

Endemic Corruption in High Places and Mass Poverty in Nigeria: a Threat to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030

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ABSTRACT

The research problem that underscored the need for this study relates to the threat to the UN initiated sustainable Development Goals (1915-1930) posed by endemic corruption of the leadership in Nigeria. The broad Objective is to find out how corruption in high places relates to mass poverty inequality and economic development in Nigeria, using the G.DP as proxy for the level of development. The scope of the study covers the period 2000, when the millennium Development Goals (MDGs) started to 2015 when it ended and the UN initiated sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commenced. Available statistics show that 7% (84 million people) of the world poorest people live in Nigeria and Nigeria has severally been rated among the most corrupt nations of the world. We, therefore, need to establish a nexus between corruption and poverty in Nigeria. To kick start the study secondary data are collected from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin and the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI). The data are subjected to inferential analyses and used to test the hypotheses formulated to guide the study. The findings are as follows: (i) There is a positive correlation between G.DP at current basic prices and the level of corruption in Nigeria (2) There is also a positive correlation between poverty level and corruption perception index of Nigeria. The conclusions are that as G.DP rises the level of corruption also rises and as level of corruption rises mass poverty also increases. Therefore corruption at high places contributes to mass poverty in Nigeria and robs the country the increases in G.DP which should have been invested to create jobs and reduce poverty. We, therefore, recommend that for the UN SDGs to succeed in Nigeria corruption should be eliminated or reduced to the barest minimum by plugging all the loop holes for leakages of the G.DP through corruption. Also, Inequality created by corruption should be reduced and we recommend a kind of “affirmative action” for the less privileged in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Mass poverty, Gross Domestic Product Circular flow of Income, Corruption Perception Index.*

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Background to the Study

The United Nations Initiative for poverty reduction which was adopted worldwide in 2000 and code named MDGs, Millennium Development Goals ended in 2015. Enormous progress on the goals was made worldwide and in some states of the Nigerian Federation particularly those in the South. However not much was achieved in many states in the north which are still ravaged by abject poverty.

Encouraged by the progress of MDGs the UN on 25th September, 2015 set a new agenda and a set of goals programmed to end in 2030 and code named Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN set of 17 SDGs are aimed at ending poverty and inequality. They are also aimed at tackling climate change, food availability, mass education, provision of water, energy supply, infrastructural development and so on. Indeed the SDGs are a bold plan to make the whole world a better place to live. The goals are not only sustainable they are also supposed to be inclusive and integrated.

Available statistics in Nigeria suggest that the achievement of the SDGs is under serious threat by the endemic level of corruption in the country by the leadership. The World Bank report, 2014 stated that 7% (84 million people) of the world's extremely poor people resided in Nigeria. (Aminu, 2014). In the report Nigeria was listed among five top countries where poverty was most pervasive. The other four countries which together with Nigeria harboured 1.2 billion poor people were India 33%, China 13%, Bangladesh 6% D.R. Congo, 5%. In all these countries the World's poorest earned less than \$1.20 a day. Earlier in 2004 the World Bank had reported that "just 1% of Nigeria's population gets 80% of oil/gas revenue "(Vanguard, October, 26, 2004). In that same period it was revealed that 70% of Nigerians lived on or below \$1.00 (N140.00) per day compared with Ghana's 45% and Kenya's 23% (Akinyemi, 2004). With the Nigerian economy in recession since 2016 there is no doubt that poverty level has increased. The evidence is everywhere yet amidst the high level of poverty billions and trillions of mind blowing sums of money are fritted away and stashed in foreign bank accounts through corrupt practices by Nigerians in privileged positions in government. It is, therefore, not an over statement to say that if corruption is not checked the achievement of SDGs in Nigeria will be a mirage and poverty level inequality, poor standard of education, poor health facilities etc will increase.

Statement of the Research Problem

The research problem in this study relates to the threat which endemic corruption in high places poses to the achievement of SDGs in Nigeria. As things are now if corruption is not eradicated poverty will increase with its correlates of inequality, poor quality education, poor health care delivery system and so on.

Statement of the Objectives

From the foregoing stated problem our objectives were two fold.

