

Corruption in Nigeria: a Bane on National Productivity

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Abstract

Corruption has become a major cankerworm which continues to impair the growth and developmental potentials of Nigeria. With the government committing huge sums to tackle the country's most pressing problems, ranging from insecurity and unemployment to poverty and economic problems, corruption remains an obstacle to achieving much needed progress. Regrettably, it seems to have defied every therapy as the more each successive administration promised to combat the menace, the more it increased in intensity. Worse still, the level at which this act is being perpetrated by many in position of trust, especially political and public office holders, is alarming. This paper therefore seeks to identify the various forms, causes and typologies of corruption in Nigeria. It attempts to show the magnitude of this problem with a view to revealing the effects on the national productivity of the nation. It also recommends among others that.

Keywords: *Corruption, Political corruption in Nigeria, Productivity.*

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Background to the Study

There is a major scourge bedeviling our nation today. This vice, which has become a recurring decimal in Nigeria, is corruption. The degree of systemic and pervasive corruption in the country has continually drifted the nation into an abyss of poor, institutional and infrastructural decadence. It is a monster threatening to destroy the very fabric of Nigeria and the collective existence of her citizens. This problem, which has already attracted global attention, has become multi-dimensional, multi-faceted and complex (Aluko, 2006). Achebe (1983) gave a graphic description of the frightening magnitude of corruption when he observed that corruption in Nigeria has passed the alarming stage and entered the fatal stage and that Nigeria will die if we keep pretending that she is only slightly indisposed. He added that keeping average Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam. In the present day Nigerian society, the quest for money has almost become a virtue in itself, and there is hardly any question asked about how people come to their opulence. The worship of money has gained such ascendancy that people who have become very rich but without obvious means to their wealth, are widely acclaimed and celebrated. It is now a difficult task to convince an average Nigerian youth of the possibility of achieving greatness without being corrupt.

Although a global phenomenon that affects developed, developing and underdeveloped nations of the world; and as Labelle (2009) rightly observed, “No region of the world is immune to the perils of corruption”. However, the magnitude of its prevalence in the country indicates that it has become endemic and deeply entrenched in the entire system of our nation. It has eaten deep into the value system and is now even threatening the culture of the people (Anyaku, 2009). The media, both print and electronic, are awash almost on daily basis, with stories of billions (in various currencies) looted by individuals. In government circles, embezzlement, looting, bribery allegations and other forms of corrupt practices have become the order of the day. In most of these cases, such “deals “are either in US dollars or Pound sterling, which if converted to the Nigerian local currency run into billions and trillions of naira. Embarrassingly, Nigeria, a country that got her independence over fifty years ago and endowed with enormous natural resources, still relies on the outside world for almost everything, even from smaller African nations.

Despite all the hundreds of billions of dollars that have accrued from the sale of oil-money, majority of our people still live below the poverty line as most of these monies largely go into private pockets. Adeniyi (2015) aptly described the Nigerian situation as “ a classic example of that paradox of stupendous wealth for a few and acute penury for many others”. At this crucial time in our nation's history when the country is battling with serious economic crisis, and attempts to revamp the economy are being made, it is essential to break the corrosive circle of corruption.

Conceptual Clarifications

Corruption

There is no single accepted definition for this term because corruption varies in meaning depending on the context and situation (Aluko, 2006). There is therefore no precise, clear definition that can be applied to all forms, types and degrees (Samara, 2009). According to

Adegbite (1991), Corruption is “a conscious and well planned act by a person or group of persons to appropriate by unlawful means, the wealth of another or group of persons”. The Corruption Perception Index (2014) generally defines corruption as “the misuse of public power for private benefit” while Aluko (2006) defines it as “the act of illegally diverting resources (particularly financial resources) meant for the good of the citizenry in a defined geographical area, by a privileged individual or a group for personal use, presumably for self-aggrandizement”. In this sense, corruption means the use of public resources for the achievement of personal ends.

Corruption is a crime perpetrated in various forms. United Nations Organization gives instances of corruption to include, but not limited to bribery; abuse and or misuse of office; illegal payments; kickbacks; misappropriation and embezzlement; currency violations; forgery; false accounting; abuse of public grants; smuggling; violation of labour regulations; over-invoicing over-pricing and transfer-pricing; illegal and illegitimate monopolization; hoarding; illegal flight of capital; fraudulent sales; adulterated food or hazardous drugs; acts of constraint or distortion of development plans, etc (Aluko,2006). Similarly, Uju (2009) explained that some ways through which the act of corruption is perpetrated by many in positions of trust, especially political and public office holders as well as captains and heads of businesses in organized private sectors, include bribery, graft, extortion and robbery, patronage, nepotism and cronyism, embezzlement and kickbacks.

