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Corruption and its effects on Nigeria.

Nigeria is famous for the top spot in Africa regarding corruption practices. Some might say it runs in our veins, and we can't blame them because it seems that almost everything we do has a hint of corruption and nothing can be seen as genuine anymore. The pinnacle of corruption is our leaders who enter power for the sake of selfish gains. It profits the people nothing electing a cause it always seems to be the same outcome of events. The leaders use the nation's money to look after themselves and the people suffer in squalor. Resulting in various means by hook or by crook to put food in their mouth for both them and their families. We'll be looking at various causes of corruption, its effects and vice versa if corruption is uprooted.

While looking at corruption, we cannot ignore the causes and reasons for why it comes about in our society. Causes like greed are seen as a major factor for instigating corruption in Nigeria. Greed is what leads our politicians to embezzle national funds that are meant for the development of the country. If our leaders can learn how to stop seeking personal gain and start working for the good of the community, then corruption will be greatly defeated. However, seeing that they are unable to, we the citizens that elect them into the office suffer greatly for it.

Poverty is another factor that leads to corruption. Why is this so? Poor people are easily influenced by the wealthy ones which are usually the politicians who seek to coerce them into committing crimes such as rigging elections, accepting bribes, etc. The politicians are aware that the poor are easily influenced, that's why they won't pass bills that will improve the standard of living of the masses. But if the politicians show compassion and start doing the work they were elected to do, Nigeria will be a much better place.

Apathy or political apathy to be precise is a major cause for corruption. It gives room for corruption because citizens of the state don't believe in voting for a better government. People have lost faith in their leaders and thus no longer see the need to vote in elections. People's faith needs to be restored and they need to believe in the government and more importantly, in themselves to make the right call on who should lead them. The most efficient means is through selfless and qualified political leaders who will give the people hope while in political office. They need to realize that their vote holds great and significant power and endeavor to register and vote in every election.

Illiteracy cannot be left out. The lack of education is one of the causes of corruption. If people were educated they'd know the kind of damage the corrupt government was doing to the country and in turn vote them out of the office. In our fight on corruption, we need to make funding education a priority so that we can

win this war against corruption.

The lack of right attitude by our politicians. If our politicians had the right attitude to work, they would know how to carry out their duties to the nation diligently and effectively. Politicians must start carrying out their duties the right way so as to ensure that the nation moves forward. Doing the work they were elected to do entail refusing to collect bribes and refusal to embezzle public funds. They should also be quick to report any of their colleagues who engage in any act of corruption, that's one of the ways that corruption can be fought.

Lack of the freedom of press because those in authority silences or manipulates the media. In a corrupt administration, a ripple effect can said to be the silencing of the press. If the press can't report on the corrupt activities going on then they are less hidden from the public. In order to rid our society of corruption, we must exercise the freedom of the press and ensure by all means it stays that way. Law makers should also enact laws that ensure press freedom; this is so that journalists are not prosecuted whenever they report news that goes against the current administration.

Another effect of the corruption in Nigeria is the lack of the independence of the Judiciary. The court they say is the last hope of common man where every man is found equal be they rich or poor. In order to make sure that human right is protected, we must make sure that the judiciary is independent from other arms of government. We must make sure that we appoint only unbiased judges so as to rid corruption from our society.

Also, lack of patriotism. For our Nigeria to progress we need patriots. We need people who love our country to occupy office. If a politician truly loves his country he will bring no harm to it. Patriotism should be one of the criteria for politics, only those that love their countries should be allowed to rule it. Patriotic politicians (that are very hard to come by) are the ones who report their colleagues who engage in corruption.

One more factor for corruption we'll be looking at is lack of selflessness. What we need are selfless leaders. Leaders who will put the need of the people before their own personal agenda. If we want to free our society from the shackles of corruption then we must endeavor to appoint only selfless leaders to lead government. Politics is one of the best ways to serve your country and in order to do it right you need to do it selflessly.

Viewing these various factors, we can establish that corruption has rooted itself deeply in our country and fighting it seems impossible. However, we must thrive in the face of it and not fall to the whims of the temptations it grants us, just as so many of our leaders have. There were rumors that CBN governor Emefiele, who found out the embezzlement of hundreds of billions by Sabiu Tunde, rather than do the just thing and come out with such atrocity decided to help him mask his crimes properly. It's just not right and unfair. This scenario is also similar to the fraud recently discovered in Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA). Discovered by an audit team appointed by the government. And so many other cases that are of no good to our society and wreak nothing but havoc.

We need a new, corrupt free system, with young leaders who think for others and not just themselves. For Nigeria to grow it is essential we heed to what is good and uproot whatever is bad and unnecessary. And all that, starts today, with you.