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 **BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION**

The word corruption is derived from the Latin word “Corruptus,” which means corrupted and in legal terms, the abuse of a trusted position in one of the branches of power (executive, legislative and judicial) or in political or other organization with the intention of obtaining material benefit which is not legally justified for itself or for others. Corruption was referred to as a great sin already in the bible “Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twist the words of the innocent.” However, the history of corruption is in fact related to the beginning of the creation of law and the state was already in the anti equity considered an evil, which negatively affects the public administration and functioning of the political system.

The earliest records of corruption date back to the 13th century BC, to the time of the Assyrian civilization. From the found plates, written in cuneiform, the archeologists managed to discern how and who accepted bribes. Under the Roman law, the criminal offence of corruption was defined as given, receiving or claiming benefits in order to influence an official in connection with his work. Due to the prevalence of corruption in the country, this law was supplemented by a new law, which predicted compensation for damage in double value of the damage, and the loss of political rights for the perpetrator of the corruptive act. However, this did not help alleviate corruption, especially due to the fact that corruption was the most practiced by the members of the senate and senior state officials, both in Rome itself and in the remote Roman provinces.

The early Christian faith condemned corruption, yet corruption later also developed greatly in ecclesiastical structures, and achieved it pick with the selling of indulgences in the middle ages, all until the condemnation of the latter (as well as of other immoral acts of the clergy, with the pope at the head) martin Luther. Apart from the condemnation of corruption, the reformation also led to a break with until then dominant catholic culture and the emergence of protestant ethics.

 Corruption is prevalent in the Niger delta region of Nigeria; public officers in this oil producing state of Nigeria are corrupt. Consequently, it has defied the Niger delta from developing politically and economically which has left the state reputation in a mess. Radicalization of youths, abject poverty and political instability are the three leading effects of corruption in Niger delta region of Nigeria. Most children in the Niger delta have little or no education, due to lack of funds from their parents who have lost their lands and have no jobs because of limited opportunities.

The Niger delta government and the oil companies have refused to look into the situation; instead they favor their close relations neglecting the masses. Corruption in the Niger delta has led some youths in taking drastic measures in order to put food on their table. For example Okechuku Efe an indigene of the Niger delta said that some of his friends created their own all oil refinery which is made up of crude oil in metal barrels with controlled heat from fire woods.

This is a dangerous process in refining crude oil but the degree of poverty in the state left his friends with no choice. If only the government of the Niger delta have created jobs with the wealth of the state Okechuku friends would not have put their life in danger. Until corruption is put to an abrupt the people of the Niger delta will continue to leave in poverty.

The origin and cause of corruption in Nigeria the height of corruption in Nigeria and the increasing indulgence in the act is alarming. It is easy to conclude that corruption first find it roots on the Nigerian inventions nor exclusively Nigerian. Since the ultimate source of rent seeking behavior is the availability of rent, corruption is likely to occur where restrictions and government intervention lead to the presence of excessive profits.

Examples include trade restrictions (such as tariffs and import quotas ), favoritism industrial polices (such as subsidies and tax deductions), price controls, multiple exchange rates practices and foreign exchange allocation schemes , and government-controlled provision of credits . Some rents may arise In the absence of government intervention, as in the case of natural resources , such as oil, whose supply is limited by nature and whose extraction cost is far lower than it market price.

Since abnormal profits are available to those who extract oil, officials who allocate extraction rights are likely to be offered bribes. Finally one would expect that corruption is more likely to take place when civil servants are paid very low wages and often must result to collecting bribes in order to feed their families.

Effect of corruption in Nigeria hits the low layers of the population. People have to survive in the country where rules can be omitted if you have money. The distribution of financial resources in Nigeria inadequate. It leads to the increasing growth of low income families. The middle class that should form the majority of the population has no significant effect on politics. The gap between the poorest and the wealthiest citizens is extremely wide.

The government desires to dive into nepotism. It means that Nigerian get highly entrusted government representatives. No progress can be made in Nigeria with corrupted government. Bribery and corruption in Nigeria have a long history. From the very beginning of its independence, the government officials did not miss any opportunity to steal money from the budget of the country.

Foreign direct investment sector has significantly decreased in the last decade. Foreign investment can provide real growth of GDP and jobs in Nigeria. Still, investors do not like the idea of spending even one cent in vain. Government effectiveness is also damaged due to the situation with corruption. The officials on high levels of Nigeria also get bribes. It means that their interests in creating law can be strictly lobbied by price.

The dynamic impart of corruption in Nigeria is felt by every layer of the population. The most fragile social layer is poor households and small firms. Corruption in the sector of economy reduces any chances to increase human investment and capital. Cases of corruption in Nigeria are widely associated with poor public finance management. The increasing number of barriers from public provisions decreases the ability to do business.

Corruption does not mean bribery only, as usually understood. Corruption is a complex issue and concept. Political corruption is much better concept is much better concept to cover all kind of WRONGDOINGS in political decision making process. There is a need of coherent, overall and holistic approach to understand corruption.

Effect anti-corruption reform is a long term process. Effective anti-corruption effort requires political will and clean commitment from the top level.