NAME: Chidera Christogonus Ndubisi

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Topic: political corruption in Nigeria.

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The corruption within Government Politics in Nigeria.

Corruption is generally defined as the misuse of public authority, and political corruption is here defined as corruption in which the political decision-makers are involved. In addition to a review of the various definitions of corruption a classification of the various forms of corruption (bribery, embezzlement, fraud and extortion), this paper presents two alternative theories on corruption ("extractive" and "redistributive") in order to illustrate the effects of corruption in various regime types. Furthermore, the paper presents some causes and effects of corruption, in particular in political terms. Finally, various sources of anti-corruption initiatives and endowment are discussed (even when the effect of democratization in curtailing corruption is not too strong according to the possible source of corruption).

There are two opposing views on the role political corruption plays on the economy of a country. The first group argued that corruption tends to slowdown economic growth via reduction in human capital development in the form less spending on education and healthcare, misallocation of resources, inadequate domestic investment, less provisions of social amenities and transfers to the poor, and high inequality and poverty, among other things.

The ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) won the 2015 and 2019 Presidential elections on the promise that it will tackle corruption head-on, fight insecurity as well as developing the economy. In addition, the President (Muhammadu Buhari) has repeatedly said that ‘if Nigerians don’t kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria’. It is not surprising therefore, that the government is investigating alleged embezzlement of over $2billion that was meant to prosecute the war against insurgency and Boko-Haram by cabinet members and high-ranking government officials including political associates of the previous administration, the People’s Democratic Party (PDP). To this end, the former National Security Adviser (NSA) and Spokesperson of the PDP were apprehended and are currently standing trial. Similarly, the former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) was suspended and he is been prosecuted for failing to declare his assets (properties and cash running into millions of dollars). Recently, the government anti-corruption fight paid-off as two former state Governors were convicted and sentenced to fourteen years in prison, respectively, on account of defrauding and/or embezzling funds belonging to their states.

 **EFFECTS OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA**

\*Rigging of election.

\*Poor economic growth.

\*Political Instability.

\*Abject poverty. (In the process of withholding public funds for private or personal gain there by leading to unemployment or increase in crime rate by stealing from one another for survival.

\*Radicalization of youth. And leaving no hope for Nigerian youth.

 **Causes of political corruption in Nigeria**

A number of factors have been identified as instrumental to enthroning political 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 is also one of the very few countries in the world where a man’s source of wealth is of no concern to his neighbors, 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

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 political 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 super cede formal ones, thereby making stringent legal principles and procedures to lose 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.

 **NIGERIAN POLITICAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INTIATIVES**

The belief that corrupt practices are inconsistent with the democratic values of good governance and the rule of law. Nigerians knew they could not afford the social, political, or economic costs that systematic political corruption had inflicted on their country. The failure to address the issue of corruption would amount to economic suicide. It became obvious that something had to be done to restore Nigeria to its former glory. The current government started by investigating what other countries had implemented to eradicate corruption, and followed suit by revisiting some of its own anti-corruption laws, promulgating new anti-corruption initiatives, and creating task forces to actualize those initiatives.

 **CONCLUSION**

There is a clear-cut correlation between political corruption and economic growth, and if stringent measure is not taken about it, the development of the affected country 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 there by 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. Political 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 reform shave yielded some concrete results with a reduction of political 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.