Productivity

There is no universally accepted definition of the term “productivity”. Various approaches to its definition are used, depending on the content. Infact, productivity is relevant and applicable to all spheres of life, whether we work in the farm or in the factory, in the office or at home, in the private or public sector. As a social concept, productivity reflects our total commitment to improve the way we do things i.e. our attitudes, work ethics and life styles. As declared by the productivity committee of the European conference in 1985 in Rome: Productivity is an attitude of mind, it is the mentality of progress and of constant improvement of that which exists. It is the certainty of being able to change that which exists. It is the certainty of being able to do better today than yesterday. It is the will to improve on the present situation, no matter how good it may. It is the constant adaptation of economic condition. It is the continued effort to apply now techniques and it is the faith in human capabilities (Akerele, 1991).

In general terms, productivity is the relationship between the outputs generated from a production system and the inputs provided to create those outputs. The input factors being usually in the form of labour(human resources), material, energy, and capital (physical and financial assets) while outputs are generally in the form of goods and services (Oyibo,2014). For the purpose of this paper however, we shall define productivity as an integrated concept, where productivity is seen as the efficiency and effectiveness with which inputs (land, capital, labour, material, time, energy, etc) are combined and utilized in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner to produce quality goods and services for the satisfaction of human needs (Bamiduro,2014). This appears to be a more holistic conceptualization of productivity. This definition reveals that mere productivity alone does so little. Rather, goods and services produced must be of high quality, must be valuable and must satisfy human needs.

Origin of Corruption in Nigeria

A certain level of corruption exists in almost every polity, regardless of its geographical location. However, the excessively high level of corruption in Nigeria seems to have grown with each regime since getting her Independence in 1960 (Aluko,2006). Many believe that the seed of corruption, which is now at its peak at all levels in the country, was effectively sown and nurtured to maturity during the military era (Ajibola, 1991, Aluko,2006). Wole Olanipeku (SAN) underscored this fact when he said the military should tender apology to the nation for introducing corruption to the country on the pretext of fighting social vices (Ohai,2013).

After gaining her Independence from Britain on October 1, 1960, the first democratic dispensation lasted a little over five years - October 1, 1960 to January 15, 1966. This was followed by Thirteen years of uninterrupted military regimes. This is not to say that there was no corruption during the brief Civilian era between October 1, 1979 and December, 1983 (Ajibola,1991), (Aluko,2006). The then President of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari was quoted in Odey (2001) to have lamented that:“Corruption, fraud and smuggling are not only being institutionalized, but are fast becoming a business pursuit in our country. Those who rise through criminal records to the position of affluence are embraced by the society while merit, honesty and integrity are hardly recognized”. The fact that virtually all the past administrators, both civilian and military, always promised to fight corruption, is also worthy of note. The forgoing notwithstanding, the country was laden with corruption when President Olusegun Obasanjo was sworn in on May, 1999 (Ohai, 2013). It is on record that in 2002, the president signed into law the Anti-Graft Act which established the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to fight corruption at all levels. A few years later, it turns out to the chagrin of Nigerians that despite the efforts of the elected political leadership to check the social vice, corruption has become endemic and eaten into the foundation of governance.

Causes of Corruption in Nigeria

Nigeria and her teeming population have been under the yoke of corruption for years now. It is therefore essential to identify the reasons for the prevalent level of corruption in order to break its corrosive crude. Corruption typically flourishes in societies in which high value is placed on financial worth, power and status. Our culture today is that of materialism, where they reserve so much respect for material possessions irrespective of how it was acquired; a culture that places premium on material things at the expense of integrity; a culture that breeds “scarcity mentality”, which is a deep-seated sense of lack that no amount of material supply can satisfy (Oyewole,2016). Little wonder why some of our leaders have stolen enough for generations unborn, yet they still keep looting public funds. The traditional rulers are not left out, as a good number of them throw caution to the wind and confer high-profile chieftaincy or traditional titles on their “sons” and “daughters” that have brought home some of the stolen goodies. Even the religious institutions are not spared as many of these leaders parade their wealth while their followers wallow in abject poverty.

Another major cause of corruption is greed. When the desire for the accumulation of wealth surpasses the desire to work for the good of the nation, the greedy individual perceives the post

being occupied as a means to acquiring more wealth. The media has continued to reveal how certain individuals abused the privileges of their offices, diverting funds earmarked for the good of the society, into their private pockets, due purely to greed. Weak judicial system also encourages corruption to thrive. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar had admitted before the senate, during her confirmation hearing as the first female Chief Justice of the federation, that there was corruption in the judiciary (THISDAY, 2013).

