

Strategies for combating corruption in Nigerian fourth republic and the way forward

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Ibrahim Kawuley Mikail^{1,2}, Mohammad Ainuddin Lee IskandarBn
Abdullah (PhD)², Sivaperegasam P. Rajanthiran(PhD)²

¹Department of Political Science, Federal College of Education, Zaria-Nigeria;

²School of International Studies, University Utara Malaysia

¹elkawuley75@gmail.com

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Abstract - Corruption is a great ailment to the development of any nation, its impact has hamper polity, socio-economic system and national development. This tragedy has created space for both policy makers, stakeholders and researchers to think over the reliable strategies for combating such menace. The study adopted the qualitative techniques through used of interview and focus group discussion in obtaining data from the informants and the data was duly analyzed using Nvivo software version 9 that came up with some models in accordance with the informants response. The study reveals that there were strategies (anti-graft and their associates) for combating corruption in Nigerian fourth republic. This made them to have (prevention, investigation, enforcement, and prosecution etc.) as strategies in fighting corruption in Nigerian fourth republic. The paper suggests that holistic approach shall be adopted, political will, adequate funding and autonomy shall be offered to the anti-graft agencies in dealing with corrupt scandals in public domain.

Keywords: Corruption, Strategies for Combating Corruption, Anti-graft agencies, Nigerian fourth republic.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is said to manifest through fraud, extortion, insider trading, embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, inflation of contracts, sexual harassment, bribery and others. Corruption is also seen to be caused by misplaced sense of values, lack of accountability and transparency in government, greed, discrimination in wealth distribution and others. There is noticeable negative impact of corruption on the social, political and economic life of Nigerians resulting in political instability, erosion of cherished cultural values, economic distortion and underdevelopment [1]. In such manner, Sanusi [2] pointed out that “Corruption is an important challenge to stable polity in Nigeria.

This factor has hindered various efforts and reforms of the government to stimulate economic growth and to bring dividends for democracy for a common good of Nigerian Citizens”. The negative impacts sway monetary development right now, things, lessens open spending on education [3], [4]. Corruption varies from one society to another. Today, it is the greatest impediment to democratization and development in Nigeria. Corruption has affected all facets of human endeavor and is threatening the existence of the country: weakening control institutions, undermining the rule of law and good governance, and destroying the economy. Most troublesome is the effects of debasement on state security, democratic governance and national development [5].

Due to the complex nature of corruption, there is no single strategy that is used to combat corruption. Different strategies have been adopted by different countries or government in its effort to control corruption [6]. Various strategies have been put in place in Nigeria to address the problems of corruption in government by previous administrations. Successive government in Nigeria had made concerted efforts or strategies to address the issue of corruption.

The past strategies were among Corrupt Practices Decree 1975 of Murtala/Obasanjo military regime; Ethical Revolution of Shagari civilian administration; War Against Indiscipline(WAI) of Buhari/Adiagbon military government; Code of Conduct Bureau 1990 of Babangida’s military oligarchy; Failed Bank Tribunal and WAIC of Abacha’s military junta and among others [7]. Due to formidable threat of corruption and lack of effective and strong strategies made each government to have its own style or strategy for controlling corruption in the country.

Optimistically, President Chief Obasanjo has advocated two anti-graft institutions i.e. Independent Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in 2000 and Economic Financial and Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2003 respectively, so as to

serves as a new platform for combating corruption in the country's fourth democratic dispensation. The twin's anti-graft agencies Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Economic Financial and Crimes Commission (EFCC) have a numerous role of fighting against corruption in Nigeria. This paper is an attempt to ascertain the strategies that Nigerian government put in place for combating corruption in fourth republic and the way forward.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Corruption is an effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means, and private gain at public expense; or a misuse of public power for private benefit (Lipset and Lenz, [8]). Corruption is a behavior that deviates from the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private regarding motives such as wealth, power or status Khan, [96]. Transparency International (TI) [10] observed that "corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for private benefit. Corruption involves behavior on the part of officials in the public sector in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, or those close or related to them by misuse of power entrusted in them. In the same direction, corruption is misuse of public power, office or authority for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism by government and public servants. It also prevails in the private sector UNDP, [11].

Globally, corruption became point of discourse that cut across all nation states, ranging from developed nations, countries in transitions, and under developed countries of the world. The effects of corruption has impedes some international organizations such as Olympic International and Federation International Football Association (FIFA). In this regard, FIFA is facing fresh allegations of corruption over its controversial decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. Conversely, Muhammad bn Hammam Qatari former FIFA official and former President Asian Football Confederation made payments totaling US\$5 Million to football officials of FIFA in return for their support for the Qatar 2022 World Cup bid (Bond, 2014 in www.bbc.com/sport). Though, there were previous corrupt scandals in International Olympic Committee on Beijing 2008 Olympics and 2014 Sochi-Russian Olympic Games [12].

