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**CORRUPTION**

Corruption can be defined as a form of dishonesty or criminal offense undertaken by a person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries.

Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favors between a small number of people (petty corruption),to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the symptoms of organized crime.

### PETTY CORRUPTION: Petty corruption occurs at a smaller scale and takes place at the implementation end of public services when public officials meet the public.

### GRAND CORRUPTION: Grand corruption is defined as corruption occurring at the highest levels of government in a way that requires significant subversion of the political, legal and economic systems.

### SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION: is corruption which is primarily due to the weaknesses of an organization or process. It can be contrasted with individual officials or agents who act corruptly within the system.

**CAUSES OF CORRUPTION**

* Greed of money, desires.
* Higher levels of market and political monopolization
* Low levels of democracy, weak civil participation and low political transparency
* Higher levels of bureaucracy and inefficient administrative structures
* Low economic freedom
* Large ethnic divisions and high levels of in-group favoritism

**METHODS OF CORRUPTION**

* 1. **BRIBERY:** Bribery involves the improper use of gifts and favours in exchange for personal gain. The types of favours given are diverse and may include money, gifts, sexual favours, company shares, entertainment, employment and political benefits.
  2. **Embezzlement, theft and fraud**: Embezzlement and theft involve someone with access to funds or assets illegally taking control of them. Fraud involves using deception to convince the owner of funds or assets to give them up to an unauthorized party.
  3. **Extortion and Blackmail:** While bribery is the use of positive inducements for corrupt aims, extortion and blackmail centre around the use of threats. This can be the threat of violence or false imprisonment as well as exposure of an individual's secrets or prior crimes.
  4. **Favoritism, nepotism and clientelism:** Favouritism, nepotism and clientelism involve the favouring of not the perpetrator of corruption but someone related to them, such as a friend, family member or member of an association. Examples would include hiring or promoting a family member or staff member to a role they are not qualified for, who belongs to the same political party as you, regardless of merit.

## **EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION**

The negative consequences of corruption are many, and among them are:

### ****1. Poor Investment****

Unemployment in Nigeria would have been eradicated to some extent if only investors were attracted to doing business in the country. Companies that would have invested in Nigeria are afraid because they do not know if the corrupt practice will ruin their industries over time. Because of this concern, they refuse to invest in Nigeria.

### ****2. Rise in Poverty****

When the heads of public service are busy laundering the money that is supposed to be used to create employment for the masses and reduce poverty, what happens is a rise in the poverty level of the country, just like the rise in poverty shown by the statistics between 2004 and 2008.

### ****3. Poor National Development****

Any country with high corruption levels is likely to experience developmental bankruptcy. When some CEOs indulge in corrupt practices to make their money, economic development will suffer. When Nigerians keep on shifting the country’s currency to foreign countries, there will be less economic development in Nigeria.

### ****4. National Crises****

So many crises in Nigeria today are a result of corruption. The insecurity in Nigeria brought about by Boko Haram is a consequence of corruption. Corrupt politicians are fighting the government of President Goodluck Jonathan using Boko Haram as their agent because they do not want him to succeed. The attacks by Boko Haram have caused disorderliness in Nigeria and seriously affected the country's economy.

## **ERADICATING CORRUPRTION**

1. **SELF-SATISFACTION**

Self-satisfaction in this context implies being content with what one has. When the leaders of Nigeria are satisfied with the salary they are paid and use public funds in a proper manner, the issue of embezzlement and money laundering will be history. Managers who are satisfied with what they are paid will not have time to indulge in corruption to make more money.

### ****2. INSTITUITIION OF STRONG ANTI-CORRUPTION GROUPS****

Creating strong anti-corruption institutions is another arsenal to win the fight against corruption. This group is to work independently with the government to ensure transparency.

### ****3. EMPLOYMENT GENERATION****

The unemployed in the country find themselves involved in corruption mainly because they want to make money to meet the demand of the day. Governments and capable hands should endeavour to generate more jobs for citizens to get employed and paid in return.

### ****4. TREATING ALL CITIZENS EQUALLY****

Treating any offender in the country equally will help reduce corruption. Nobody is above the law and any who acts contrary to it should be given the punishment that he or she deserves. That she is the Minister of Aviation or Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria should not count in this case. If any minister or head of state is given the punishment he deserves for corruption, others will learn and separate themselves from any corrupt practice.