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Corruption in Nigeria.

Corruption is the biggest issue facing us today in Nigeria. It is obvious that the country has an extremely high level of corruption. Corruption is found in every sector of our society. What is corruption? Corruption is a dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery. It is the illegitimate use of power to benefit private interest. It also involves embezzlement of public funds for personal use.

Nigeria failed when it came to transparency in the country’s government. Corruption in Nigeria hurts a lot of people, as the money that would have been used to reduce poverty and help the needy is being channeled into the pockets of a selected few. One of the campaign promises made by President Muhammadu Buhari was the massive eradication of corruption in the country, but instead corruption keep on increasing.

Corruption is not only experienced by the President, Governors or Ministers, we ourselves are also guilty of it too. It is like a disease that spreads from mother to child. Corruption is not only observed in the public sector and politics, it is also observed in the following: churches, universities or colleges, communities, police force, custom service and so on. It is hard to enter any sector in Nigeria without observing one corrupt practice or another.

Corruption can exist in different forms which include:

Political corruption is persistent in the Nigerian states, and it is also seen as a normal thing. Political corruption takes place in many forms, starting with embezzlement, election rigging and thuggery, bribery and rituals.

Corruption in universities and colleges takes place in forms like harassment of female students by lecturers and pressure to sleep with them. In most cases the female lecturers to are sometimes sexually harassed by the male students. Another form is that some students enter schools through bribery. Some rich families bribe vice chancellors and heads of departments to secure admission for their children, those who would have made it on merit are cheated, as admission will not be offered to them.

A number of issues cause corruption, and among them are.

Firstly, greed. This has brought about a lot of crises in Nigeria. It is because of greed that the political leaders embezzle the funds they are suppose to use for national development for their own selfish needs. Some politicians go ahead and store money in warehouses, preserving it for the future, whereas they can use that money to boost the economy of the country.

Secondly, poverty. As at now Nigeria has the highest rate of extreme poverty globally. The rate keeps on increasing. There are many poor people in Nigeria, and poverty pushes them into corruption. It is one of the reasons why the poor youths in the country collect bribes to work as thugs for the politicians. They also get involved in various crimes like kidnapping, armed robbery and so on to survive.

Finally, unemployment. This is one of the most major challenges in Nigeria. People are pushed into corrupt practices because of unemployment. Some People who graduated from universities with outstanding results, won’t get jobs at all, instead they go about looking for what to do, in order to make money and live better. Words cannot explain the level of punishment the citizens of this country face as a result of this menace.

Here are the negative effects of corruption in our nation Nigeria.

First of all, poor investment. Companies that would have invested in Nigeria are afraid, because they do not know if the corrupt practice will ruin their industries overtime. Because of this, they refuse to invest in Nigeria, instead they prefer to invest their money abroad, because they know that it is safer there to invest. If no one is investing in the Nigeria, there won’t be growth in the economy in country.

Secondly, rise in poverty. Because the government is selfish and refuse to help the poor, poverty will continue to increase in Nigeria. I feel like the government are not doing their work right, because we the citizens are playing our role right, by paying taxes, and following the rules of the country, but we are not seeing any good outcome the country is giving us. Instead the leaders continue to launder millions and prefer to see the citizens in anguish.

Lastly poor national development. Any country with high level of corruption is likely to experience developmental bankruptcy. That is why now, our currency has no value at all. I remember my parents telling me of how life was good and sweet many years ago, that time our currency still had value and items were cheap to get and the economy was good and everyone happy. But now things are hard in the country, everyone struggling to get money. As at now, Nigeria is in a huge debt of about thirty-three trillion naira from 2006 till date. This is as a result of the poor development in our country. Now that the country is bankrupt, our leaders then lend money from other countries to solve our issues.

Corrupt Nigerians do not understand the harm they are causing to other citizens. Here are some ways of eradicating corruption.

To start with, self-satisfaction. When the leaders in Nigeria are satisfied with the salary they are paid and use public finds in a proper manner, the problem of embezzlement and money laundering will be history. If our leaders are contented with what they have, they will not have time to partake in any form of corruption to make more money.

Also, generation of employment. The unemployed find themselves involved in corruption mainly to get money and also meet their demands for the day. So we implore the government to generate more jobs for the citizens to get employed and paid in return. If one is busy earning money and doing work, he or she won’t indulge in corruption because they are adequately paid.

Lastly, treating all citizens equal. Treating any offender in the country equally will help reduce corruption. Nobody is above the law and any one who acts contrary to it should be given the punishment they deserve, irrespective of your position in the country, be it the Minister, Governor, and so on. If the Minister or any person in office is found guilty involved in any corrupt practice and is punished dearly, others will learn and desist from such.

Remaining corrupt as a country is not a good record, it destroys our image as a citizen of that country, it tarnishes the name of that country. Corruption is like a cankerworm that has eaten deeply into the fabric of our Nigerian society. Let us try to resist to indulge in corruption, to make our country a better and healthy place, so that we can live peacefully and happily.