

# The Challenges of Corrupt Practices and Its Implication on Good Governance in Nigeria

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## Abstract

Corruption is one of the biggest obstacles to economic and political advancement of Nigeria. This phenomenon has grown into a cankerworm that is deeply ingrained in our system's architecture. The broad objective of this study is to examine the challenges of corrupt practices and its implication on good governance in Nigeria. Leadership theory was employed as the theoretical framework of the paper. The study adopted mixed methods to collecting data. The findings identified bad leadership, lack of adequate funding of anti-corruption agencies, lack of reforms, lack of national integration and poor working conditions as catalysts of corruption in Nigeria. The study recommended formulation and implementation of policies that promote good governance, independent of anti-corruption agencies and demonstration of statutory power to prosecute corrupt persons without considering their status, to serve as deterrence. It is appropriate to start a more fruitful mass citizen mobilization for national integration in order to instill a sense of patriotism in the populace.

## 1. Introduction

Corruption is a worldwide phenomenon as there is no nation totally free from it. However, some nations exhibit more corruption than others because the latter have placed the required checks and balances in place to reduce the potential for corruption. Nigeria, the largest oil producer in Africa and the ninth largest globally, is endowed with a multitude of natural and human resources. Regrettably, Nigeria has been listed as one of the world's poorest nations despite its human resources and material wealth (Lawal, Imokhuede and Johnson, 2012).

The effect has manifested in extreme unemployment, a general dearth of business prospects, low living standards, depreciating currency, and a failure to provide for the majority of its citizens' basic needs (Adedeji, 2024). The lives of majority of Nigeria have been greatly impacted by corruption, and as well stoked hostility among them. Corruption has ingrained so thoroughly within the governmental and non-governmental organizations in Nigeria, as well as the commercial sector, that it is now practically a way of life (Onoge, 2011).

In the contemporary governance, the application of good governance principles stands an impetus in determining the effectiveness and efficiency of government. Sadly, the corrupt get-rich-quick mentality has also seriously decimated the idea. In Nigeria, corruption has played a major role in the retardation and failure of governance. Due to the pervasiveness of corruption, the nation has been facing the challenges of putting policies that advance good governance into place and make the democratic process more successful (Onoge, 2011).

A number of initiatives implemented by the country's various governments have initiated to address corruption and poor governance. Nonetheless, the persistence of corruption in Nigerian society illustrates the

shortcomings of the anti-corruption initiatives (Adedeji, 2024). Therefore, the broad objective of the study is to examine the challenges of corrupt practices and its implication on good governance in Nigeria.

## 2. Review of Literature

### 2.1 Conceptual Analysis

Defining corruption is a daunting challenging venture. Given the variety of forms and circumstances in which it manifests, corruption is seen as a complicated phenomenon with numerous origins and effects. The challenging tendency of corruption to vanish in one hand and its capacity to take on new forms in other hand is one of the main conceptual challenges (Andrig and Fjelstad, 2011). Due to the lack of a consensus definition, the concept of corruption has proven elusive in many respects (Adenugba, 2013).

The word corruption's etymology indicates that it comes from the Greek word "corruptus," which means an anomaly or misnomer (CLEEN Foundation, 2010). According to Hartsch (1993), the notion of corruption in Nigeria refers to a real-world issue that includes outright stealing, misappropriating money or other state property, nepotism, and doing favours for close friends or family. It has been comprehensively defined as a distortion or a change from good to bad. Dike (2008) defined corruption as the transgression of laws for one's own benefit and financial gain.

Agbu (2003) in his wisdom, observed that public office can be perverted for personal gain even when bribery, the stealing of public resources, or the diversion of state resources does not occur, through patronage and nepotism. Therefore, any activity that deviates from a standard when it comes to public trust is considered corrupt. Whether the offender falls under any of the aforementioned categories, elected, chosen, nominated, appointed, or not it also refers to theft of public confidence. Whether the afflicted person is an official or not is irrelevant because anyone can be corrupted.

According to Nye (2011), corruption is a departure from official obligations motivated by personal gain. This covers actions like misappropriation, nepotism and bribery. In a similar vein, Otite (2010) sees corruption as the perversion of integrity, manifested through actions like moral depravity, bribery, or excessive favours. It is focused on the actions of employees who encourage dishonest situations. Corruption can also be defined as the misuse of public office for personal gain when a public servant takes, requests, or demands a bribe (World Bank, 2011).