1. To find out if there was any significant relationship between the level of G.DP in Nigeria and the level of corruption.
2. To find out if there was any significant relationship between the level of corruption and mass poverty in Nigeria.

Statement of Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between the level of G.DP and the level of corruption in Nigeria ($p \leq 0.05$).

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between the level of corruption and the level of poverty in Nigeria ($p \leq 0.05$).

A Profile of the Nigerian Economy

Until the Nigerian economy entered into a recession in the third quarter of 2016 there was seemingly a paradigm shift that was making the non oil sectors the drivers of the Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) even though oil still remained a dominant revenue earner.

As reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) oil accounted for only 38.77% of GDP in 2013 while the non-oil sectors contributed 61.23%. A breakdown of the non-oil sectors showed that agriculture accounted for 28.41%. Whole sale/Retail trade accounted for 18.92% while others contributed 13.90% including manufacturing which accounted for 6%. With the GDP growing at 6.5% to 7% the World Bank in 2013 raised the rating of Nigeria from low income nation to medium income position. In 2014 the GDP was rebased and Nigeria was rated Africa's largest economy ahead of South Africa which used to be the leader. Sectors such as e-commerce, telecommunication and entertainment had to be factored-in in the rebasing of the GDP to push it to N81 trillion (\$510bn) (Okeke, 2014). By mid 2014 however, crude oil prices started gradual and later steep fall, dropping by over 60% between June 2014 and December 2015. Signs of weakness appeared and the economy, because of reduction of revenue cascaded into recession in the third quarter of 2016 following persistent negative growth. From the NBS we learn that inflation rate had risen to 18.48% Exchange rate was hitting N500,00 to a dollar. Interest rate rose and yet banks shyed away from lending even at 20%. Debt servicing at 19.8% of revenue has become significant and the government wants to borrow more. The only cheering news lately is the current price of crude oil which has risen to \$55.00 and OPEC has put Nigeria's daily output at 1.8 million barrels. But, with militancy in the oil rich Niger Delta Region will this be attainable.

In 2016 the N60,06 trillion budget failed because of revenue short fall due to militancy activities. The 2017, N70.3 trillion budget which is supposed to be a budget of hope is threatened by weak and unrealistic bench marks. There is fear the budget may also fail to pull the economy out of recession and make the proposed 2017 positive 2.5% GDP growth rate a pipe dream (Mbamalu, 2016). Mean while the cankerworm of corruption is still eating up the economy even in recession. This is inspite of hope being raised by Global rating agencies such as Moody's (Akinloye, 2017). Indeed Nigeria needs prayers and real hard work to increase productivity. Increased productivity in the answer. This is the challenge of government and its agencies.

Table 1 Profile of the Nigerian GDP at Current Basic Prices in billions of naira from 1999 to 2014

S/N	YEAR	GDP @ Current Basic Prices
1.	1999	4,679.21
2.	2000	6,713.57
3.	2001	6,895.20
4.	2002	7,795.76
5.	2003	9,913.52
6.	2004	11,411.07
7.	2005	14,610.88
8.	2006	18,564.59
9.	2007	20,657.32
10.	2008	24,296.33
11.	2009	24,795.24
12.	2010	54,204.80
13.	2011	63,258.58
14.	2012	71,186.53
15.	2013	80,222.13
16.	2014	81,009.00
17.	2015	81,025.00
18.	2016	81,000.000

Source: Central Bank of Nigeria and National Bureau of Statistics (Revised, 2014) with 2015/2016 projected by researcher.

The Concept of Poverty

As stated by Mbaegbu and Gbandi (2014 p. 20) poverty is considered from two different perspectives: poverty of lack of money and poverty of lack of power. A man is poor if he has insufficient cash and in adequate resources to satisfy his basic needs as a human being. He is also poor because he lacks the power or opportunity to change his situation in life. People in this station in life, according World Bank, live below poverty line of \$1.00 (one dollar) a day. Consequently, these people have inadequate feeding, lack education and are not well informed. They cannot satisfy their basic health needs and generally have short life span. They live in slums, and have no access to safe water, for example, in Makoko Lagos 250,000 people live on floating slum. And because they are uninformed, poor people lack modern family planning techniques and have too many children. They exhibit extreme religiosity and attribute everything to God including preventable deaths.

