VOL. 11 NO. 2,
FEBRUARY, 2026
E-ISSN 3027-1533
P-ISSN 3026-8648

African Scholar Publications & Research International
www.africanscholarpub.com

Journal of African Innovation & Advanced Studies (JAIAS)

Corruption and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Connecting the Nexus for Sustainability

Mukhtar Usman Liman
Department of Social Sciences, College of Administrative Stdies and Social Sciences, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.
Corresponding Author: abbausman87@yahoo.com
DOI: https://doi.org/10.70382/ajaias.v11i2.082

Abstract

Corruption and sustainable development are process that have continuously played a major role in Nigeria's national development. Using secondary method of data collection and analysis, this study exposed and unveiled that absence of, rule of law, constitutionalism, dedicated and willing, accountable and committed leadership among others as paraphernalia to sustainable development in nigeria. Thus, inconsistency and lack of coherence in Nigeria's national development apparatus became apparent. The paper further discovered that factors such as, poor states of economy, high level of unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty were also considered as impediments responsible for the crippling sustainable development in Nigeria. Among others the paper recommends that critical appraisal of political and civil reforms are veritable steps towards ensuring a true and reliable sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Corruption, Development, sustainable development, Sustainability, Nigeria.

Introduction

Corruption as a phenomenon, is a global problem, and exists in varying degrees in different countries (Luna, 2002). Corruption is not only found in democratic and dictatorial politics, but also in feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures are equally bedeviled by corruption (Dike, 2005).Corruption is an efforts to secure wealth or power through illegal means for private gain at public expense; or a misuse of public power for private benefit. Corruption like cockroaches has co-existed with human society for a long time and remains as one of

the problems in many of the world's developing economies with devastating repurcussions. World Bank studies put corruption at over $1 trillion per year accounting for up to 12% of the Gross Domestic Product of nations like Nigeria, Kenya and Venezuela (Nwabuzor, 2005).

In Nigeria, it is one of the many unresolved problems Madichie (2005) that have critically hobbled and skewed development. It remains a long-term major political and economic challenge for Nigeria (Maduagwe, 1996). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep in the fabric of the nation. It ranges from petty corruption to political / bureaucratic corruption or Systemic corruption (Abimbola, 2007).

Corruption is endemic as well as an enemy within (Acemoghi, 2000). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep in the fabric of the country and had stunted growth in all sectors. It has been the primary reason behind the country difficulties in developing fast. This is evident in Transparency International's has consistent rating of Nigeria as one of the top three most corrupt countries in the world (Ribadu, 2003).

As part of effort at fighting corruption and strengthening the economy, Nigeria embarked on an aggressive pursuit of economic reform that through privatization, banking sector reform, anti-corruption campaigns and establishment of clear and transparent fiscal standards since 1999.

Statement of the Problem

As captured above, corruption right from time immemorial both as a concept and a phenomenon has eaten deep in to the bedrock of Nigerian society. It has constituted itself and posed a serious threat to the corporate existence of the nation. These can be understood glaringly from the perspectives that the endemic nature of corruptions has nearly and totally retarded socio-economic and political progress of the entity called Nigeria and by and large subjugated sustainable development. It is however pertinent to note that the fundamental question that yet remain unanswered in our daily discourse is centered on whether the government is aware of the gravity at which corruption has brought about absence of good and responsible governance, justice, equity and rule of law and poverty which metamorphose as a result of wealth circulating only in the hands of few individuals.

Objectives of the Study

i. Identify the main causes of corruption in Nigeria.
ii. Establish the linkages between corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria.
iii. To examine the extent of damage caused by corruptions to socio economic and political fabrics of Nigeria.

Research Questions

i. What are the causes of corruptions in Nigeria?
ii. What are the relationship between corruptions and sustainable development in Nigeria?

iii. To what extent does corruptions hampered overall sustainable development in the country?

