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## CORRUPTION AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Since independence, corruption and insecurity have been adversely affecting socio-economic development in Nigeria. Due to the selfish interests of all who go into politics for the primitive accumulation of wealth, it has been reduced to a zero-sum game. When politics becomes a do or die affair, the end result is insecurity. When the motive behind the struggle for state power is to steal, the competition becomes violent as these politicians can do anything even if it involves assassination, human sacrifice, arson and other unprintable vices just to have their way.

Corruption refers to the fraudulent and dishonest behaviour by those in positions of power, such as managers or government officials for their private gain. On the other hand, insecurity is the state of being open to danger or threat; lack of protection. Corruption and insecurity go hand-to-hand and the former is displayed in all levels of the society including the school, private organisations and even the church. People now even consider corruption as "the right way" and hence forgive the consequences it could bring later on. The major cause of corruption is greed; greed among politicians, greed among public servants, greed among civil servants and even greed among the common man.

Politicians no longer care about the interests of the people in their quest for power and their greed for more wealth make them do anything to keep this power. The crime rate is on the rise as the unemployed hungry and angry youths are recruited and armed by the renegade politicians to terrorize opponents and even endanger the lives of innocent people. After the elections, with guns on their hands, they resort to armed robbery and kidnapping and hence put the lives of people at risk. These politicians are not the only ones to be blamed as the people have all encouraged it. When it falls back on them, they end up crying. Private organisations and even businesses which are not supp



to give or usher personal information about a client to any stranger end up doing so at the slightest chance of a bribe without considering the harm that might befall that individual due to these actions. Everyone now collects bribes even down to children, as siblings collect bribe from one another just to perform a particular task.

Non-Compliance with the rule of law is another root cause of corruption and insecurity in the country. Rule of law is the supremacy of the law above everyone in the society irrespective of their economic, political and social status. Rule of law advocates for equality before the law, impartiality when dealing with offenders and also respect for human rights. In Nigeria, people are categorized by the way they look and dress, the rule of law is not followed as those who possess instinctive ideas to move the country forward are set aside because they do not have enough money to contest elections; while those who are now sponsored by godfathers to contest these elections forget about the people's interest and face the interests of the ones who put them in power and leaving the people insecure. The fundamental human rights of individuals are not even considered. When certain broadcasters and TV stations possess certain information concerning the fraudulent acts performed ~~by~~ by political officers, the latter forgets the individuals right to freedom of speech and hence kills the broadcaster in a bid to keep his secret safe. Those in private organizations are even promoted on the basis of who is finer, richer or belongs to the same tribe as the boss instead of based on intellectual performances. This impartiality played by the boss makes the other jealous and puts the life of the other one in danger.

Other causes of corruption and insecurity are the proliferation of arms and ammunitions by the common man, poverty among the people which makes them to do anything just to get food on their table, weak security system and the lack of maximisation of the security budget as



as the money which had been budgeted for the procurement of arms and ammunition for the security agencies in the fight against insurgency are being embezzled by those in power, struggle for resources and land, high rate of illiteracy among Nigerians and terrorism.

This increasing incidence of the twin evils of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria have created a thousand and one crisis for the ~~the~~ public. This includes; under-development and infrastructural decay, poverty and hunger, insurgency, militancy, political thuggery, drug abuse and youth restlessness. Money which have been given to contractors to build roads are squandered by these contractors and the roads are done ~~haphazardly~~ <sup>haphazardly</sup> putting the road users in great danger as in no time the roads go back to their crooked manner. Youths who have been deprived of job opportunities which they are surely qualified for ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~required~~ by tribalistic and impartial bosses tend to involve themselves in social vices such as armed robbery, kidnapping and even drug abuse.

Corruption or the quest for primitive accumulation of wealth has pitifully reduced politics to warfare in Nigeria and has no doubt brought untold hardship for the people. In order to gradually reduce corruption in the country to its barest minimum, the penalty for corrupt practices and electoral violence should be reviewed from what it is now to either life imprisonment or death sentence to serve as a deterrent to politicians, CINC or security education should be restored in the primary and secondary school curriculum, rule of law and quality leadership should be firmly established, the emolument and remunerations in public offices should be pruned down to reduce the attraction and unhealthy political competition and the spirit of nationalism should be enshrined in the minds of the citizenry.

The major solution is for the Nigerian government to govern in a way that fosters development to provide gainful employment, functional and useful education and quality health care for the people.