Corruption results from the variety of economic, institutional, political, social and historical factors. It

flourishes when democratic institutions are weak, laws are not enforced, political will is lacking, and when citizens and the media are not allowed to be partners in democracy (US Department of state, 2001, cited in Direnzo, Das, Cort and Burbringe, [13]). Corruption can be seen as a "symptom that something has gone wrong with the management of the state Rose-Ackerman, [14]. Corruption undermines good governance, distorts public policy, leads to misallocation of resources and hurts economic growth [14], [15], [16].

Consequently, governments and International agencies have diverted much efforts searching for effective measures to control this menace. This has produced a variety of strategies and institutional innovations around the world [17]. Accordingly, there has been a growing global movement to condemn corrupt practices, resulting in the removal of some country leaders. In addition, many governments and development agencies have devoted substantial resources and energies on fighting corruption in recent years [18]. The classical illustration is African union convention on prevention and combating corruption in Maputo, Mozambique and Chinwunze [19].

These effort encourage the African Union member states including Nigeria to establish and redefine their anti-graft agencies into action so as to combat the menace of corruption at their disposal. Therefore, some nation states and International Organizations have concentrate much attention towards looking for strategies to combat the menace of corruption. This led them to come out with various plans and new agencies (anti-graft) across the globe [17]. In this respect, many states and development institutions have injected reasonable resources and capacity to wage war against corruption in present days [18].

Some nation states such as Ghana, Uganda, and Nigeria have conducted a survey on the level of defilement. These surveys were considered as new strategy and methods to combat corruption in the year 2000 and were supported by the World Bank [20]. In like manner, Shehu [5] pointed out that "recent multilateral instruments to combat corruption and other transnational organized crimes, namely, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and the new Convention against Corruption, 2003 are wonderful initiatives."

Lambsdorff and Neil [21] advocate three approaches as anti-corruption strategy: (1) Repression (2) Prevention (3) Transparency. Batildam [22] observed that "it has been recognized globally that the principles for fighting corruption rest on three main pillars: (1) Prevention (2) Education or public

awareness; and (3) Enforcement (investigation and prosecution). In this respect, both prevention and enforcement was duly acknowledge for combating corruption in public domain [21]- [23].

This precipitates that most of the nation's states have advocates their own anti-graft agencies with all these strategies so as to curb out the menace of debasement in their system. In other word, Ahmed [24] posited that "in order to formulate decisive and effective strategies for combating corruption, they should consider three stages: (a) Establishing Independent Anti-corruption commission (b) Increase Transparency in Government Institutions (c) Establish exemplary leadership at the top".

In fact, there are several programs initiated by previous regimes on combating corrupt practices aimed at sanitizing the system. These programs include: Ethical Revolution of Shagari administration (1979-83); War Against Indiscipline (WAI) General Buhari military regime (1983-85); Mass Mobilization for Self Reliance and Social Justice (MAMSER) of General Babangida's military oligarchy (1985-1993); and War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAIC) of General Abacha's military dictatorship (1993-98) respectively [25].

Accordingly, past administrations of both civilian and military regimes have made some plans of action and programs to tackle the issue of corruption. But their antidotes, where applied, have often fallen short of the required impact to turn the state of corruption around for good [26]. These challenges motivate the fourth democratic government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to revisit the anti-corruption Acts and Decrees to embark on inaugurating the new anti-graft Acts, strategies and agencies so as to deal with the challenges of corruption in the nation. Waziri [6] pointed out that "the previous Acts and more especially the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Act 2000 and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission led to the establishment of present Anti-corruption agencies.