Corruption can also be described as unrestrained actions calculated to change the standard path of decisions and the status quo of trust (Otite, 2010). Transparency International described corruption as the misuse of confided power for personal advantage, while the United Nations defines it as the misuse of power for personal advantage (CLEEN Foundation, 2010). According to Otite (2010), corruption is the subversion of a situation's integrity or morality through bribery, favouritism, or moral depravity. Hence, Otite's concept is broad as it encompasses the ethical dimensions of governmental actions.

Governance can be defined as an art of given leadership to a set of people in a defined area. It is the process of replacing government and the capacity of government to successfully formulate and implement appropriate policies (Onu, Chiamogu and Chiamogu, 2022). The essence of governance is enhancing the legitimacy of the public realm. Hence, legitimacy in accordance to the above becomes a vital element of effective governance (Adedeji, 2022). In general, government is always limited to public institutions within the community, whereas governance encompasses both private and public organizations, as well as the collaborations between them (Adedeji, 2022). It can therefore be admitted that governance is wider in scope than government.

Furthermore, good governance is a form of government that is built on strong leadership, respect for the law, due process, political leadership's accountability to the people, and openness in all aspects of government (Odock, 2006 referenced in Adedeji, 2022). In practical terms, good governance entails the state using its political authority and public resources responsibly and creating an environment that is conducive to social, ecological, and market-oriented growth (Bundschuh-Rieseneder, 2008).

To provide a more thorough definition, good governance can be described as "the transparent and accountable management of natural, human, financial, and economic resources for the purposes of equitable and sustainable development, within the framework of a political and institutional environment that upholds the rule of law, democratic principles, and human rights" (Bundschuh-Rieseneder, 2008). As stated in Vision 2010 (quoted in Ahule, 2013), the attributes of good governance include accountability, legitimacy and responsiveness to the public, managerial and organizational performance, transparency in decision-making, and pluralism in policy options and choices.

### 2.2 Theoretical framework

The study employed leadership theory as its theoretical framework to explaining the pervasive nature of corruption and its antecedent effects on good governance in Nigeria. According to the theory, leadership is the art or practice of persuading others to voluntarily work toward the accomplishment of collective objectives. (David and Akhakpe, 2021). As a result, a leader needs to be crystal clear about the path he wants his followers to take.

According to the theory, transformational and transparent leadership equates to the achievement of favourable results. Good leadership goes beyond basic considerations of religion, ethnicity, and nepotism to create the political and social climate that is necessary for utilizing the diverse talents of the populace. This is achieved through the creation and implementation of creative policies, inclusiveness toward different groups, effective representation, and a down-to-earth leadership style.

Transparency and transformational leadership are now essential given the complex developmental difficulties that nations face. A leader who is transformative and transparent sets a good example for others by working for the good of the group, company, and/or community. These are absent in Nigeria, which has contributed to the country's poor level of development. Nigeria's underdevelopment will be lifted out of the country by transparent and transformative leadership.

It was deduced from the theory that the fundamental challenge of Nigeria is failure of leadership, as Achebe (1983) rightly observed "the challenges of Nigeria is its leaders' unwillingness accepting responsibility and take on the burden of setting a positive personal example, which is the mark of great leadership". Since its independence, Nigeria has not enjoyed much of transparent and transformational leadership.

Nigeria's successive leaders have failed to build a hegemonic and developmental state that is punishable for corruption and other socially bad behaviour by rising above basic reasons. Nigeria continues to play with corruption because corrupt public officials have not received strict punishment, unlike other nations where stiff sanctions, such as the death penalty, have been applied.

### 2.3 Various Types of Corruption in Nigeria

Scholars have taken a holistic approach by dividing corruption into several forms. These according to Taylor (2010) include but not limited to:

