

## Corruption Impact on Sustainable Development: the Nigerian Experience

Awogbemi T. O<sup>1</sup>

### *Abstract*

*Corruption has been defined by the World Bank and Transparency International as “the misuse of public office for private gain” (World Bank, 1997). As such, it involves the improper and unlawful behavior of public-service officials, both politicians and civil servants, whose positions create opportunities for the diversion of money and assets from government to themselves and their accomplices.*

**Keywords:** *Corruption Impact.*

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D, Department of Economics, Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria

Corruption distorts resource allocation and government performance. The causes of its development are many and vary from one country to the next. Among the contributing factors are policies, programmes and activities that are poorly conceived and managed, failing institutions, poverty, income disparities, inadequate civil servants' remuneration, and a lack of accountability and transparency (United Nations, 1999).

In scope, corruption is not limited to financial rewards as perceived by many people. It touches on material possession, integrity, moral values and the society or the economy on the aggregate, and thus encompasses both institutional and personal decadence. Corruption can be categorized in many ways. A distinction can be made between benefits that are paid willingly (bribery) and payments that are exacted from unwilling clients (extortion). Another way to categorize is to differentiate between bribes paid for what a client has a legal right to receive and bribes paid to receive benefits belonging to others.

Fighting corruption through strengthening rule of law institutions and entrenching transparency and accountability mechanisms in the public service procurement and project implementation is efficacious because corruption is primarily a derogation of rule-based system. As Kufamman (2005) put it.

Corruption equals monopoly plus discretion minus accountability. That whether the activity is public, private, or non-profit, or whether it is carried out in Ouagadougou or Washington, one will tend to find corruption when an organization or a person has a monopoly power over a good or service, has the discretion to decide who will receive it and how much that person gets, and is not accountable.

In Nigeria, corruption is a major constraint to economic and social development. It constitutes a major disincentive for investment in the Nigerian economy and increases the cost of governance and doing business. It also constitutes a direct and inordinate taxation on the people. The widespread international perception of Nigeria as a corrupt country has caused incalculable damage to the dignity and honour of many honest and diligent Nigerians and to the country's global competitiveness. While the perception of the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria is highly exaggerated many ways, nevertheless it is an evil that needs to be urgently and systematically addressed.

As long as Nigeria is widely perceived as corrupt, it will be difficult to attract the level of investment required to fast-tracked economic growth in protecting the honour and dignity of Nigerian citizens across the world.

Various administrations in Nigeria have recognised the danger that corruption poses to development in the country and have embarked on a war against it as a priority agenda. Since 1999, "the war against corruption" has remained a core commitment of the various governments. However, in spite of government's expression of commitment to fighting corruption, the scourge remains rampant.

To further understand the impact of corruption in Nigeria this paper is structured into sections as follows:

### **Conceptual Framework**

#### **(a) Transparency Concept**

As present earlier, the World Bank definition involves corruption as the abuse of public office

for private gains. Public office is abused through rent seeking activities for private gain through acceptance, solicitation and exhortations of 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 bribery is not involved but, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state resources (World Bank, 1997). A public official is corrupt if he accepts gratis 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 and aspirations to those of the individual. Thus, a person who engages in nepotism has committed an act of corruption by putting his family interests over those of the larger society (Gire 1999).

This is the cause of reduced investment and even disinvestment with its many downstream effects including increased social polarization. Combating corruption is instrumental to the broader goal of achieving more effective, fair, and efficient government. When there is inadequate transparency, accountability, and probity in the use of public resources, the state fails to generate credibility and authority. Systemic corruption undermines the credibility of democratic institutions and counteracts good governance. Corruption alienates citizens from their government. There is a high correlation between corruption and an absence of respect for human rights, and between corruption and undemocratic practices. Pervasive corruption reduces the efficiency of government in general and in particular reduces the effectiveness of private investment and foreign aid.

The support of international organisations to help developing countries attack and contain corruption is not because it is immoral, wrong, or even illegal. Rather, the support is based on the negative effect corruption has on economic development, the emergence of an enabling environment for the private sector, and its role in deepening poverty in the developing world; a situation that demands a response from the international community. There is considerable evidence that a strong negative relationship exists between the extent of corruption and economic performance. (Mauro, 1995; World Bank, 1997).

