and ghost workers syndrome among others. Regard to Chuta (2004) that the image of the Nation in the foreign sphere has become severely damaged that all of Nigeria psychologically experience an inflicted scorching hurt on his private psyche. The decay has penetrated so far that everywhere in the globe, Nigerians are stated to be criminals and widely dreaded like mad dogs, carefully approached like harmful snakes and avoided.

Corruption is politically damaging, that is; it has the capacity of causing political instability, brain drain, breakdown of law and order, the inefficiency of public services and many others (Lawal, 2006). The following are the precise objectives of the research study:

- To determine the impact of the retardation of development and corruption
- To determine the different causes of corruption
- To examine how sustainable development can reduce corruption

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF CONCEPTS

Definition of Concepts

It is a social challenge discovered in different forms in all but the most primitive societies as explained by Status (1972) in Iyanda (2012). Etymologically, the term corruption is gotten from the Latin term “Corrumpto” and literally, it entails “to lose value, to break, useless and putrid”.

Ogege (2014) emphasizes that corruption is an ethical scenario championed on moral conduct and values. Corruption is a human activity carried out by a morally responsible person or group that embarks on it with moral guilt since such an act goes contrary to established moral standards in any society (Alolas, 1980).

Ofoeze (2004) as emphasized in Keeper (2012), corruption entails “any inaction or action of a group (private or public) or person intentionally carried out to secure benefits for oneself, associate, relation or group (s) in a way that detract from the accepted morals, regulations and/or ethical code and standard and thus comprising a travesty of equity, justice and fair play”. Ekiyor (2005) sees corruption as an illegal application of official influence by an authority of the government either to enrich himself or ensure his course or/and any other individual at the expense of the public, contrary to the laws or contrary of his oath of office which are in force. Also, corruption is viewed as an “effort to secure power or wealth through unlawful means, personal advantage at public expense or misappropriation of public power for personal purpose” (Lenz & Lipset, 2000 as cited in Keeper, 2012). The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Act of 2000 view corruption as a cumbersome phenomenon that varies from accepting and giving bribes to other forms of fraudulent exercises. From the legal perspective; the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) through Ngwakwe (2009) examines corruption from the economic point of view as “the unlawful activity and non-violent crime carried out with the intentions of unlawfully earning wealth either individually or in an organized or group forms thus violating the present laws governing the economic activities of government including its administration”.

It is the misappropriation of revenues or government assets made possible through government interventions, (Braguinsky, 1996; Otite, 2000) also emphasizes that corruption is the perversion of state of



affairs or integrity through normal depravity, favor or bribery. It is vividly an absence of law and order including accountability (Otite, 2000).

The regrettable thing about the scenario of corruption is that it does not recognize a period; it transpires at any period in any country's history. Gould and Kolb (1964) back this by saying that corruption is not an attribute of a person's period in political history nor anybody's Nation..... It is dangerous in both party systems and authoritarian governments; more still as proof that the history of corruption is as archaic as the globe. Scot (1972) is of the perspective that corruption "must be comprehended as an integral, repetitive and a regular aspect of the activity of majority political system. Another perspective about corruption is that it is intentional. This perspective was heralded by Brooks (1970) that attested that corrupt authority knows its responsibilities but it is mis-performed or neglected for reasons narrower than those that the State intends. He maintained further that "in either case; the external circumstance may seem to be closely similar and the immediate outcomes may be optimally dangerous"(Brooks, 1970)

Corruption still a major phenomenon is discovered not solely in the so-called developing societies but also developed societies such as Japan, America, Europe, and the Former Soviet Union irrespective of the cultural and structural differences. It is not solely discovered in dictatorial and democratic politics but also in socialist, capitalist, and feudal economies. Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians are optimally affected by corruption (Dike, 2002).

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (General Muhammadu Buhari) at the Anti-Corruption Meeting in London on May 11th, 2016, stated that "Corruption is a cankerworm and a hydra-headed monster that undermines the fabrics of every society. It constitutes a major threat to rule of law, good governance, security, and peace including the development initiatives geared at tackling economic backwardness and poverty.