- **Political Corruption:** This is a situation when public decision-makers (politicians), who are responsible for formulation and implementation of laws guiding the conduct of people are corrupt. It also happens when laws and policies are crafted with politicians' interests in mind.
- **Bureaucratic Corruption:** This corruption takes place in the course of public policy implementation. This is when officer demanding favour before official duty is discharge for citizens. In places where services are provided, like hospitals, schools, municipal licensing offices, police stations, and government ministries, citizens regularly deal with this form of corruption.
- **Electoral Corruption:** Election tampering and other electoral scams are considered forms of electoral corruption. Promises of office, special favours, coercion, intimidation, and influencing the voter are all included. Voters are also bought off, disenfranchised, ballot boxes are stolen, victims are maimed, election results are altered to favour the losers, and votes are recorded in places where none were cast.
- **Bribery:** Bribery is defined as the act of offering, providing, accepting, or consenting to receive money, gifts, or other valuables with the corrupt intention of influencing a public official's performance of their official duties or of making a compromise. Kickbacks, gratuities, payoffs, sweeteners, palm-greasing, and back-scratching are only a few examples.
- **Fraud:** It is a wrongful or criminal misleading calculated to result in financial or personal advantage. Further, it is an intension to deceive the victim by unjustifiable claim of qualities or accomplishments. Trickery, swindling, dishonesty, counterfeiting, racketing, smuggling, and forgery are examples of this.
- **Embezzlement:** It is conceptually defined as a theft or misappropriation of funds belonging to one's employer that is placed in one's trust. It is officially defined as public officials pilfering public resources. It is the theft of a public servant from the public institution where he is gainfully employed. Perhaps as a result of lax regulations, misappropriation of public funds is a prevalent means of accumulating money in Nigeria.
- **Extortion:** It is the act of obtaining something, especially money by unlawful use of authority or power. It shows up via the use of threats, violence, or coercion. Many perceive it as an extraction from below. Many in the police force and other paramilitaries are culpable of this in Nigeria.
- **Favouritism:** This is an abuse of power mechanism that suggests a skewed allocation of public funds. Though it has done damage to good governance and meritocracy in Nigeria, yet it has not been seen as a vice, but as human natural opportunity to assist family, friends, or any closed and trusted associates.
- **Nepotism:** Nepotism is a specific type of favouritism where a public servant gives preference to relatives over other eligible individuals for public positions. Nepotism is the practice of giving undue favour when allocating limited resources or of illegally escaping the application of specific regulations. Unfortunately, it has evolved into a social norm in modern-day Nigeria.

## 2.4 Corrupt Activities and Governments' Capacity to Provide Services

This is governments' ability to create, devise, and carry out policies; provide services; and uphold the rule of law and human rights. The real condition of affairs shows that careless and inefficient use of tax funds has characterized government activities. Speaking of the many instances of public project funding being diverted in this way, Oghi (2013) claimed that corruption has caused public facilities in Nigeria to collapse, and severely impoverishing the populace.

The fund budgeted for infrastructure projects like schools, hospitals, roads, refineries, power plants, and so forth are either directly misappropriated or by the granting of fictitious contracts to their cronies. According to ThinkAfrica (2012), the absence of social safety nets and high unemployment rates in Nigeria are the result of political class actions, leaving the public disenfranchised and impoverished. Both the current and previous Nigerian governments only make modest attempts to fight corruption.

One can only envisage the kind of phenomenal socio-economic advancement that would have improved the lot of the majority if public funds hadn't been embezzled by top level officials. Funds intended for the training of the personnel and security equipment are ostensibly misappropriated through corruption. The result is incessant incidents of armed robbery, kidnapping, and other vices.

Due to the dearth of security of work, civil servants in Nigeria are under increasing pressure to attempt and fraudulently earn more money while they are in office, to accumulate enough savings to get them through old age and avoid the hardships of the country's pension systems. If Nigeria wants to firmly establish good governance, she must be more determined to eradicate the evil known as corruption from the system.

Nigerian local governments suffer greatly from corruption, which is why most secretariats particularly those in rural areas are frequently abandoned until the end of the month, when salaries are due. As a result, secretariats are frequently empty for extended periods of time (ThinkAfrica, 2012). Indeed, Nigerians have lost out on the advantages of good governance due to corruption. Ogundiya (2008) claimed that corruption cost Nigeria over US\$380 billion between the country's independence in 1960 and the military dictatorship's demise in 1999.

The reckless depletion of public funds is the cause of the socioeconomic retrogression and bad governance that are seen in every aspect of national life. Nigeria's private sector, which ought to be at the forefront of growth, is not exempt from corruption. It is clear from the foregoing that corruption is a pervasive issue in Nigeria. Instances of unethical behaviour in Nigeria have adversely impacted the government's ability to fulfill its constitutional obligations and election pledges. Hence, have disastrous effects on the advancement of the country.

## 2.5 Catalysts for Corruption in Nigeria

Series of factors have been noted to encouraging and serve as the catalyst for corrupt practices in Nigeria. Few of the fundamental factors are highlighted accordingly.