The negative impacts of corruption have served as yardstick for international organisations institutions to demand the establishment of good governance measures in the developing countries. These measures attempt to improve integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and private administrative transactions, to achieve sustainable growth and improved service delivery to the public. Transparency, combined with the empowerment of the civil society, helps governments ensure the efficient use of resources and manage a change process that results in increased accountability and improved service delivery, two elements that assist in the creation of an enabling environment for private-sector development and economic growth (United Nations, 1999).

### **Typology and Term to Describe Corruption in Nigeria**

#### **Description:**

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, 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), etc.

### **Typology**

Corruption manifests itself in Nigeria in form 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 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” just to mention few.

### **Corruption in Nigeria: Causes and Extent**

#### **Causes**

A number of factors have been instrumental to enthrone 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 includes: less effective government works with slow budget procedures, lack of transparency, inadequate strategic vision and weak monitoring mechanisms make Nigeria a fertile 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. Informal rules are found to supersede formal ones, thereby making stringent legal principles and procedures to loose their authority. Hence, bribery and corruption are taken by many Nigerians as norm rather than exception even in the face of anti-corruption crusades and government organs intended to support clean governance.

#### **Data Collection, and Analysis on Corruption in Nigeria**

Corruption in Nigeria, as it presently manifests can be appropriately termed endemic or systemic. What is unique about Nigeria is her persistence in corruption, though statistically non-significant position within the bottom five surveyed nations every year since 1996. Corruption has not only permeated the government and oil fields of Nigeria, it has attacked the entire nation (Hadi,

1999). 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 (Gire, 1999). As Goodling (2003) noted, “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 (Moore, 1997). 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 (See

**Table 1); According to Lipset and Lenz, (2000).**

1998		2001		2003	
Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank
Denmark	1	Finland	1	Finland	1
Finland	2	Denmark	2	Iceland	2
Sweden	3	New Zealand	3	Denmark	3
New Zealand	4	Iceland	4	New Zealand	4
Iceland	5	Singapore	5	Singapore	5
Canada	6	Sweden	6	Sweden	6
Singapore	7	Canada	7	Netherlands	7
The	8	The	8	Australia	8
Netherlands		Netherlands			
Norway	9	Luxembourg	9		
Switzerland	10	Norway	10	Norway	9
				Switzerland	10
Vietnam	75	Russia			
Russia	76	Tanzania	82	Angola	124
Ecuador	77	Ukraine	83	Azerbaijan	84
Venezuela	78	Azerbaijan	84	Cameroon	
Colombia	79	Bolivia		Georgia	
Indonesia	80	Cameroon		Tajikistan	
Nigeria	81	Kenya		Myanmar	
Tanzania	82	Indonesia	88	Paraguay	
Honduras	83	Uganda		Haiti	
Paraguay	84	Nigeria	90	Nigeria	90
Cameroon	85	Bangladesh	91	Bangladesh	91

- Lipset, Seymour and Salman Lenz, ‘Corruption, Culture, and Markets,’ (2000), In Culture Matters, Harrission and Huntington (eds.), 2000, p.1 13
- The Transparency International Corruption Index, 2001; pp.234-236

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 neighbour Cameroon. In the 2001 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), the position 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.

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 had 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 (N CI) 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, 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 two decades and throughout that period of time has consumed seven billion dollars for a project protected at user cost, still, It has produced no steel. The mill is a white monolith of steel and concrete, epitomizing the inefficiency of corruption. Another example is Aiscon 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 counterpart, Ajaokuta, has not produced any aluminum to date.<sup>5</sup>

### **Impact 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. These are the only people benefited by this canlarwarm. The lower classes in developing nations are hard hit by the excessive bribes and loss of infrastructure, Several empirical studies have shown a negative relationship between corruption and economic growth (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; Wei, 1997 and Adesina, 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 (Murphy, 1993), and is likely to produce certain composition of capital flows that makes a country more vulnerable to shifts in international investors' sentiments and expectations (Lambsdorff, 2000 and 2005). 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 economic growth and 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 citizens' enjoyment of even the minimum social and economic rights, including health and education. This generally leads to a retardation of economic development and to the deterioration of whatever public infrastructure has been put in place.