The Act of favoritism and nepotism as a form of corruption in Nigeria normally is a situation whereby a unique form of favor is applied by office holders who want their relatives and friends that may not be suitable at the expense of candidates of much merit. Girling (1997) and Amundse (1997) summed it up by stating when one is excluded from the application of specific legislation, it provides for unnecessary selection in the distribution of limited resources. Thus, Akinseye (2000) says it is a "matter of all crimes" and recognizes four types of corruption: nepotism, graft, pre-vandalism, and bribery. Corruption disrupts development by weakening the institutional foundation and breaking the rules and regulations on which economic growth depends (World Bank)

DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This Paper will start with an explanation of the conceptualization of Sustainable Development by primarily emphasizing the concept of development. The different Contemporary Social Science Theorists and Scholars have differently explained the word "development" in line with "change", "growth", "industrialization" and so on. These terms are usually applied interwoven with development. Ekpe and Okereke (2002) emphasized that liberals the most see development regarding economic development which can be assessed by way of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. Also, Thirlwall (1983) emphasizes that development entails change that usually follows a properly arranged sequence and shows major attributes across nations. On the other hand, radical scholars see it as Multi-Dimensional process. According to these Scholars, Development concentrates on man and his welfare rather than being restricted to Macroeconomic variables. Thus, human beings comprise the fulcrum on which it revolves



(Ekpe and Okereke, 2002). Walter Rodney (1972) in his book themed “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa” logically stated that:

Development in human society is a multi-sided process. At the level of the individual, it entails maximum capacity, skills, self-discipline, material wellbeing, greater freedom, responsibility and creativity....At the stage of social groups, it entails a rising capacity to regulate both external and internal relations....in the past, development has always entailed the rise in the capacity to guard the freedom of the social group

Development is the level of progress and a stage that emphasizes the conditions of a society both in optimistic transformation and transformation over time as it occurs in places where individuals inhabit and work. Conceptualizing development as a process in regards to Olaseni (2007) makes the connection with the territory so explicit because it alludes to development as transpiring in places and unequally in time and space.

Smith (1987) in Olaseni (2007) discovered that development entails the condition of a territorially defined population and is in line with such words as social well-being, the standard of living, or quality of life.

In line with the emphasized concepts above, Seers (1989) as cited in Oyesiku (2003) intends to put an effective construction on the meaning of development when he emphasizes that the question to inquire about a Nation's development is thus: What has been occurring to unemployment? What has been transpiring to poverty? What has been transpiring to inequality? If all three of these have reduced to maximum levels, then beyond doubt, there has been a time of development for the concerned nation. If one or two of these major challenges have been increasingly worse, particularly if all three have, it would be weird to call the outcome “development” even if the Capital Income is increased or doubled”. Therefore, this statement emphasizes the level of development in Nigeria. For example, during the Oil Boom that the Nation witnessed in the 1970s, the mismanagement of economic resources became a solid pillar for the collapsing nation that was to follow later in which the Nation is yet to escape the challenge as shown by the unemployment cycle in the life of the Country. Meredith Martin (2006) in “The State of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independent” emphasized that Nigeria after lavishing an oil bonanza of US \$280 billion remains in a poor state.

Olaseni, (2007) emphasized the intention to tackle the unevenness in development within and between generations and its increasing poverty including the myriad of obstacles confronting the globe; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted and conceptualized by 189 Member Nations of the United Nations (UNs) and Nigeria including the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) which was launched. The framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emphasized 8 goals, 48 indicators and also 18 targets as agreed by approval of professionals from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UNs), including the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These arrays of eight (8) goals to be attained by 2015 as approved by the United Nations (UNs) are the seventh goals aimed towards environmental sustainability for development. The most constantly applied definition of Sustainable Development as emphasized by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) also known as Brundtland Commission 1987 is that “development that attains the demands of the current without disrupting the willingness of the future generations to attain their demands.” The definition does not vividly emphasize development but the subsequent paragraph that is hardly quoted is glaring on development. The report emphasizes that human demands are essential; that economic growth and equity to disseminate resources within the poor are needed to sustain and maintain