Hypotheses

i. That corruption is one of the major cause of Nigeria's underdevelopment.
ii. That there exists strong relationship between corruption and sustainable development in Nigeria.
iii. That corruptions derailed and retarded sustainable development in Nigeria through siphoning of public goods for private purpose.

Methodology

This work employs the secondary source of data as its method of data gathering and also uses the content approach to effect the analysis of the data generated via other people's documentations on the socio-economic effects of corruptions on sustainable development of the nation.

Scope

The work attempts to assess the damages by corruptions on Nigeria's socio-economic, political and sustainable development. Its restricted period is the current democratic dispensations. The justification of this period is premised on the fact that the period serves as a point of reference that disposes the intensity of corruptions in the country.

Corruption

It is very easy to talk about corruption, but like many other complex phenomena, it is difficult to define corruption in concise and concrete terms. Not surprising, there is often a consensus as to what exactly constitutes this concept. There is always a danger as well that several people may engage in a discussion about corruption while each is talking about a different thing completely, (Balasa, 1985).

But in recent years there is a body of theoretical and empirical research on corruption (Bardhan, 1997). To avoid the confusion of definition of corruption, this paper gives an operational definition of corruption as conceptualized by some studies. Corruption is like cancer, retarding economic development. According to Balasa (2001) corruption is seen as a "daunting obstacle to sustainable development", a constraint on education, health care and poverty alleviation, and a great impediment to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

The World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused through rent seeking activities for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. Public office 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 resources (Basu, 1992). A public official is corrupt if he accepts money for doing something that he is under duty to do or that he is under duty not to do. Corruption is a betrayal of trust resulting directly or indirectly from the subordination of public goals to those of the individual.

In an elaborate analysis, C.B.N (2006) divided corruption into seven distinct types: autogenic, defensive, extortive, investive, nepotistic, supportive, and transactive. Autogenic corruption is self-generating and typically involves only the perpetrator. A good example would be what happens in cases of insider trading. A person learns of some vital information that may influence stocks in a company and either quickly buys or gets rid of large amounts of stocks before the consequences arising from this information come to pass. Defensive corruption involves situations where a person needing a critical service is compelled to bribe in order to prevent unpleasant consequences being inflicted on his interests. For instance, a person who wants to travel abroad within a certain time frame needs a passport in order to undertake the journey but is made to pay bribes or forfeit the trip. This personal corruption is in self-defense. Extortive corruption is the behavior of a person demanding personal compensation in exchange for services. Investive corruption entails the offer of goods or services without a direct link to any particular favor at the present, but in anticipation of future situations when the favor may be required. Nepotistic corruption refers to the preferential treatment of, or unjustified appointment of friends or relations to public office, in violation of the accepted guidelines.

The supportive type usually does not involve money or immediate gains, but involves actions taken to protect or strengthen the existing corruption. For example, a corrupt regime or official may try to prevent the election or appointment of an honest person or government for fear that the individual or the regime might be probed by the successor(s). Finally, transactive corruption refers to situations where the two parties are mutual and willing participants in the corrupt practice to the advantage of both parties. For example, a corrupt businessperson may willingly bribe a corrupt government official in order to win a tender for a certain contract, (Girling, 1997).

There are different vocabularies used to describe corruption in Nigeria. Some of these are bribery, extortion (money and other resources extracted by the use of coercion, violence or threats), embezzlement (theft of public resources by public officials. It is when a state official steals from the public institution in which he/she is employed, betrayal of trust, unfair advantages, financial malpractices, egunje, dash, gratification, brown envelopes, tips, emoluments, greasing, softening the ground, inducements, sub-payments, side payments, irregular payments, payment under the table, undocumented extra payments, facilitation payments, mobilisation fees, “routine governmental action,” revised estimates, padded contracts, over(under)-invoicing, cash commissions, kickbacks, payoffs, covert exchanges, shady deals, cover-ups, collusion, “10% rule” (bribe surcharge), “50% rule” (sharing bribe within the hierarchy), “let’s keep our secret secret,” "highly classified" transactions, customary gift-giving, tribute culture, nepotism (a special form of favoritism in which an office holder prefers his/her kinfolk and family members) (Greenaway,1994).