Omorogbe and Mbaegbu, (2007 pp 87-97) have differentiated between urban poverty and rural poverty which are respectively associated with those who live in urban and rural areas. It is not clear which one is worse. Those in the rural areas of Nigeria tend to mitigate the scourge of poverty by feeding from rural subsistence farming at seasons but they generally lack urban amenities. Since majority of Nigerians live in the rural areas, according to Anam (2014), their roads are in more dilapidated conditions, they lack pipe borne water and electricity supply and generally live from hand to mouth. The urban poor, on the other hand make do with odd jobs to earn their stipend. Some convert any available space in town into an illegal market place for street trading. Others resort to begging, yet others go to the motor parks as touts (*Agbenro*) fighting for passengers to earn their own stipend from drivers. There are also itinerant “pastors” carrying the bible up and down and asking people to support their “ministries” with money.

They are the ones that “eat from the Lord's vine yard”. Some “smart guys” among the poor folks in Nigeria have taken to the practice of herbal medicine to survive claiming to cure all manner of diseases and exploiting the ignorance of those who cannot afford medical bills from orthodox hospitals.

Table 2 Nigerian Population in Poverty 1980 -2010, Selected years

S/N	YEAR	Population in Poverty
1.	1980	17.1 million
2.	1985	34.7 million
3.	1992	39.2 million
4.	1996	67.1 million
5.	2004	68.7million
6.	2010	112.47million

Source: Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics, 2011, www.nigeria.stat.gov.ng

Theoretical Framework

According to Keynes (1936) economic growth is a dependent function of aggregate demand made up of consumption demand for food, clothing etc and investment demand for industrial capacity expansion. For this purpose the Gross Domestic Product (GDP growth rate is proxied with economic growth rate and this quantity is also identical with National income growth rate when earned by households. Expatriating on this theory Jhingan (2010 pp. 72-78) in the *theory of the circular flow of income* posited that income and expenditure of households in the ensuing period is reduced if there are leakages from the economy such that complementing funds flow are not made available for investment and consumption within the economic system. This is basically the trouble with Nigeria. There are too many leakages from the circular flow of income in Nigeria because of corruption. This is such that economic growth is not reinvested in the economy to create employment for the poor masses, increase their income and reduce the poverty level. In other words, Nigerian leaders create jobs outside their own economic system. Through corruption they dump scarce resources into foreign banks which make available the loanable funds to foreign business people for investment and job creation.

From the circular flow of income theory, our *a priori* reasoning is that poverty in Nigeria is a linear function of the level of official corruption which constitutes a leakage from the economic system.

Review of Literature

The review of literature in this work positions poverty as a direct function of the level of official corruption in high places. To this effect the incidence of corruption is reviewed from pre-independent era to the last administration of the People Democratic Party.

Corruption in the Pre-independence & First Republic Era

In the pre-independence era the foremost evidence of corruption was the setting up of the Foster-Sutton Tribunal of Inquiry in 1956 to investigate the conduct of the premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. He was accused of injecting close to £2million of public funds through the instrumentality of his loyalist, the finance minister, Mazi Mbonu Ojike, in the ailing African Continental Bank Ltd (ACB) where he had substantial shares in order to save the bank from liquidation. The tribunal reported that Zik's conduct had “fallen short of the expectations of honest reasonable people” (Quartey, 1964 p. 203; Nwankwo, 1980 p. 50).

Similarly, the Coker Commission of inquiry 1962 indicted Chief Obafemi Awolowo for injection of £3million of public funds in the National Bank of Nigeria Ltd. According to the Tribunal no investigation what so ever was made by the Western Regional Marketing Board as to the soundness or otherwise of the bank before the investment was made in two tranches of £1million and £2million (Nwanko, 1980 p.51). In the North there were also reports indicting the operators of the Northern Nigerian Marketing Board which made corrupt grants to persons (Nwankwo, 1980 p.97).