METHODOLOGY

The exploratory survey method is duly adopted in seeking the views of 16 informants, whereby 12 informants were engaged in in-depth interview from public officials working with anti-corruption agencies (EFCC & ICPC) and their components (NEITI/TUGAR), members of the academia, Party stake-holders, while 4 participant from civil society organizations, mass media, and private firms were interrogated via focus group discussion. They were

been engage for data collection process due to their mandate on anti-corruption campaign in their respective organization. They have share common mandates in fighting against corruption in Nigeria, due to the holistic approach in their strategies for combating grafts. In fact, they are working with common mandate on combating debasement. Sekaran and Bougie [27] hinted that "exploratory studies are necessary when some facts are known, but more information is needed for viable theoretical framework". The qualitative method via interview and focus group discussion was duly used for data collection in this study and the data was analyzed using N-Vivo Version 9 to design some models based on the perception of the informants and later follow by the views of the informants after each model. In this regards, 12 informants and four members of group was engage for both interview and FGD on this study. The informants accept to avail the data to the researcher based on research purpose. In this respect, the researcher assures the informants that the data collected would be used with utmost confidentiality.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions are basically centered on the following:

- i. What are the strategies for combating corruption?
- ii. Are there anti-graft agencies for combating corruption?
- iii. What is the role of law enforcement agencies on combating corruption?
- iv. Did the government program and civil society would combat corruption

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The section is basically to ascertain all the questions raise on the course of interview and the focus discussion from the informants which their response been used for analysis within the context of N-Vivo Software version 9 in form of models and the views and excerpts of the informants followed under each model in accordance to the status of the informants on the said phenomena.

The questions one and two were answered below: (strategies and anti-graft agencies for combating corruption in Nigerian fourth republic).

The informants pointed that there are multiple strategies for combating corruption in Nigerian fourth republic: thus include anti-graft agencies and their components which encompasses(i.e. Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences

Commission ICPC; Economic Financial and Crimes Commission EFCC, Code of Conduct Bureau CCB, National Foods Drugs and Administration Control) and their components such as Bureau for Public Procurement BPP, Nigerian extractive industries transparency initiatives (NEITI), and Technical Unit of Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms. On this course, the researcher designed a model on combating corruption which contained both anti-grafts institutions and their components for fighting debasement.

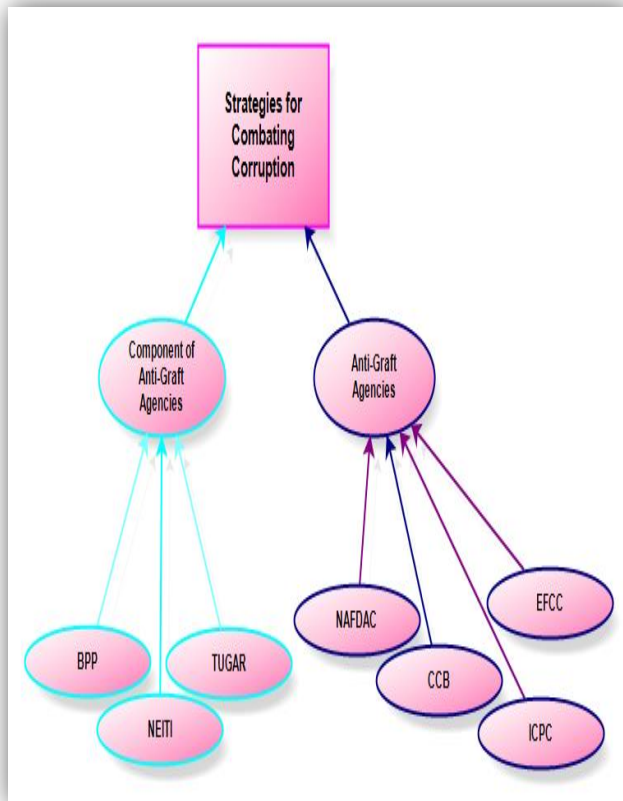


Figure 1.0: Strategies for Combating Corruption

The model contained the anti-graft agencies for combating corruption in Nigeria which involves the fourth republic agencies such as Economic Financial and Crimes Commission EFCC; Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission ICPC as well the former strategies of Code Conduct Bureau and National Food Drugs Administration and Control. Economic Financial and Crimes Commission is to enforce anti-corruption laws to those who are indicted or suspected with corrupt practices within the public domain, private sector or individuals to forestall committing corrupt practices and crimes in the Nigerian public life. The EFCC is capable to examine and prosecute financial and economic crimes such money laundering, counterfeiting, market fraud, illegal

transfer of funds, contract scam, computer credit fraud, forgery among others [28]. While, the ICPC is another anti-corruption agency that is held responsible on preventing corruption through public education, enforcement among others in public and private sector management.