Corruption manifests itself in Nigeria inform of abuse of positions and privileges, low levels of transparency and accountability, inflation of contracts, bribery/kickbacks, misappropriation or diversion of funds, under and over-invoicing, false declarations, advance fee fraud and other deceptive schemes known as "419", collection of illegal tolls, commodity hoarding, illicit smuggling of drugs and arm, human trafficking, child labour, illegal oil bunkering, illegal mining, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractices including counterfeiting of currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic wastes, and prohibited goods", (Goodling, 2003).

Sustainable Development

The Diploma of sustainable development online (2012) refers to the term as the type of economic growth pattern where the use of resources meets the needs of the human population while conserving the environment at the same time. Sustainable development means resources are used in such a way that both current and future human needs can be met.

The sustainable development guide online (2012) also describes the term as the development that meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to Ukaga (2010) ask a sample of people about the term "sustainability" and you are likely to get a variety of answers representing diverse perspectives, experiences and circumstances. This confirms that a "one size fits all" approach to sustainable development is inappropriate, ineffective and unnecessary.

He stressed further, scratch below the surface, however, and you will find that while there is a diversity of viewpoints on the concept of sustainable development, as well as specific policy and practice options for achieving it, there is more agreement on some of its core principles such as: meeting basic human necessities fairly and efficiently; preserving options for both present and future generations to meet their needs; promoting community well-being based on broad participation and active citizenship; maintaining that diversity and productivity of nature; managing and utilizing resources with prudence and precaution; linking various aspects of sustainability (i.e. economic, ecological and social); assuring accountability for all; avoiding or at least minimizing waste having a long term view; maintaining a holistic perspective; and fostering cooperation and shared responsibility.

Adebayo (2010) also maintains that the concept of sustainable development is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in such a way that the needs of the future generation are not jeopardized. To this end, sustainable development is the ability to preserve the existing resources of the state for the collective use of the citizens while conscious efforts are made to conserve the resources for the use of future generations.

Theoretical framework

The economic growth approach has the ability to test the relationship between sustainable development and corruption, but its main limitation lies in using the correct index of corruption in the objective function. Most of indices of corruption that had been used Bardhan (1997) and Mandapaka (1995) were based on surveys. These indices reflect either the general

perception of the people on the level of corruption present in the country or the expertise perception, and they fail to reflect the actual level of corruption present in the country. The current literature on the impact of corruption lacks a theoretical framework that incorporates the potential effect of corruption on output through its impact on the arguments to the production function. Nor does it address the effect of corruption through its impact on sustainable development The literature to date, has only examined the hypothesized influences separately, ignoring the larger potential aggregate impact of corruption on development. To overcome the shortcomings in the theoretical reviews, neo-classical model of sustainable development that explicitly includes human capital accumulation and the direct and indirect effects of corruption on sustainable development.. Our theoretical model suggests that development and growth are influenced by the level of corruption. If one of the physical inputs in the production function suffers a quality loss in the presence of corruption, then this will also affect growth and the steady state level (Jain, 1998).

Causes of corruption in Nigeria

A number of factors have been identified as instrumental to enthroning corrupt practices in Nigeria. These include, briefly, the nature of Nigeria's political economy, the weak institutions of government, and a dysfunctional legal system. Absence of clear rules and codes of ethics leads to abuse of discretionary power make most Nigerian vulnerable to corrupt practices. The country also has a culture of affluent and ostentatious living that expects much from "big men,"extended family pressures Maduagwe (1996), village/ethnic loyalties, and competitive ethnicity.