- **Bad Leadership Precedents/Impunity:** Many Nigerians believe that politics might be a fast path to financial success. In fact, Nigeria's power corridors have seen the highest levels of corruption (Dike, 2008). The quantity of state governors, local government chairmen, and federal appointees who are currently and historically under investigation for corruption serves as proof. Here, corruption is refined by exaggerated contracts that are repeatedly carried out, either by using the cash provided to the sectors or by transferring them to personal accounts.
- **Lack of Adequate Funding of Anti-Corruption Agencies:** Fighting corruption in this age of high-tech crimes, corporate corruption, and civil or administrative corruption would be futile without sufficient financing. Since several of these organizations have lamented the lack of funds for them to carry out their responsibilities, Nigeria is gravely falling behind in this area (CLEEN Foundation, 2010).
- **Lack of a Comprehensive Database:** According to the CLEAN Foundation (2010), Nigeria does not have an all-inclusive database on its citizens. This is seriously impairing criminal investigations and information sharing with international counterparts. Maintaining accurate record will inevitably discourage the offenders.
- **Lack of Reforms:** According to Anazodo, Igbokwe-Ibeto, and Nkah (2015), there are no long-term changes in the public sector, which is responsible for more than half of corrupt activities in Nigeria. Reforms in government agencies including the judiciary and civil service will significantly lessen Nigeria's corruption problems.
- **Lack of National Integration:** Nigerians are known to be divided along a number of lines. As a result, corruption cases are construed according to political, ethnic, tribal, or regional criteria (CLEEN Foundation, 2010). Nearly all government appointment is erroneously justified as "our turn of the national cake." This has made it impossible to properly denounce situations of corruption.
- **Low Salaries and Poor Working Conditions:** The current public officer wage scale does not match the state of the economy. The startling increase in the cost of goods is making the impoverished even poorer. When compared to other developing African countries, the working conditions are likewise subpar. Few or non-

existent incentives and rewards for productive and successful work. Corruption is therefore inherent when one needs to make ends meet.

Furthermore, Ajie and Wokekoro (2012) noted the following elements as contributing to corruption in Nigeria:

- Weak government institutions;
- Conflict of interest in changing moral standards;
- Weak social and governmental enforcement mechanisms;
- An impaired legal system;
- Ineffective government operations with cumbersome budget procedures;
- Obscurity;
- Significant wealth inequality;
- Strange cultural norms and value systems in Nigerian society; and
- Widespread poverty

### 3. Methodology

This research study uses a quantitative approach to gather data from participants in a survey. Lagos State Government's public servants made up the study's population. The management cadre, middle class cadre, and junior staff cadre make up the population size. In this investigation, a basic random sample was employed. For the inquiry, a sample of 220 employees from Lagos State was chosen.

The research uses both primary and secondary data to accomplish its goals. The primary data was obtained from the questionnaire while secondary data relied on the use of journals, magazines, documents, internet, government publication and the publication of renowned scholars on the subject matter. In order to improve the balance between the research observations and to promote objectivity, the study included secondary sources of data. It also ensured that the required data are collected accurately. The Chi Square method, frequency tables, and percentages were used in the statistical analysis of the data gathered for this work.

$$X^2 = E (F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e$$

Where  $X^2$  = Chi - Square  
 $F_o$  = Frequency Observed  
 $F_e$  = Frequency Expected.

### 4. Findings and Analysis

The presentation and analysis of the data gathered for this study are the concerns of this section. The outcomes are computed, analyzed, and presented. An attempt is made to identify and establish the relationship between the various study variables in the analysis of the results. In essence, the focus of the study was to evaluate the challenges of corrupt practices and its implication on good governance in Nigeria. Analysis of Chi-Square task is accomplished by using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences' computational device. A total number of two hundred and twenty (220) questionnaires were administered as depicted below.

**Table 1** Administered questionnaires

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Returned	200	90.9
Unreturned	20	9.1
Total	220	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

Two hundred (200) copies out of the two hundred and twenty (220) copies of questionnaires distributed were returned, while twenty (20) were not returned. Hence, the percentage will base on the two hundred (200) copies of questionnaires returned and certified.

#### 4.1 Distribution of Responses According to Bio-Data Information

This subsection presents bio-data particular of the respondents using five bio-data information, namely sex, age, marital status, academic qualification, and working duration.