Although the actions of the nationalists did not follow due processes they were believed by the people to have acted in the interest of the nation against the colonialists. However, during the first coup of January 15th 1966 the coupists (Nzeogwu et, al) were reported to have said that their enemies were the *Ten-Per-Centers* because it was widely believed that ministers who awarded contracts generally inflated the contract sums by 10% kickbacks collected up front to enrich themselves and their parties (Meir, 2000).

Corruption in the First Military Era 1968-1979

The military administration of General Yakubu Gowon was not spared of accusation of corruption. The Head of State was regarded by critics as timid and unable to deal with corrupt officials particularly those from the middle belt area seen as his first constituency. For example, in 1975 there was allegation of over invoicing and falsification of ships' manifests in the importation cement. This gave rise to litigation against Nigeria by the international suppliers when attempts were made to repudiate the contracts.

Even the reformist regime of Murtala Mohammed has not been spared of accusation also. According to Meir (2000 p.27) Chief MKO Abiola as the Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East and also Chief Executive of the International Telegraph & Telephone (I.T.T) was able to negotiate “billion dollar” contract with the Murtala government to install a nation-wide telephone system yet, Nigeria never had effective telephone system, thereafter. As the money went with the winds the ace musician Fela Kuti described I.T.T in his song as “International-Thief-Thief”.

The transition regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo when Murtala Mohammed was killed in a failed coup was also associated with questionable money guzzling projects “the Ajaokuta Steel Complex which over the years consumed some \$8billion without producing one bar of steel” is an example (Meir 2000 p.15). Available statistics has revealed that Nigeria spends \$3.3billion on iron and steel importation annually (Oyesola,2014, p.39) inspite of huge investments in Ajaokuta.

Corruption in the Second Republic 1979- 1983

Corruption was also alleged to be pervasive during the administration of the second republic President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari: investigation into the collapse of the defunct Johnson Mathey Bank of London had revealed how the bank was used as conduit pipe for the transfer of funds for members of the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN). Then there were reported cases of arson when buildings, were set on fire to consume documents needed to probe officials tinted with embezzlement. Finally, there were cases of import license racket for transfer of funds for goods not imported. Achebe (1983 p.40) records a case reported by *Daily Time Newspaper* of shipment of containers of mud and sand instead of approved raw materials. Of particular note was also the rice import license racket by which the government was swindled of billions of

funds. It was because of this that the Late Umaru Dikko was later to be created in London for “extradition” to answer charges in Nigeria by the military regime of General Mohammedu Buhari who toppled Shagari's regime in another coup in 1983.

Corruption in the Second Military Era 1985-1999

The Buhari Administration 1983-85 perhaps appeared to be the only saint among devils. He took a hard-line on corruption before he was toppled by Babangida in 1985. But, there was the case of 59 suit cases belonging to an Emir whose contents were never searched on arrival at the airport from abroad because of instructions from above and to date Nigerians have never known what was buried in the suit cases. The rumour of “money laundering” has never been substantiated even as President Mohammedu Buhari has come back to power as the messiah or *madhi* Nigeria is looking for to fight corruption and move the country forward. For not allowing due process to take place that Buhari administration could not plead not guilty of corruption.

The Babangida administration was described by comedians as “Government by settlement” meaning government by corrupt practices. The most outlandish of the corrupt practices was his alleged inability to account for the “Gulfwar” wind fall”. The wind fall represented the excess crude oil money the nation reaped between 1988 and 1994 amounting to \$12.4 billion when the Gulf war was on. The Okigbo report on this matter has never been made public, (Odunlami,2005 pp.28-40). Also, the Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRFI) set up in 1986 was widely accused of corruption. As Akpan (1992) described it: DFRFI showed miles of performance on paper with only inches of evidence in the field for the N2billion it spent in its first 6½ years of existence before it was scrapped off due to popular condemnation.