Code of Conduct Bureau has mandates to guide all public officials on declaration of assets within stipulated period of time as well as shall not put them in a position where their personal interest conflicts with the officials' duties and responsibilities. It is also proscribed possession of foreign Accounts by the public officers in order to prevent corrupt practices [5]. The NAFDAC is saddle to legalize and regulate the production, importation, exportation, sharing, marketing, sale and use of medicine and drugs, cosmetics, chemicals medical devices and packaged or table water [29]. This agency would enhance manufacturing industries on foods, drugs and related items to produce high quality standard products as against corrupt contaminated one. This may rid all corrupt practices in manufacturing firms on foods, beverages, drugs and cosmetics industries in Nigeria and imported products therein. These are the strategies for combating corrupt practices in Nigerian public life.

Meanwhile, the component of anti-graft agencies are the supporting agencies or institutions established by the government in order to look at some areas that are more pertinent and significant to have a close mark against corrupt practices which the anti-corruption institutions cannot lay their hands on. The BPP was solely to oversee the public procurement processes and award of contract in the federal government business.

This agency will ensure that all the contract awards must follow due process so to meet principle of equity, transparency and accountability. In fact, the good practices in public procurement, thus reducing the incidence of corrupt practice and reduce costs and produce timely results [5], while NEITI is to ensure that extractive resources from oil and gas and mining companies aid sustainable development [5].

While TUGAR is the based on creating synergy between all anti-graft institutions and civil society organizations to facilitated them to wage war on corruption more especially to the areas that are vulnerable to corrupt activities. Below are subsequent models extracted from both anti-graft agencies and their components altogether with the informants as well as the views excerpts of informants followed below each model.

The Responses on the Role of EFCC from the Informants

The excerpt below shows the representation of views and perception of informants' as regards Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on fighting corruption:

The statutes of the EFCC Acts are to enforce laws for fighting corruption in Nigeria. The agencies saddled with the responsibilities of fighting this menace called corruption in Nigeria. For example, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has go to all commercial bank, which directed them on certain amount to be deposited. Another thing is the identification of corrupt officials or organizations. In 2010 or 2011, there was an index by the EFCC that the most corrupt were the police and NEPA (Group).

EFCC which was created by law to combat corruption. EFCC practices for enforcement of laws of combating corruption. From 1999 - 2003, during the regime of President Obasanjo, the head of EFCC then, Nuhu Ribadu did his best and everybody knows that though those under him tried to jeopardize his effort. Moreover, the role of the EFCC is very important in our democratic dispensation. EFCC by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo. This was a very good strategy because the agencies were able to try corrupt officials (Informants 1, 3, 10, 11, 12 Academician I & III; Politicians APC&PDP; & NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

Moreover, the role of the EFCC is very important in our democratic dispensation, but, EFCC was politically motivated for the fact that the Chairman of the Commission Malam Nuhu Ribadu pursued the case of former Delta State Governor who had a strong connection with the late President, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua later the Presidency remove the Ribadu from his position due to their interest (Informant, 2 Academician II).

Anti-graft agencies have been established to show their readiness to fight corruption. Agencies like EFCC emerged to support the anti-corruption crusade with enforcement mission. EFCC is another platform for fighting corruption (Informants 4, 7, 8 Academician IV, ICPC Legal & Expert).

At initial stage, the EFCC's mandate was an "enforcement strategy" which focuses on investigating cases of corruption and processes it through the lawsuit (Informant 9 EFCC Staff).

The Responses on the Role of ICPC from the Informants

The excerpt below shows the representation of the views and perception of the informants' as regards

Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission ICPC on combating corruption in Nigeria:

From 1999 - present, we have to give credit to ICPC and EFCC. While the ICPC Acts started with before then, and the ultimate target is to combat corruption (Group).

I think, at the institutional level, the government of former President Olusegun, Obasanjo actually carried out a major revolution in terms of tackling the problem of corruption by establishing two major important institutions; the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). In fact, ICPC is stricter in fighting corruption (Informant 1&10 Academician I & Politician APC).

The first strategy for combating corruption in Nigeria was the establishment of ICPC. During the dispensation of President Olusegun, Obasanjo such institutions like the ICPC is for fighting corrupt cases in public domain which was established in 2000 by former President Obasanjo (Informants 2, 3, 4, 11, &12 Academicians II, III, IV & Politician PDP & NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

In particular reference to ICPC where I have basic knowledge, we use three approaches to combat corruption; investigation, preventive, and public enlightenment for public institutions. ICPC used to cover the whole of Nigeria. The strategies for fighting corruption in Nigerian democratic era are through anti-graft agencies i.e. ICPC (Informants 5, 6, 7, & 9 EFCC Staff).

The first initiative took by President Obasanjo was to present a bill seeking for the establishment of ICPC. It was the first bill presented to the National Assembly. It was passed and eventually the ICPC was established. It is now in full operation for over 15 - 16 years (Informant 8 Expert).