The country is also one of the very few countries in the world where a man's source of wealth is of no concern to his neighbours, the public or the government. Once a man is able to dole out money, the churches, the Mosques pray for him, he collects chieftaincy titles and hobnobs with those who govern. The message to those who have not made it is clear: just be rich, the ways and means are irrelevant (Ubeku, 1991).

Low civil service salaries and poor working conditions, with few incentives and rewards for efficient and effective performance, are strong incentives for corruption in Nigeria. Other factors are: less effective government works with slow budget procedures, lack of transparency, inadequate strategic vision and weak monitoring mechanisms make Nigeria a fertile the environment for corrupt practice.

The overall culture of governance has also played an important role. Most of Nigeria leaders and top bureaucrats are setting bad examples of self-enrichment or ambiguity over public ethics thereby promoting the lower level officials and members of the public into corrupt practices, (I.M.F, 2005).

Informal rules are found to supercede formal ones, thereby making stringent legal principles and procedures to loose their authority. Hence, bribery and corruption are taken by many Nigerians as norm even in the face of anti-corruption crusades intended to support clean governance.

Corruption and inefficiency are characteristics of service delivery in Nigeria, although private companies seem to perform more efficiently and less corruptly than public enterprises (Amadi, 2004). Corruption has become so blatant and widespread that it appears as if it has been legalized in Nigeria (Imohe, 2005). As Goodling (2003) notes, "since 1996, Nigeria was labeled the most corrupt nation three times: 1996, 1997, and 2000: and placed in the bottom five four more times: fourth from the bottom in 1998 and second in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003".

The 1996 Study of Corruption by Transparency International and Goettingen University ranked Nigeria as the most corrupt nation, among 54 nations listed in the study, with Pakistan as the second highest (Kaufman, 1998). As this was not too bad enough, the 1998 Transparency International corruption perception index (CPI) of 85 countries, Nigeria was 81 out of the 85 countries pooled . In 1999 Transparency International (TI) released its annual Corruption perceptions Index (CPI) ranking 99 countries in order of their perceived levels of corruption with number one being the least corrupt, Nigeria at number 98, was only one rank above its neighbor Cameroon.

In the 2001 corruption perception index (CPI), the position of remained unchanged as the second corrupt nation in the World (ranked 90, out of 91 countries pooled) with Bangladesh coming first. In October 2003 reports released in London, Nigeria at number 132 was still only one rank above Bangladesh – even though the number of countries in the latter poll had increased to 133 countries, (Knack, 1995).

The 2004 Corruption Perceptions Index, released by Transparency International (TI), the watchdog on global corruption again ranks Nigeria as the third most corrupt country in the world. Up till June 2007 Nigeria has not been exonerated from the list of the top ten leading countries on corruption.

On sectoral distribution, the nationwide corruption survey in the Nigeria Corruption Index (NCI) 2007 identified the Nigerian Police as the most corrupt organization in the country, closely followed by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). Corruption in the Education Ministry was found to have increased from 63 per cent in 2005 to 74 per cent in 2007, as against 96 per cent to 99 per cent for the Police in the corresponding period. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), was the only new organisation identified as corrupt among the 16 organisations on a list which included Joint Admission Matriculation Board, the Presidency, and the Nigerian National Petroleum Commission (NNPC).While the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) have been identified as the least corrupt organizations with respect to bribe taking from the populace as at June 2007 (Abimbola, 2007).

Another area in which corruption has manifested itself in Nigeria is in the area of project execution. For instance, Ajaokuta, a steel mill in Nigeria, has been under construction for the past seventeen years and throughout that period of time has consumed seven billion dollars. It has produced no steel. The mill is a white monolith of steel and concrete, epitomizing the inefficiency of corruption. Another example is Alscon upper block (an aluminum plant in

Nigeria) which has consumed three billion dollars over the past five years. The project was to produce 190,000 tons of aluminum, but, like its predecessor, Ajaokuta, has not produced any aluminum to date, (Mauro, 1995).