them; and that equity is promoted by active citizen involvement (Leiserowitz, Parris and Kates, 2005). The United States National Research Council Policy Division on Sustainable Development also emphasizes what is to be developed and sustained. It emphasized that life support; nature including community must be sustained while society, economy, and the people need to be developed (U.S National Research Council, Policy Division, Board on Sustainable Development, 1999).

As initially emphasized that the aim and objective of the Concept were with a perspective to swift track major developmental scenarios precisely and globally within Nigeria, These perspectives as confirmed in the previous and last paragraph entail but do not maximize the presence of fundamental life-sustaining goods, increasing the standard of living of individuals, widening the array of social and economic preferences. These eight goals to be attained by 2015 were to eradicate hunger and abject poverty; empower women and promote gender equality; attain universal basic education; enhance maternal health; minimize child death; tackle malaria, HIV/AIDS including other diseases; develop a global alliance for development; and ensure environmental sustainability (Smith and Todaro, 2011). Regarding these goals, the economy of Nigeria needs to comprehend the underlying principles for attaining these goals including sustaining the desired process of development.

REASONS FOR CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

Corruption is carried out due to the following reasons; moral decadence due to the shaky and degenerating foundation of our moral values and upbringing in the environment, the syndrome of getting wealthy swiftly, inadequate motivation (remuneration, high cost of housing living, job role, work environment, education, transportation, feeding, etc), underemployment/unemployment, gender, chauvinism-gender, taste not the following status in life, self-serving tendencies, extended large family, saving-for-the-rainy-day syndrome and the manipulation of the panel by the government to mention but a few. From another angle, Paolo (1998) emphasized three major reasons for corruption, they entail:

- Where Civil Servants are paid fewer wages and have to resort to accepting bribes to feed their families;
- Natural Resources, e.g. (crude oil) whose supply is scarce by nature where huge profits are present to those that extract it; authorities that allocate extraction rights are probably to be given bribes,
- Government Intervention and restrictions that led to too much profit; these entail favorite industrial initiatives, trade restrictions, multiple exchange rate practices, price controls, government-regulated credit, and foreign exchange allocation initiatives;
- Lack of sustainable and adequate retirement benefits and other benefits

IMPLICATIONS OF CORRUPTION ON NIGERIA'S DEMAND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The implications of corruption in all spheres of a country's development are numerous. Mr. Mustapha Akanbi, the Former Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) emphasized Inter alia that Corruption is a dangerous enemy.....The deliberating implication and endemic nature of corruption on the political, social, economic, and cultural foundation of society have been disconcerting and harrowing (Akanbi, 2004 cited in Orji, 2011). Orji (2011) provided the various implications of corruption on the development of Nigeria;

According to Oloja (2002), regrettably "Corruption is part of the reasons for the brain drain" situation in Nigeria as gifted expertise are exiting the Nation in the exploration of Job Opportunities somewhere else According to Chuta (2004), the image of the Nation in the International Sphere has become extremely destroyed that every Nigerian psychologically experiences a shocking inflicted pain on his psyche. The



image has moved so far that everywhere in the globe, Nigeria is termed to be primarily dreaded like criminals and mad dogs, carefully approached like cunning snakes and avoided.

Corruption is politically destabilizing, that is, it tends breaking law and order, engendering political instability, inefficiency of public officials, brain drain among others (Lawal, 2006).

Ojaide (2000) emphasized that a Country that accepts corruption is usually faced with numerous social and economic challenges.

According to Natufe (2007), Corruption is a serious and a severe hindrance in attaining development and good governance. He emphasized that corruption is no doubt a foe of economic development and in the foreign scenario; it gives a country and her citizen a poor image.