The Responses on the Role of CCB from the Informants

The views, expressions and perceptions of the following informants on the role of Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) on fighting corruption in Nigeria:

For example, the Senate President as the number third citizen in the country was taken to court for refusing to declare his assets properly as provided by the 1999 Constitution (i.e. the role of Code of Conduct Bureau CCB) Group attested this position (Group).

According to informant 11 opined that '.....Though before, we have a declaration assets policy of Code of Conduct Bureau CCB. This is Federal government policy to ensure public trust and

accountability to all public servant (Informant, 11 Politician PDP).

The Code of Conduct Bureau is based on recommendations of government that you may declare your assets at the instance of acquiring public office and within certain period therein (Informant, 12 NEITI/TUGAR Staff)

We have a situation whereby a Senate President was taken to court by the Code of Conduct Bureau for a false declaration of assets in this dispensation. This indicate you the role of CCB on fighting corruption in the country (Informant, 2 Academician II).

Another strategy is the establishment of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB). When you are elected into any public office, you must declare your assets. This shows the government is interested in fighting corruption (Informant 3 Academician III).

Before these three, there was also Code of Conduct Bureau which requires public servants to declare their assets, though they had advocated the CCB for declaration of assets to the public servants and political officers. These are what we call preventive institutions against corrupt and crimes among the society. These are the Code of Conduct Bureau, the Code of Conduct Tribunal (Informants 2, 4; 7 & 8 Academicians II&IV; ICPC Legal& Expert).

The Responses on the Role of NAFDAC from the Informants

The views expressed and perceptions of the informants' as regard NAFDAC's role on combating corruption:

While National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) is a regulatory body for foods production and beverages so as to have free-corrupt production processes (Informants 4 & 11 Academician IV& Politician PDP).

NAFDAC emerged to look at the production of foods, drugs, cosmetics among others so as to checkmate the corrupt cases therein. NAFDAC is focused on foods production, drugs and cosmetics in order to make it corrupt free production (Informants 8 & 9 Expert EFCC Staff).

The Responses on the Role of Bureau of Public Procurement from the Informants

The excerpt below shows the perception of our interviews informants on the role of Bureau of Public Procurement on combating debasement: While the federal anti-graft agencies such as BPP is to cater for the contract award and "Due Process" (Informant, 1 & 12 Academician& NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

The BPP has also come up to adhere that all federal government awards of contract shall meet "Due Process" and procurement process, (Informant, 7 & 9 ICPC Legal& EFCC Staff).

The Bureau for Public Procurement, the Fiscal Responsibility Commission. In fact, the BPP is to ensure that the Due Process is been attained in terms of contract awards and procurement process. (Informant, 8 Expert).

The Responses on the Role of Nigerian Extractive Transparency Initiatives (NEITI) from the Informants

The views below by the interview informants' indicate the role of NEITI on its strategies for combating corruption in Nigeria:

We have other institutions that have almost the same statutory responsibility of tackling corruption i.e. NEITI is for extractive industries. Locally, at the level of NEITI, it helps to put members of staff at the right direction in combating corruption in extractive and solid minerals resources in the country (Informants 1 & 12 Academician & NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

In supporting the crusade indeed, the federal government also established NEITI to looks at the extractive industries and solid minerals in terms of remittance of tax to the government and avoiding corrupt scandals. (Informant, 7 ICPC Legal).

However, in 2007 the administration came up with NEITI to look at the corrupt cases and boosting transparency in extractive industries (Informant, 8 Expert).

NEITI is focused on remittance on oil revenue in extractive industries and solid minerals so as to ensure sanity and accountability in these industries (Informant, 9 EFCC Staff).

The Responses on the Role of Technical Unit of Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR) from the Informants

The views below show the interview informants position as regards to TUGAR's role on Combating corruption:

The TUGAR is to create synergy for the anti-graft institutions and civil Societies in fighting corrupt practices in government. TUGAR works together with other agencies in charge of fighting corruption. There is synergy between us (Informants 1 & 12 Academician I& NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

Meanwhile, the TUGAR is to enhanced synergy between all anti-graft agencies, civil society organizations and International Donor agencies for

combating corruption in the country. (Informant, 7 ICPC Legal).

While TUGAR is saddled to conduct research in collaboration with anti-graft agencies and civil societies so as to tackle the menace of corrupt scandals and enhance accountability in governance. In fact, the TUGAR is the research forum to wage war against corrupt practices in conjunction with anti-graft agencies and civil societies etc. (Informants 8 & 9 Expert & EFCC Staff).