The Nexus between Corruption and Sustainable Development

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, chapter two (2) contains the Fundamental Objectives and Directives Principles of State Policy, which are direct offshoots of international treaties on human rights and good governance (CFRN, 1999). These treaties specifically defined the fundamental economic, social, political and cultural rights of individuals. These rights generally bother on factors that contribute to the continuous improvement of living conditions of Nigerians. Succinctly put, the principal purpose of this class of rights is to place the state under a legal obligation to utilize its available resources maximally in order to correct social and economic inequalities and imbalances among Nigerians. However, as laudable as those provisions could have been to the advancement of better living for Nigerians, corruption has been one of the major factors affecting this provision. The implications of this on politics and socio-economic development as noted by Jega (2004) are that:

> The masses, especially in urban areas take, out their anger with the hopeless socio-economic situation on the well-to-do neighbours in the settlers' communities. Youth's anger arising from unfulfilled promises, shattered expectation, hopeless unemployment and poverty, find expression often in the violent ethno- religious conflicts, or in violent protests and criminal activities such as armed robbery, extortion and fraud. The atmosphere becomes perpetually tense, charged, even overheated and characterized by violence (Jega, 2004: 19-20)

In a similar vein, Kamaldeen (2012: 119) observed that no country can bear the cost of corruption which impedes development and minimizes the ability of the government in meeting the basic needs of the society. This . therefore, suggests that sustainable evelopment as human efforts towards high quality of living condition and the sustenance of same is only possible where there is absence of corruption.

Anti-corruption institutions in Nigeria

Government Efforts at combating Corruption in Nigeria: Nigeria remains mired in corruption, crime, poverty, and violence despite the promulgation of several laws like in other countries as the principal mechanism for curbing corruption. The legal instruments used to fight corruption in Nigeria include the Criminal Code, Code of Conduct Bureau, the Recovery of Public Property Act of 1984 and the newly formed commissions (the EFCC and the ICPC). Prior to 1966, the Criminal Code was the primary source of law dealing with corruption in Nigeria, (Guhan,1997).

But due to the narrow nature in dealing with corruption such as only criminalizing the conduct of bribe-taking public servants leaving the private, it was replaced by Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous provision) Decree in 1966. This however failed to stem the tide of corruption. The rules were confusing, thus leaving open the livelihood that guilty persons might escape punishment on technical grounds.

The code of Conduct was thereafter formed in the 1979 Nigeria constitution where complaints on corrupt practices are referred to Code of Conduct Bureau Tribunal. The Bureau forbids public officers from simultaneously receiving remuneration of two public offices and from engaging in private practices while in the employment of government, the code bar public servants from accepting gifts or benefits in kind for themselves or any other person on account of anything done or omitted to be done in the discharge of their duties. It prohibits public officers from maintaining or operating foreign bank accounts. Public officers are required to declare their assets and those of their families immediately after taking office, at the end of every four years in office, and at the end of their terms. Due to the non inclusion of the private sector which are also corrupt in all these laws, In year 2000, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other related Offences Act was promulgated which eventually gave birth to the ICPC and the EFCC charged with the responsibility of investigating, arresting and charging any offenders with corrupt practices either economic or financial crimes in Nigeria to court,(Hadi, 1999).

The introduction of two institutions (the EFCC and ICPC)) to tackle corruption has yielded positive results in curbing corruption in Nigeria. There have been a number of high profile convictions since it inception. Many advance fee fraud ("419")kingpins have been detained, two judges have been sacked and two others suspended, several legislators (including a past Senate president) have lost their legislative posts and are being prosecuted, three ministers have been dismissed, a former Inspector General of Police, the top law enforcement official in the country has been tried, convicted and jailed for corruption with some state governors impeached by their state assemblies for corruption (Okonjo-Iweala, 2005).

Through the government anti-corruption crusade, about N84 billion was recovered from the family of the late Head of State, Sani Abacha as at 2001. Between May

2003 and June 2004, the EFCC in Nigeria recovered money and assets from crime of over $700 million, as well as recovering of £3 million through the British Government. The commission prosecuted a fraud case involving $242 million arising from a bank fraud in Brazil in 2005.