Critically, in Nigeria it has been observed that unbridled corruption practices have led to bad governance. Corruption and mismanagement gulped 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 to carry 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 why the country is enjoying the support of the international communities.

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 arrest, 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 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 persist in Nigeria because of the mismanagement of resources and corruption, found particularly not only in the public sector but also in the private sector (Ayua, 2001). 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 (Gire, 1999).

### **Government Efforts towards Fighting Corruption in Nigeria**

In the name of turning Nigeria into a corruption-free society, the nation has experimented with many strategies, programmes and policies. It has tried the Judicial Commissions of Enquiry, the Code of Conduct Bureau; and it had wrestled with the Public Complaints Commission to no avail. Also, it fiddled with, the Mass Mobilization for Social Justice and Economic Recovery (MAMSER), and the National Open Apprenticeship (NOA), War Against Indiscipline Council (WAIC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in 1989, Money Laundering Act of 1995, re-enacted 2004, Advance Fee Fraud (419) and Fraud Related Offences Act of 1995, prosecution and conviction of high ranking administration officials, tracing, seizing and confiscation of all proceeds of crime, privatization of failing public institutions, creation of an enabling environment for effective private-public partnerships, Failed Banks Act of 1996, Banks and other Financial Institutions Act of 1991, Foreign Exchange Act of 1995 etc. But corruption still blossomed. In year 2000, Obasanjo also instituted an Anti-Corruption Commission (ICPC)

under the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Act of 2000, established the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2003 through external pressure from the G8 Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Other institutional approaches include, the establishment of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) otherwise known as “Due Process” monthly publication of distributable revenue from the Federation Account to the different tiers of government.

In the past, a major challenge of prosecuting the war against corruption has been the subordination of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to the Ministry of Justice in terms of exercise of its prosecutorial mandate. The EFCC is designed to be an independent anti-corruption agency that exercises independent judgment about who to investigate and prosecute. The relationship between the headship of the EFCC and the Ministry of Justice has been a major cause of discredit to the anti-corruption campaign. But, by granting the EFCC clear prosecutorial independence from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the government has restored the integrity of the anti-graft agency and the credibility of the war against corruption.

The commission is now truly independent of the serving Attorney General and has no need to base its enforcement actions on the political desires or interest of top government officials or the ruling party. The EFCC continues to arrest and prosecute high profile public officials and business leaders and does so within the rule of law and due process, in taking action against an alleged offender.

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 its inception. Many advance fee fraud (“419”) kingpins have been detained, several legislators (including a past Senate President) have lost their legislative posts and were 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 and Osafo-Kwaako, 2007). Through the government anti-corruption crusade, about N84 billion was recovered from the family of the late Head of State, Sani Abacha in 2001. Between May 2003 and June 2004, the EFCC in Nigeria recovered money and assets from crime of over \$700 million, as well as recovery 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. 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 (EFCC Report, 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 barrels daily to less than 50,000 barrels with the prosecution of over 20 persons involved in the vandalisation of oil pipelines (Imohe, 2005).

In the civil service, the fight against corruption has also taken centre stage. The government has uncovered fraud through the detection and deletion of over 73,000 ghost/fake pensioners from the Head of Service/Police Pension office; recovering and saving over N225 billion from the two pension offices; capturing the biometric data of over 170,000 pensioners, halting the monthly theft of over N4 billion from the national treasury; reducing fraud by saving over N500 million



monthly through the police pension releases, which represents 50 percent of the Ni billion disbursed monthly in the past; and the discovery of over 50,000 unpaid pensioners and immediate payment of their entitlements” (FRN, 20 11-2013).

Federal government discovered a fraud of over N2.7 billion in pension’s fund. The government seized about 200 properties, including hotels and cash worth billions of naira from corrupt public officials. This led to the arrest and prosecution of pension fraud suspects by the EFCC. (FRN, 2011-2013).