What is the role of law enforcement agencies on combating corruption?

The above question was been presented to the informants so as to find out their views on the role of the law enforcement agencies in combating corruption. Because the basic objective for establishing all the peace, harmony and safeguarding the image of the society from all sort of crimes and corrupt law enforcement agencies is to forestall corrupt practices and to sanitize the entire society from all forms of anomalies. Although, the law enforcement agencies

are the instrument for restoring practices. These agencies should involve the police, civil defence, prison service and other related security agencies. The essence of the security and law enforcement agencies is to enforce laws, prevention of crimes and corrupt tendencies, as well as to protect the general lives and properties to the entire citizens through maintenance of laws and order to the entire populace and enhancing their security services (Akuul, [30]. Below is the model designed on the role of law enforcement agencies such as police and other security agencies on fighting debasement as perceived by the informants

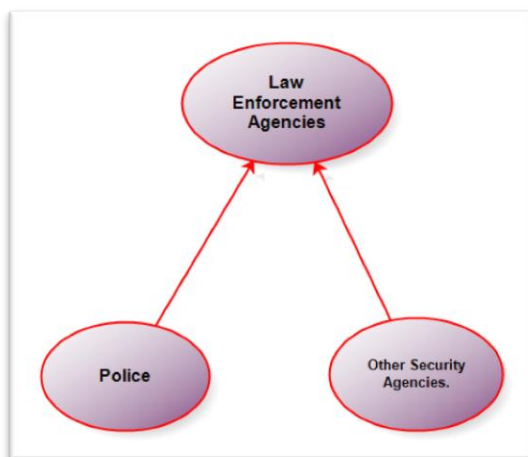


Figure 2.0 Law Enforcement Agencies

The model above model contained the two sub themes among the law and enforcement agencies (i.e. Police and other security agencies) and their role in combating or fighting corruption in the Nigerian public life. Indeed, if these apparatus are working effectively it will reduce the scourge of corruption to the barest minimal and ensure sanity to the society. The model brought two sub-themes (Police and Other security agencies) in fighting corruption in Nigerian public domain which precipitates the position of the informants in relation to them. This led to models on the above subject.

The Responses on the Role Police from the informants

The below excerpts are the views of the informants’ on the strategic role of police on combating corruption:

In 2010 or 2011, there was an index by the EFCC that the most corrupt were the police and NEPA (Group).

The police is an institution that would have to be at the forefront in fighting corruption in Nigeria (Informant, 1 Academician I).

Few months ago, an officer of Police Pension stole billions of Naira but he was only asked to return some part of the money to go free. (Informant, 11 Politician PDP).

The law enforcement agencies are like the ICPC and EFCC even though the police is part of them and other security agencies. There are what we call preventive institutions (Informant, 8 Expert).

The Responses on the Role of Security Agencies from the Informants’

The below are the views of the informants’ on the role of security agencies in fighting corruption:

The military who is not also immune from the problem of corruption, so virtually it has become an all-encompassing problem and other security agencies certainly will not in any way help in this course. It needs a holistic approach. (Informant, 1 Academician I). We work with Customs Service, Immigration Service, and other security agencies in the country so as reduce the menace of corrupt activities in public domain (Informant, 12 NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

There are other security agencies what we call preventive institutions against corrupt and crimes among the society. (Informant, 8 Expert).

Did the government program and civil society would combat corruption?

Due to the pessimistic and appalling destruction of corruption in all sectors of life, culminated the

international community to convene some program or policies to address the menace of defilement to the global arena. The UNCAC, UNDOC, AU Protocol against Corruption, Asian Anti-Corruption Network among others were solely emerged to address the problem of corruption at international scene, which precipitates the member state to design its own program or agenda to confront the menace of corruption in their respective state. The government programs are the deliberate attempts or action by the government to look at the case of corrupt practices and the ways towards liberating people. In this respect the model below accompanied with government programs for combating corruption in Nigerian fourth republic.