Overall, about 350 EFCC cases are at an advanced stage of prosecution. About 5,000 people have been arrested over the past three years. There have been about 91 convictions for various corruption crimes and assets worth over $55 billion have been seized, confiscated and refunded to the state and various victims of crime (Ribadu, 2006). The body has increased the revenue profile of the nation by about 20% due to its activities in the federal Inland Revenue service and the seaports, recovered billions to government in respect of failed government contracts, curbed oil bunkering in the Niger Delta, from about 300,000 –500,000 daily to less

than 50,000 barrels with the Prosecution of over 20 persons involved in the vandalisation of oil pipelines (Imohe 2005).

Recent survey data from Kaufman (2005) indicate that there has been a reduction in the perception of corruption by Nigerian firms in obtaining trade permits, in paying taxes, in procurement, in the judiciary, in the leakage of public funds, and in money laundering.

However, the recent reports by the World Bank and Transparency international 2007 identified Nigeria Police as the most corruption-riddled organization in the country, followed by the Power Holding Company Limited (PHCL). Investigation has shown that Nigerian police has scaled up roadside bribery from N20 to N50. That is to say, whenever any driver was pulled over at a checkpoint for any reason whatsoever, he or she would be expected to shell out N50.00 as bribe. This amounts to a hundred and fifty percent increases from the amount that was recently paid as bribes to the "Nigerian department of police roadblock". This ritual is repeated at every ten or twenty miles when a commercial vehicle driver confronts a different squad of police, (Tirole, 1996).

Negative consequences of corruption on sustainable development in Nigeria

Corruption is a plague, a disease, spreading itself throughout developing nations, and the world needs to inoculate these nations against this infection Corruption is a tool of evil wielded by the wealthy and powerful of developing nations in order to make themselves richer, and even more powerful at the expense of the society. These are the only people benefited by this disease. The lower classes in developing nations are hard hit by the excessive bribes and loss of infrastructure which invariably affect sustainable development (Ubeku, 1991).

Several empirical studies have shown a negative relationship between corruption and sustainable development (Mauro, 1995). Corruption diverts resources from the poor to the rich; increases the cost of running businesses, distorts public expenditures, and deters foreign investment (Mauro, 1997 and Alesina, 1999). Corruption saps a country's economy by hampering tax collection and undermining the enforcement of important regulation. Corruption also creates loss of tax revenues and monetary problems leading to adverse budgetary consequences Knack (1995), and is likely to produce certain composition of capital flows that makes a country more vulnerable to shifts in international investors' sentiments and expectations (Balasa, 1985). In addition corruption has an adverse effect on human development, and increases the cost of basic social services (Kaufman, 1998).

Corruption has had severe negative consequences on sustainable development of Nigeria. Even where improper conduct, such as fraud and bribery, does not directly involve government, the public effects are severe. Corruption has adversely affected governance and the larger social structure. It has crippled the state’s ability to deliver for its citizen’s enjoyment of even the minimum social and economic rights, including health and education. This generally leads to a retardation of sustainable development and to the deterioration of whatever public infrastructure has been put in place, (Dike, 2005).

Critically, it has been observed that in Nigeria, unbridled corruption has led to bad governance. Corruption and mismanagement swallow about 40 percent of Nigeria's $20 billion annual oil income (Ribadu 2004).Corruption disrupts the capital flow throughout entire developing nations. Tax income is generally far below what the government requires in order carrying out basic services in corrupt nations. Corruption also stunts international trade. The World Trade Organization (WTO) increases impediments on trade if a country maintains an "out-of-control"level of corruption, or extortion. If a developing nation attempts to deal with these problems, the WTO will decrease the impediments, giving the nation incentive to reduce skyrocketing corruption levels. The anti –corruption crusade of Nigeria might then be one of the reasons while the country is enjoying the support of the international communities, (C.B.N, 2006).