The below table shows that 66% of the respondents are male while 34% are female. Similarly, 40% of the respondents are in the age bracket 18-30, 30% are in the age range 31 – 40, 24% are in age bracket 41-50 while 51 and above are 6%. On marital status, the table depicts that 25% of the respondents were single, 51% married,

8% divorced while 16% were either widow or widower. The table also shows that 28% had secondary education, 49.5% were with tertiary education while 22.5% had postgraduate degree. In addition, 10% of the respondents had above six months working experiences, 20% had one to five years working experiences, 26% between five and ten years while 44% have been working for the past ten years.

**Table 2** Bio-data information of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	132	66
Female	68	34
Total	200	100

  

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
18-30	80	40
31-40	60	30
41-50	48	24
51 and above	12	6
Total	108	100

  

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	50	25
Married	102	51
Divorced	16	8
Widow/Widower	32	16
Total	200	100

  

Academic Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary Education	56	28
Tertiary Education	99	49.5
Post Graduate Education	45	22.5
Total	200	100

  

Working Duration	Frequency	Percentage
6 months – 1year	20	10
1-5years	40	20
5-10years	52	26
10yrs and above	88	44
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

## 4.2 Presentation of Data According to the Variables

The sub-section is to accomplish the primary objective of the study. It examines the challenges of corrupt practices focusing on its implication on good governance in Nigeria.

**Table 3** Is it possible for those holding public office to function without facing corruption?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	108	54
No	92	46
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

According to the analysis, 54% of respondents agreed that public office holders can function without experiencing corruption, while 46% disagreed.

**Table 4** *What are the factors responsible for corruption in Nigeria?*

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Bad Leadership	68	34
Lack of national integration	52	26
Lack of Transparency and Accountability	40	20
Acquisitiveness	40	20
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

In line with table 4 result, 34% of the respondents claimed bad leadership is one the factors responsible for corruption in Nigeria, 26% went for lack of national integration, 20% both favoured lack of transparency and accountability, and acquisitiveness respectively.

**Table 5** *Nigerian corruption has decreased as a result of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)'s effective regulation*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	74	37
No	126	63
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

According to the above table, 37% of respondents claimed that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)'s effective regulation has reduced corruption in Nigeria, while 63% disagreed.

**Table 6** *Nigeria's corporate governance problems have been addressed by efficient anti-corruption organizations*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	99	49.5
No	101	50.5
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

According to the above table, 49.5% of respondents agreed that Nigeria's corporate governance problems have been addressed by efficient anti-corruption organizations, while 50.5% disagreed.

**Table 7** *The regulatory functions of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have been effective in curtailing corruption in the Nigerian states and public offices*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	95	47.5
No	105	52.5
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

The table above shows that 47.5% of the respondents avowed that the regulatory functions of the EFCC have been effective in curtailing corruption in the Nigerian states and public offices while 52.5% disputed the proposition.

**Table 8** *Corruption makes negative impact on economic development in Nigeria*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	136	68
No	64	32
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

From the table above, 68% of the respondents asserted that corruption makes negative impact on economic development in Nigeria while 32% of the respondents countered the claim.

**Table 9** *Corruption has a detrimental effect on Nigerian anti-corruption agencies*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	114	57
No	86	43
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

The above figure shows that 57% of respondents confirmed that corruption had a detrimental effect on Nigerian anti-corruption authorities, while 43% of respondents disagreed with the claim.

**Table 10** *What are the consequences of corruption on good governance in Nigeria?*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Promotion of illegitimate government through election rigging	60	30
Suspension of the rule of law and erodes public confidence in the administration of justice	48	24
Eroding of institutional capacity of government performance and merit	40	20
Undermining of Economic Development	52	26
Total	200	100

**Source:** Author's field survey, 2024

Table 10 depicts that 30% of the respondents affirmed promotion of illegitimate government through election rigging as one of the consequences of corruption on good governance in Nigeria, 24% claimed suspension of the rule of law and erodes public confidence in the administration of justice, 20% favoured eroding of institutional capacity of government performance and merit while 26% laid claim to undermining of economic development.