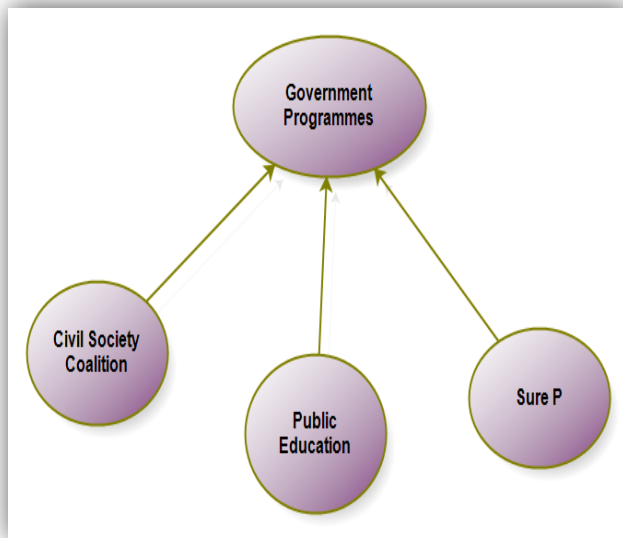


Figure 3.0 Model on Government Programs and its Sub-Themes

At this juncture, the programs that Nigeria designed for liberation and enlightenment campaign to mobilize the citizens are through civil society organizations coalitions, public education and Subsidy Re-investment SURE-P as the program that the government put in place to combat corruption in democratic dispensation. These programs are to involve all the stakeholders and the general public in liberating and enlightenment campaign via anti-graft institutions, civil societies and other organizations.

The Responses on the Role of Civil Society Coalition from the Informants

The perceptions and views expressed below, indicates the respondents representation as regard civil society coalition in fighting corruption:

Institutional strengthening should be the priority. We should also understand what corruption is, and how our civil societies operate. Some of these social organizations are stooges of politicians. The civil society groups are into advocacy issues. We are whistle-blowers. Without information you cannot fight corruption. The only problem is we don't have the mandate to prosecute. (i.e. the constraints to civil societies). We also don't have enough funds. We depend on donor agencies. (Group). Partnerships and co-operation. They all have to work together. If you work together, you will be able to take everybody along. The coalition of civil societies is very essentials (Informant 12 NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

In fact, most of our programs are 100% sponsored by Non-Governmental Organizations, especially Justice for All, UNDP, UNICEF and others. They finance many publications of ICPC. This is Civil Society Coalition towards combating corruption (Informant, 5 ICPC Preventive Dept.).

Those who want to work voluntarily have the right to choose the organizations they want to work at. Non-Governmental Organizations and civil societies are always willing to help in this regard. We therefore make use of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), National Anti-Corruption Corps and other Non-Governmental Organizations to tackle corruption from the rural areas (Informant, 6 ICPC PRU).

It involves strong civil society and effective rule of law. This includes the ability to obtain information on the suspicious areas to corruption and the opportunity to exert influence against corruption (Informant, 8 Expert).

There is also an interactive session with civil society organizations Coalition on anti-corruption mandates. There is a need for maximum support and encouragement from the public and civil society organizations (CSO's) i.e. civil society coalition (Informant, 9 EFCC Staff).

The Responses on the Role of Public Education from the Informants

The excerpt below shows the perceptions and views of the informants' on public education:

We go to agencies and assess their processes and procedures via public education. We look at their organizational and individual perspectives. Are there any gaps that allow for a breach? We look at the loopholes and later we report to the anti-graft agencies to take some measures as enshrined in their laws (Informant, 12NEITI/TUGAR Staff).

We always tell people to do what is expected of them. We try to infuse consciousness in people. Under the anti-corruption unit of this institution, we engage students and enlighten them on matters relating to corruption and their consequences. (Informant, 4 Academician IV). We engage in measures towards preventing corruption through systems study, public enlightenment and public education. Public education, in education, we carry-out interrogation workshops in collaboration with other agencies (Informants 5 & 6 ICPC Preventive Dept. & PRU).

While enlightenment campaign and re-orientation create an avenue for public-private sector initiative, youth initiative, NYSC/EFCC collaboration, inter-faith programs among others so as to educate the populace on the danger of corruption in order to shun away from corrupt practices and criminal activities (Informant, 9 EFCC Staff).

The Responses on the Role of Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P) from the Informants

The below are the views of the interview informants' on the SURE-P program on fighting corruption: Another measure was the establishment of the Subsidy Re-Investment Program (SURE-P) by the Federal Government to alleviate poverty among the youths (Informant, 2 Academician II).

Though the government of former President Jonathan has advocated SURE-P as the way for enhancing standard of living to the teeming youth aimed at reducing poverty and eliminating corrupt practices within the youth. (Informant, 3 Academician III).