A report by the United States government also affirmed that the judiciary was lacking in transparency (Oladekan et al., 2013). Not only does the conviction process take a very long time to materialize (that is if the guilty are ever charged to court), convicted felons are released simply by paying some ridiculous fines from their pockets after stealing billions of naira. A case that comes to mind is that of a former Director of Pension in Police Affairs Ministry, Mr. John Yakubu Yusuf, who stood trial for allegedly stealing N27 billion, but was however convicted with a paltry fine of N750,000, which he immediately paid and was released without going to prison. Another case in point concerned a former governor of Edo state, Mr. Lucky Igbinedion, who reportedly stole N4.3 billion naira and got away by just paying N3.5 million after a plea bargain was struck between the ex-governor and the anti-graft commission (THISDAY, 2013). When sanctions are not stiff, corruption becomes more profitable. Little wonder why Achebe (1983) wrote that Nigerians were corrupt because the system under which they live makes corruption “easy and profitable”. He said Nigerians will cease to be corrupt when corruption is made difficult and inconvenient.

Beyond this, patronage ties between political elites and those they represent often place heavy informal obligations and demands on the former (Samara, 2009). Typically, such elected representatives are usually overwhelmed with financial pressures from their families, friends, tribal/ethnic constituents, and political supporters. Such obligations are almost always fulfilled through corrupt means (Ochonu, 2008). Other factors responsible for corruption in Nigeria include, but not limited to weak Government institutions, poverty, ignorance and high level of illiteracy.

Typology of Corruption

Aluko (2006) identifies five types of corruption namely; economic/commercial, administrative/professional, organized, working-class and political corruption. According to him, while commercial corruption is largely perpetrated by businessmen and contractors, professional corruption are carried out by top administrative and professional personnel. Organized corruption, on the other hand, is relatively large-scale and complex criminal activities perpetrated by groups of individuals while working-class corruption is carried out by artisans, messengers, accounts desks, marketers and the like. Political corruption is largely perpetrated by political office holders and their collaborators- the career civil servants in the public sector. From the typology described, it becomes obvious that corruption is perpetrated primarily for personal gain while the usual victims of corruption are the ordinary citizens and consumers of goods and services. This paper focused on political corruption. This does not in any suggest that it is only in the public sector that corruption exists. It only shows how much corruption has ravaged this very vital area of government concerned with the primary essence of governance.

Political Corruption

In specific terms, political corruption is the misuse, by government officials, of their governmental powers for illegitimate private gains (Uju, 2009). Put simply, public sector corruption is about so much more than missing money. It is about people's lives. It's a global problem (Transparency International, 2015). When public office holders abuse their lofty positions by condoning unethical acts and failing to establish justice and the rule of law; when they allow certain unpatriotic considerations like politics or ethnicity to affect their judgments; when they benefit from or encourage bribery in any way; when they mismanage the public resources under their trusts; when they appoint friends and relatives into positions of public trust against competence, efficiency and collective good, it becomes extremely difficult if not impossible for them to be firm in ensuring that things are done in the proper way for the overall benefit of the populace.

Before long, the entire structures and institutions of government, which are naturally the protector of the public good, is weakened to the extent that corruption sets in corrupting the entire system. As painful as this would be to accept, that to a very large extent is the reality of Nigeria. It is rather unfortunate that from the leadership of the most powerful institutions to the smallest ones in Nigeria, endless allegations of corruption, injustice, violation of due process and rule of law, abuse of public office and mismanagement of collective resources in high and low places of government, as well as outright stealing of public funds exist (Uju, 2009).

According to Ribadu (2007), virtually all the investigations carried out by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) at the state and local government levels while he was the Chairman of the Commission established a pattern of criminal collaboration between carrier public officials and their political superiors in the looting of public funds. This is regrettable because the public officials (Civil servants) are supposed to check the financial indiscretion of the political office holders. This fact is corroborated by Dr. Chudi Nwike, a former Deputy Governor of Anambra state, as he said there was no way a political office holder could take public money without the connivance of a civil servant, since cheques and other instrument must be prepared and signed before the money can be released. Considering that political office holders are rarely (sole) signatories to government accounts, it stands to reason that the politicians cannot take government fund away without the knowledge of the civil servant. If civil servants would do their duties to the nation as the guardians and protectors of all public property and trust (including funds), virtually no politician would access public funds to loot (Ojediran, 2009).

Considering the recent developments in the country, it is evident that most members of the ruling class have a common goal, which it is to enrich themselves, their relatives and friends, instead of giving selfless service to the nation. To fulfill their sole purpose, which is self-aggrandizement, highly placed government officials resort to actions that amount to "abuse of power" (Ohai, 2013). Uju (2009) believes that this type of corruption accounts for the reason why various institutions, agencies and organs of government have over the years, failed to provide the needed services in accordance with their statutory mandates, despite the billions of naira allocated to them every year.