THE NEXUS BETWEEN CORRUPTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

According to the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC, 2006); Corruption has been the major cause behind the Nation challenges in developing swiftly. Ribadu (2003) emphasized that this is the purpose why Transparency International (TI) has insisted ranking Nigeria top three corrupt nations in the globe. The ranking in 2013 by Transparency International (TI) emphasized that Nigeria is rated as the 35th Position of the most corrupt Nations of the globe (Transparency International, 2013). Nigeria has all it requires to attain sustainable development because it is vastly bestowed with natural and human resources especially oil and gas (Ogege, 2014). With a Gross Domestic product (GDP) of USD 58.5 billion and with a population of almost 160 million as emphasized by World Bank in 2007, Nigeria is among the four biggest economies in Africa. Nigeria is the second richest in the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Fourth richest country in Africa (World Bank, 2007).

It is factual that 75 percent of Nigeria Population cannot spend \$1 a day (Koffi Annan, 2000 in Shuaib & Aluyor, 2011; Ogege, 2014). To further support the above reality, Nigeria is rated so low in Human Development Index (HDI). The report of the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) in 2008 stated that Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) is placed at 0.453 which is lesser than the average Human Development Index (HDI) for Sub Saharan Africa of 0.515 (UNDP, 2008). Presently, Nigeria is ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world with severe unemployment, with almost twelve million youths that are capable to work but cannot find work (NBS 2009, Ukpere & Otto 2012 as cited in Ogege, 2014). Eboh and Uma (2013) emphasized that different policies have been set in place in this scenario but crises and hydra-headed corruption have been militating against optimistic outcomes.

Ogege (2014) emphasized that what corruption does entails to form legitimacy gap in a democratic setting. He stated that electoral corruption makes it difficult for election outcomes to depict the actual mandates of the people.

CONCLUSION

As the concept of Sustainable Development and Corruption has been emphasized, the research study emphasizes that the potential to be prosperous saturates in the Nations; Although Corruption remains a major challenge affecting the achievement of this prosperity particularly its sustainable development. Corruption has triggered into an increased rate of poverty including every forms of socio vices among the individuals. Presently, Nigeria is rated as one of the poorest countries in the globe with challenging youth unemployment with over twelve million youths that are capable to work but cannot secure job (NBS 2009, Ukpere & Otto 2012 as cited in Ogege, 2014). As the statistics continues to exponentially rise each year, Developmental growth is probably at a standstill and hindered in Nigeria compared to other countries that



are sufficiently endowed with the petroleum crude oil such as Nigeria. Different Governmental Administration in the Nation has been at a point or the other accused of embezzlement by the successive government or the misappropriation of public funds. Although, necessary evidence showcases that these resources have not been appropriately applied to attain the demands of the population in regards to human capital development due to the increased rate of corruption in the Nation

RECOMMENDATIONS

In regards to the discussions above, the research study thus suggest the following:

- Government needs to formulate and execute scheme on tackling unemployment and poverty that is engulfing 97% of the Nigerian population. This is problematic on the teeming graduates of various tertiary institutions in the Nation
- Government should motivate leaders that display probity, honesty, transparency, commitment, purposefulness and accountability to better ideals of the society before the subjects will be convinced of the ingenuity of such movement
- Federal Government precisely and politicians must not interfere in the activities of the anti corruption agencies in the Nation
- The initiatives of the anti corruption organizations in Nigeria such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) must be revitalized in regards to retraining, adequate training and funding
- Government must ensure corruption as a term requires to be discussed on debate by government representatives at local, state and federal level.
- There is the need for a free and fair election in Nigeria so that honest and corrupt free individuals would serve as role models and be elected into the leadership positions in other to reduce the pessimistic effect of corruption on the economic growth in Nigeria
- The Initiatives that will improve the attainment of sustainable development needs to be promoted to minimize the level of poverty and corruption including maximizing the level of economic development and growth in every forms

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