The SURE-P is purposely to address the poverty in providing jobs opportunity to the teeming youth with the view of reducing or eradicating poverty and minimizing corrupt practices among the teeming youth in Nigerian society (Informant, 8 Expert).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study reveals that there were strategies for combating corruption in Nigeria prior to the fourth democratic dispensation. The role of Code of Conduct Bureau CCB and National Food Drugs and Administration Control NAFDAC are very laudable in terms of their peculiarity mandate in the area of declaration of assets and sanitizing food processing industries, drugs and beverages firms. But, the mandates or role played by these agencies is inadequate and peculiar to their scope. Moreover, the level of corruption has accelerated to destructive

appalling condition that requires state of emergency through establishing institutions to address the menace in order to salvage the Nigerian society.

This impulse has motivated the fourth republic in 1999 to ushered in with some anti-corruption crusade as pointed out by the former President Obasanjo that there shall not be sacred cows and fighting corruption is among the priority of his administration. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was emerged in 2000 and 2003 respectively. This development paved the way for these anti-graft institutions (ICPC & EFCC) to discharge their duties for combating corruption, corrupt practices and related offences in accordance with the extant regulations. In this respect, all the informants' concurred that the role of ICPC & EFCC are very laudable in fighting corruption in Nigerian fourth democratic arena. Accordingly, these agencies have designed their strategies (investigation, prevention, enforcement and public education etc.) in order to address the menace of debasement in public and private sector management in Nigerian democratic era. This changes consolidate these anti-graft agencies to deal solely with corrupt cases. Meanwhile, the informants 2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12 and Group have duly recognized the impact of Code Conduct Bureau for asset declaration and NAFDAC on sanitizing food processing industries and beverages. To them these institutions need to be boosted and enhance to meet all their objectives. In addition to anti-graft institutions, the government of fourth republic also advocates anti-corruption components (BPP, NEITI, and TUGAR) for sanitizing other areas in fighting corrupt practices in government. The BPP is centered on award of contract, due process and all procurement issues in government business with others as opined by the informants under the model 1.5. While NEITI's priority is to forestall corruption in extractive industries, solid minerals and mining sector for the remittance of tax and avoiding corrupt practices as contained under the model 1.6 by the stated informants. Finally, the TUGAR is a research based agency for creating synergy within all anti-graft institutions and civil societies in fighting corruption in model 1.7 from the view of the informants. Indeed, it was the fourth republic civilian government advocates anti-graft agencies and their components to fight against debasement in Nigerian public life. This development has really makes a wide difference with other past anti-corruption crusade in both military regimes and civilian administration.

While, the informants 1,8,11 and Group hinted that despite the high gravity of corrupt practices by the police still the police are fore front to wage war against fraud and corrupt practices among the society. These institutions would prevent the society to become corrupt. Though, the excerpts views of informants 1,9, and 12 also emphasized on the role of other security outlet such as military, customs, immigration and others to serves as preventive institutions in forestalling the menace of corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the government programs such as civil society coalition, public education and SURE-P are also crucial in preventing the occurrence of corrupt practices in public domain. The civil society play a role of whistleblowers, partnership and cooperation with anti-corruption agencies as well as voluntary organizations like corps members and NGO's in order to campaign against corrupt practices as contained in the views of informants 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and FGD from Group members. More so, public education in terms of enlightenment and sanitization campaign is among the roles played by both anti-graft institutions and civil societies towards preventing the people to involve in corrupt syndicate scandals. This is in line with the views of informants 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12 respectively. However, informants 2 and 3 from academics and informant 8 anti-corruption experts stressed the significant role of SURE-P as viable pillar for reducing poverty to the teaming youth and minimizing the level of corruption.

The Way Forward

In a nutshell, the paper suggested that the holistic approach shall be considered to all anti-corruption agencies ministries, departments and agencies MDA's, civil societies, private firms, and the entire public so as to fight the menace of corruption collectively. Been the saga of corruption has become vicious cycle and order of the day, in fact, holistic approach for combating corruption is the sole alternative. The government should offer political will, adequate funding and autonomy to all anti-graft institutions and their associates in combating corruption. Indeed, the civil societies should be motivated towards discharging their mandates on anti-corruption crusade by both government and the general public domain. Furthermore, emphasis should be given to public education and preventive institutions such as law enforcement agencies (Police, Customs, Immigration and other security outfit) and preventive measures such as blocking the leakages through components of anti-graft institutions (BPP, NEITI, and TUGAR) in

order to forestall the occurrence of corrupt practices in public life.

Limitation of the Study

This study limits its scope on the roles played by the anti-graft institutions established by the government with some few program in collaborations with Civil Society Organizations on combating corruption in Nigeria. It shall be recommended therefore, to boost the civil societies, media and whistleblower protection in order to contribute their quota in combating corruption and enhancing probity, accountability and transparency in Nigerians public domain and the private sector management.

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