Another giant stride is the suspension of a High Court Judge in the FCT Abuja. The 12 month suspension follows the controversial judgment he delivered in respect of a man who was prosecuted by the EFCC over an alleged N32.8 billion Police Fraud (FRN, 2011-2013). The government ensured that the judiciary is given the much needed freedom to administer punishment in cases of abuse of power and lack of respect for the rule of law. The recent dismissal of three judges found to have compromised their offices is an unmistakable signal of government zero tolerance for corruption in the judiciary.

In the management of the fertilizer scheme, the federal government now uses the e-wallet scheme to capture the data of farmers in the country through registration designed to enhance farmers’ access to fertilizers, seeds and other farm inputs. The government does this through the use of GSM phone numbers of the farmers captured during the data exercise. This has reduced corruption and ensured that the product gets to the end users. Before now, there was huge corruption in the fertilizer distribution scheme where rich private and public figures usually hijack the subsidized fertilizer from the federal government and then resell it to the farmers at an exorbitant price. However, with this new system, a deliberate effort has been made to ensure that farmers get the fertilizers directly as it should be the case.

The fuel subsidy scandal saw the exposure of huge corruption in the oil sector which had been a conduit pipe through which huge funds were siphoned from the National Treasury. The fight against corruption in the oil and gas sector of the Nigerian economy was perhaps the most fundamental of the government’s effort at combating crimes against the Nigerian economy.

A survey data from Kaufman et al (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 public funds, and in money laundering.

But assessment of corruption in Nigeria indicates some reasons why corruption still thrives in the country. According, to Osoba, (1996), all measures against corruption have not been fruitful in Nigeria because they have operated at a level of mere symbolism. Those waging the corruption-wars are themselves corrupt. Some of the corrupt leaders still find it difficult to change the moral tone of the country. Government domination of the economic sphere significantly enhances opportunities and ability to seek rents. Civil society also still accepts or tolerates corruption. Other reasons why attempt at curbing corruption still failed in Nigeria hinges on the fact of the entrenched and institutionalized phenomenon of the country, the failure of law enforcement/agencies/workforce, constitutional constraints (i.e. some provisions of our constitution seem to give immunity to some set of people), and attitude of defense lawyers using delay tactics to stall or forestall trials, thus resulting in congestion and slow pace of our court proceedings.

**Conclusion**

Corruption which is equal to monopoly plus discretion, minus accountability has serious impediment to sustainable development especially in developing countries. It has resulted in stolen wealth of resource-rich nations like Nigeria, thereby making people to be trapped in poverty. The more corrupt a country is, the slower its economic growth rate. Corruption is a stigma that destroys the reputation of the affected country. It lowers investment, thereby lowering economic growth of the country. 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**

In order to successfully combat corruption in Nigeria, there is need for enlightenment in discouraging excessive materialism and the culture of 'get-rich-quick'. In this regard, the various religious sects should be involved in the advocacy against corruption. The religious leaders should be made to regularly preach against this scourge in their respective places of worship, reminding their followers that:

This is great gain in godliness with contentment for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world., those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires tlt plunge men into ruin and destruction. FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVILS; it is through this craving that, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs. (I Timothy 6:6-II)

It is also recommended that, in addition to other measures being taken to reduce corruption, 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.

In addition to other measures being taken to reduce corruption, 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. Programs such as social should be instituted among the non-working class in order to reduce the worry about basic survival in the face of growing insecurity about the job situation. Also, there is the need for the provision of adequate resources for anti-corruption agencies and noninterference of government on the mandate given to the anti-corruption agencies so as to make them effective. Unless the government is willing to commit adequate resources to fund and operate the agencies, and making them truly independent as the anti-corruption agencies may not be able to withstand the opposing forces of the corrupt elements in the country.

Finally to arresting the menace of corruption in Nigeria, we must understand that it is not a fight for the government alone rather would require a concerted effort by individuals from all sectors to complement the effort of the government. Corruption must also be fought with every sense of diligence it deserves by government and individuals. Otherwise, Nigeria's sustainable development will be undermined with dire consequences on the economy, the citizenry and on our collective image globally. We must therefore, all work assiduously with government agencies in the fight against corruption. The activities of the two anti-graft institutions (the ICPC and the EFCC) have yielded some positive results; but so much still needed to be done to effectively tame the surge of corruption in Nigeria.

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