## 5. Discussion and Findings

### 5.1 The Effects and Challenges of Corruption on Good Governance in Nigeria

Although it is impossible to put a number on the detrimental consequences of corruption on good governance, however the study finds the following as the associated effects of corruption on good governance in Nigeria:

- The damaging of financial institutions that are essential to economic growth slows down the real sector of the economy, distorts the external sector of the economy, and undermines long-term economic development through reduced productivity in the real sector (Lawal, Imokhuede and Johnson, 2012). Considerable corruption via Offshore Financial Centers (OFCs) channels undermines developing nations' plans to use OFCs as engines of economic development.
- It damages public interests, as corruption may make it more difficult for society to give its members the opportunity to achieve their basic needs Alemika (2012), citing Osoba (1996). It may seem counterintuitive, but some academics contend that corruption can be advantageous in reducing bureaucratic red-tapism, redistributing income, fostering capital formation among others. Nonetheless, the overall impact of corruption is predominantly detrimental.
- Corruption exacerbates mass poverty and unemployment. It increases inequality and hinders effective resource allocation and planning. It further discourages investment, compromises economic efficiency, and raises government spending due to supply-side inflation and contract inflation. It is unquestionably related to a lack of access to fundamental requirements.

- Corruption is without a doubt toxic to democracy and long-term development (Alemika, 2012). This can be linked to the bastardization of the tenet of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and economic development.
- Nigeria is undoubtedly not protected against corruption, according to the EFCC's 2011 Corruption Index. The excessive and costly cost of government services, inadequate service delivery, unbuilt schools, hospitals without medication, impassable roads, and citizens' lack of inspiration are all signs of the bane to the economy and the fabric of society.
- It leads to high incidence and prevalence of conflict. This is seen in political, ethno-religious, and communal conflicts as various social groups fight for control over the state's resources in order to enrich themselves corruptly and give favours to their cronies, family, and associates. Conflicts associated with corruption give rise to antagonism, violence, crime, insecurity, and instability.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Through statistical evidence, the study has shown how corruption hinders economic growth. Nigeria has an abundance of both human and material resources. Notwithstanding its material prosperity, Nigeria has been ranked as one of the world's poorest nations. Massive unemployment, a dearth of business prospects, a depreciating currency, and a failure to provide for the citizens' basic needs all demonstrate the severity of the crisis facing the nation. The study pointed out that corruption and egregious misuse of the nation's enormous riches have been held partially responsible for the development. Corruption has therefore established to be one of the greatest challenges to economic and political advancement in Nigeria nation. It has essentially become a way of life and an important source of accumulation of wealth in Nigeria. Sadly, corruption's get-rich-quick mentality has seriously damaged ethics.

The study concludes that the level of corrupt practices on Nigeria is high and can only be dealt with by combine effort of the stakeholders. The Federal government and all anti-corruption agencies need to demonstrate appropriate political will in prosecution of corrupt persons, to serve as deterrence to people who have the tendency of corrupt practices. It is desired to take a drastic method to cleaning up this unpleasant trend. Thus, combating corruption is essential to establishing good governance, which is the bedrock of sustainable development. In view of the immensity of the challenges constituted by corruption and its implication on good governance in Nigeria, the following are recommended to halting the trend:

- Good governance remains the greatest antidote to corruption. All policies of government must promote good governance, accountability and transparency. It is necessary to improve the various forms of good governance that support economic development, especially by fortifying the financial sector.
- To enforce the law without hindrance, all anti-corruption authorities must maintain their independence. In the same vein, decisive action must be taken quickly to minimize risks and challenges to anti-corruption policies while simultaneously optimizing their strengths and advantages.
- Every instance of public looting ought to be properly examined, the perpetrators held accountable, and the plunder refunded at the full face value of the items pilfered.
- The federal government ought to put into effect legislation such as Advance Fee Fraud (often referred to as 419) and Related Offences Act of 1995, Failed Bank (Recovery of Debts) and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act of 1996, Banks and other Financial Institutions Act of 1991, Miscellaneous Offences, Act 1985 and Foreign Exchange Act of 1995 to combat corruption in Nigeria.
- The federal government should make sure that cases of fraud are handled in a way that discourages such incidents in the future and not just merely being concerned about their reputation and public image.
- In order to instil a sense of patriotism in the public, the government needs to launch result-oriented mass mobilization for national integration. This will significantly lessen the threat of corruption, as the majority of Nigerians will be unified in denouncing corrupt practices at all levels.

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## Conflict of Interest

This work was done with open mind and objectivity of judgment without any interest to influence my view, but to give the reader reality of things. All arguments raised were of the author, and not of the publisher. The author therefore take responsibility of the view raised in the paper.

## Author Contribution

*The author confirms sole responsibility for the following: study conception and design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results, and manuscript preparation.*

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