The Abacha Administration perhaps took the trophy for corruption during the second military era. At the last count some \$930 million stashed in foreign bank account by General Sani Abacha and family have been recovered (Alli,2014 pp.28-40). The loot was as follows:

1. From USA - \$550 million
2. From Luxembourg - \$380million
3. From Voluntary surrender - \$750 million
4. From Switzerland - \$570 million
5. From Jersey - \$380 million
6. From UK - \$150 million
7. From Liechtenstein - \$400 million
8. From Island of Jersey - £22.5 million

The question critical minds are asking is what has happened to the recovered loot. Was it invested in the economy to alleviate poverty or was it looted again by another strong man? The Abachas are now free by a brokered peace settlement. The military exited in May 1999 when the Abulsalami Abubakar regime handed over power to General now Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to commence his “second missionary journey” into power position in Nigeria to start the present third Republic. However, according to Meir (2000) the foreign reserves were depleted by \$3billion within six months to the hand over by the short regime. Even estimates of the reconstruction of *Eagle Square* the venue of the hand over ran into \$35million. The new National Assembly building built by Abubakar's Lebanese friends, the Chagoury Brothers, was at a cost of \$65 million (see Meir, 2000 p.6).

Corruption in the third Republic (1999 to May 2015) by the PDP Administration

Analysts are not sure if corruption during the military era was more than the 16 years of the third republic led by PDP government.

Obasanjo is one leader who has impacted the most on Nigeria in terms of governance. When he came back to power in 1999 he promised Nigerians regular power supply within 6 months of his first term. In 2006 his administration pumped in a whopping \$16billion into the power section (Ajanaku, 2012 p.24). Yet, until Obasanjo left office in 2007 after 8 years power generation was on average as low as 2,800 mega watts. Productive sector was almost flattened. Many vibrant industries relocated to Ghana and created jobs there while using Nigeria as market. The same administration made noise about fighting corruption yet the anti-corruption organizations it established namely the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) could not seriously prosecute any treasury looter. Without the UK Court Former Governor of Delta State (Ibori James Onanefe) could not have been jailed in the UK for graft. It was the same Obasanjo administration that introduced "Due Process" in public procurement as well as the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (N.E.I.T.) that had been a toothless bulldog. However, corruption in this administration was sealed up with the Halliburton Bribery Scandal which blew up in 2010. It has been alleged that between 1994 and 2003 Halliburton, an American Multinational Corporation with a subsidiary in Nigeria offered a total of \$182 million bribe to certain powerful Nigerians to secure a contract of \$6billion for the construction of the Bonny Island Natural Liquefied Gas project. Those implicated in the bribery scandal are alleged to include two former military Heads of State, the civilian president himself, his Vice President and other key officials between 1999 and 2007. So far, according to source the US government has recovered \$140 million of the bribe money banked abroad awaiting repatriation to Nigeria if only beneficiaries of the bribe in Nigeria would be prosecuted (Tunji, 2015, p.20). The question is who will do that.

The immediate past administration of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is alleged to have swam in a cesspool of corruption. Often cited case of corruption was the fuel subsidy scam for which Ibrahim (2014 p.1) reported that Nigeria lost N2 trillion annually. The loss arose because the value of the subsidy was not paid the marketers in time due to verification of bills submitted and due to administrative bottle necks while interest and exchange equalization fees accumulated. Also some marketers submitted fictitious bills for fuel not imported giving rise to fraud. Apart from subsidy, government lost funds, some \$600 million, through crude oil swap deals. In the swap deal government exchanged crude oil with finished products. As revealed by NEITI audit of NNPC the value of crude had been discovered to be more than the value of finished products supplied in exchange. Other cases of corruption associated with lack of political will by the Jonathan administration included (1) the N195 billion Pension Fund rip off discovered in 2010. (2) the \$20 billion oil money for which the former Governor of Central Bank blew the whistle that it was not remitted to the Federation Account in 2013, (3) the Stella Oduah's purchase of bullet proof cars and private jets running into billions of naira including inflated amount of N255 million by the Ministry of Aviation, (4) \$9.7 million failed arms contract with South African dealers, (5) the missing \$2.1 billion from Excess Crude Account, (6) The remittance of \$100 million instead of \$1.85 billion oil block sales (see Okezie, 2015 pp. 1&4, & Ogbuokiri, 2015 pp.25), (7) The police Pension fund Fraud amounting to N32.8 in 2012, (8) Malabu oil scandal involving \$1.1 billion rip off in 2011 (Agbede, 2016).

In table 3 we present Nigeria's position in the corruption perception index from 2009 to 2013. The bigger the rank the more the perception of corruption.