Other specific negative consequences of corruption in Nigeria are: loss of much needed revenue; decrease in the level of Foreign Direct Investment and loss of viable businesses by Nigerian banks. Corruption diminishes national prestige and respect, leads to brain drain, civil unrest, business failure and unemployment, election rigging, absence of law and order, and failure of government institution (Ribadu, 2003).

Most Nigerians are treated with suspicion in most business dealings thereby making some honest Nigerians to suffer the stigma of corruption due to stereotyping. Ribadu (2006) opined that, corruption is worse than terrorism because it is responsible for perpetual collapse of infrastructure and institutions in Nigeria; it is the cause of the endemic poverty and underdevelopment and cyclical failure of democracy to take root. Poverty is found to persists in Nigeria because of the mismanagement of resources and corruption, found particularly not only in the public sector (Alesina, 1999).

Corruption stifles businesses that are unwilling to engage in this nefarious activity; ironically, it also eventually destroys the companies that yield to this practice, thus halting or at least delaying considerably, the march toward economic progress and ultimately sustained development (Basu, 1992).

Conclusion

There is a clear-cut correlation between corruption and sustainable development, and if stringent measure is not taken about it, the development of Nigeria would be impaired.

Corrupt regimes always yield disastrous results. Corruption which is equal to monopoly plus discretion, minus accountability has serious impediment to sustainable development especially in developing countries. It has stolen the wealth of resource-rich nations like Nigeria thereby making people to be trapped in poverty. Even while thinking of some firms/people as if better off through payment of a bribe by most people, the overall effect of corruption on economic development still remains negative. The more corrupt a country is, the slower it economic growth rate. Corruption is a stigma that destroys the reputation of affected country. It lowers investment thereby lowering economic growth of the country.

Despite the existing challenges facing Nigeria after the establishment of the two major anti-graft institutions (ICPC and the EFCC) by the government in 2000 and 2003 respectively, the

reforms have yielded some concrete results with a reduction of corruption levels when compared with the pre-reform periods when Criminal Code and Code of conduct Bureau were used to check corrupt practices on public office holders only. It is in the rules and practices of governance that the foundations of sustainable development are shaped or undermined. The very basis of development becomes compromised when these rules and practices are not effectively monitored and applied. Development suffers where the rules of governance allow arbitrary resource allocations and the diversion of public resources in defiance of the public good and to the exclusive benefit of corrupt officials, politicians and their collaborators.

Recommendations

The paper recommends as follows:

i. There is the need for enlightenment in discouraging excessive materialism and the culture of 'get rich quick', employment for the teeming youths and incorporation of human rights and development perspectives into anti-corruption work.
ii. There is the need for a mechanism that will transform dramatically the culture and legacy of corruption. Positive transformation of Nigeria can only occur through addressing the root causes of corruption and through effectively implementing the legal mechanisms already in place. Nigeria has introduced economic reforms through privatization, deregulation, removal of market restrictions, and civil service reform with the aim at promoting the integrity of public service. These measures are all very important in the fight against corruption, but the key factor to galvanize and orchestrate these measures is having honest leaders with the political will to tackle corruption.
iii. There is the need for enlightenment in discouraging excessive materialism and the culture of 'get rich quick', employment for the teeming youths and incorporation of human rights and development perspectives into anti-corruption work. Provision of appropriate punishment for corruption in and of itself is not sufficient to eliminate Corruption. The phenomenon of corruption has multiple causes, and is determined by more than just seeing people go unpunished for engaging in corrupt behavior.
iv. That the leadership must demonstrate the willingness to track and punish corrupt officials and citizens as well as create a conducive economic climate that would raise the standard of living of the citizenry.

Finally, non-interference of government on the mandate given to the anti –corruption agencies so as to make them effective, became necessary as it is now practice by the Buhari administration.

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