Table 3 Corruption Perception Index 2009-2013

YearS/N	Nigerian Rank	No of countries surveyed
2009	130	180
2010	134	178
2011	143	182
2012	139	174
2013	144	175

Source: Transparency International corruption Index 2009 – 2013.

Methodology (Materials and Method)

This study is basically a time series *expost facto* research making use of secondary data from the Central Bank of Nigeria, Transparency International and the National Bureau of Statistics. But the method of analysis has a limitation because of non availability of required data to regress poverty level on corruption perception index. Data available on Nigeria's population in poverty from the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics are staggered from 1980 to 2010 but corruption perception index data are available yearly only from 2009 to 2013, thereby limiting any regression analysis. We, therefore opted for time series analysis of data or trend analysis for the two groups of data in order to achieve some comparability between corruption level and poverty level in order to draw conclusion.

Data Analysis and Test of Hypotheses

To compare corruption level and the level of GDP we represent tables 1 & 3 from 2009 to 2013 (5 years) as table 4.

Table 4 GDP in Billions of Naira and Corruption Perception Index

S/N	Year	GDP in Billion of naira	Corruption index
1.	2009	24,794.24	130
2.	2010	54,204.80	134
3.	2011	63,258.58	143
4.	2012	71,186.53	139
5.	2013	80,222.12	144

Sources: Central Bank of Nigeria and Transparency International

In comparing the trend of the two groups of data we can see that as GDP increased from N24,794.24 billion to N80,222.12 billion corruption perception also increased from 130 to 144. The trends are related.

Test of Hypothesis 1

From the above analysis there is a significant relationship between the level of GDP and the level of corruption. As the economy grows looting of public funds through corrupt practices also increases. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative

Test of Hypothesis 2

The trend analysis associating poverty and corruption level shows that both corruption and poverty level on their own had been on the increase (see tables 2 and 3). In 2009 in terms of

perception Nigeria ranked 130 out of 180 countries surveyed by Transparency International. This perception increased to 134 out of 178 countries surveyed in 2010. By 2013 Nigeria was ranked 144 out of 175. The curve is upward slopping from the left showing a positive trend as corruption perception increased yearly. Similarly the population in poverty in 1980 was 17.1 million people. This increased to 39.2 million in 1992. By 2010 it had increased to 112.47 million people also showing a curve that is upward slopping from the left. Corruption and poverty both have positive trends. We, therefore, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. Corruption as a leakage from the income stream impacts significantly on the level of poverty in Nigeria.

Findings and Discussion of Findings

As the economy grows, corruption increases significantly and poverty level also increases. Corruption therefore, is a major cause of poverty in Nigeria; corruption is a major source of leakage from the Nigerian circular flow of income. The findings are consistent with the theory of the circular flow of income. (Lipsey, 1976, Samuelson, 1980; Jhingin, 2010).

Conclusion

There is mass poverty in Nigeria because of the level of leakages from the circular flow of income particularly the out flow through corruption. While Nigeria had experienced high economic growth rates averaging 7.4% before recession set in, according to the World Bank Nigeria Economic Report (NER) released in July 2014, poverty level increased significantly because of an intervening variable to wit, official corruption. World Bank put the level of poverty at 33.1% while according to National Bureau of Statistics, 60.9% of Nigerians or 112.47 million people in 2010 were living in absolute poverty unable to spend more than \$1,00 or £0.3 a day. This figure increased from 54.7% (68.7 million people) in 2004. Therefore if corruption is not checked it will threaten the achievement of SDGs of the United Nations in Nigeria namely, mass education, poverty eradication, good health, energy supply etc.

Recommendations

1. The government which is seen as an offshoot of the incorruptible military administration of General Mohammadu Buhari should tackle the incidence of corruption seriously. People convicted of corruption should pay the supreme price of forfeiting their lives like in China for putting the lives of their compatriots in abject poverty. Recovered funds should be invested to create jobs for the poor.
2. Affirmative action to increase the welfare of the poor through public policy thrust should be adopted to bridge poverty gap and inequality between the rich and the poor. If these recommendations are adopted Nigerian can make an impact on the UN initiated SDGs.

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