Corruption in Nigeria: The Magnitude

Though a global phenomenon, corruption has become very endemic and deeply entrenched in the entire system of Nigeria. From the public to the private sector-cutting across the political class, bureaucrats, religious and traditional leaders, security agencies, institutions of learning, corporate organizations and other institutions, glaring instances and allegations of corrupt practices abound. Perusing through media headlines, one finds cases of alleged corruption cases, especially against political office holders and government officials in the public service. Revelations from these cases have been as reverting as can be imagined. They are illustrative of the impunity with which those saddled with the conduct of public affairs have taken the confidence of the people for granted and instead, engaged in looting of national funds, transforming the country into a “Looter's paradise”.

During the first four years of the Olusegun Obasanjo administration, federal ministers were said to have allegedly stolen more than N23 billion from the public coffers. This amount was said to represent financial frauds ranging from embezzlement, payments of jobs not done, over-invoicing, double-debiting, inflation of contract figures to release of money without the consent of the approving authority in ten major ministries. Similarly, In the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012, the United States government had reportedly indicated the President Good luck Jonathan led federal government of massive and widespread corruption, saying that government officials “frequently engaged in corrupt practices with impunity”. The report had added that massive, widespread and pervasive corruption affected all levels of government and the security forces (Ohai,2013).

As observed by Waziri (2009), the extent of aggrandizement and gluttonous accumulation of wealth suggested that some people were mentally and psychologically unsuitable for public office. She noted that people amassed public wealth to a point suggesting “madness” or some form of “obsessive compulsive psychiatric disorder”. According to Oyeboode (2009), it has been estimated that since independence, Nigeria has lost over \$400 billion to corruption. The \$400 billion is even a conservative figure of the quantum of money stolen out of the country by both government and private individuals (THISDAY, 2013). The raw figure- \$400 billion - is staggering, but it doesn't translate to national development. if that money had been effectively utilized and invested in social and economic development programmes that benefit all Nigerians, our story may have been different today.

Unfortunately, the bulk of these stolen funds get trapped abroad and it grows the economy of such country while only a trickle gets back here in forms of donations. Recently, the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, reportedly assured President Buhari that the US government would facilitate the repatriation of all stolen Nigerian funds within the American banking system. Similarly, Nigeria and Britain had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides for the mechanism and modalities by which assets looted from Nigeria to the UK would be returned to the country (The Guardian, 2016). The repatriation process may take a very long time, but the efforts being made are commendable.

The table below shows some corruption cases allegedly perpetrated by public officials.

Table 1: List of Some Recent Allegations of Corruption

S/No	Alleged Corruption Cases
1.	₦195 billion Maina pension scam
2.	Kerosene subsidy scam
3.	\$6.8 billion fuel subsidy scam
4.	₦190 million Stephen Oransaye fraud
5.	₦32.8 billion police pension fund fraud
6.	₦12.4 billion James Ibori Money laundry scandal
7.	₦225 million Stella Oduah's two bullet proof BMW car purchase scandal
8.	₦20 billion missing oil money from NNPC
9.	\$15 million Private Jet arms scandal
10.	₦676 million immigration recruitment scandal
11.	\$1.092 billion Malabu Oil scandal
12.	Crude oil theft scandal
13.	\$2.1 billion Sambo Dasuki Arms scandal
14.	\$620,000 Farouk Lawan Subsidy bribery scandal
15.	₦6 billion Christian Religious leaders bribery allegation
16.	₦3 billion Sure-P fraud
17.	\$200 billion Loot of 7 ex-governors traced to UAE by EFCC
18.	₦400 million Olisa Metuh's scandal
19.	₦3.97 billion Badeh fraud
20.	Malibu Oil international scandal
21.	\$11.6 billion missing from Nigeria LNG Company dividend payments
22.	Diversion of 60% of \$1 billion foreign loans obtained from the Chinese by the Ministry of Finance
23.	Diversion of \$2.2 million vaccination fund by Ministry of Health
24.	Diversion of Ebola fight fund up to the tune of ₦1.9 billion
25.	\$1.1 billion Malabu oil deal

Sources: www.naija.com; The Punch (2013); THISDAY (2013); www.nigerianmonitor.com; www.wikipedia.org

Nigeria on Transparency International Ratings

Transparency International (TI) has been publishing the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), since 1995, annually ranking countries by their perceived level of public sector corruption as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys. The CPI ranks countries on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), while a country's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries in the index. Although the ranking started in 1995, Transparency International Corruption Perception Index began to cover Nigeria in 1996.

Table 2: Transparency International Rating of Nigeria on Corruption Scale

Year	Rank	Number of Countries Surveyed
1996	54 th	54
1997	52 nd	52
1998	81 st	85
1999	98 th	99
2000	90 th	90
2001	90 th	91
2002	101 st	102
2003	132 nd	133
2004	143 rd	145
2005	151 st	158
2006	142 nd	163
2007	147 th	180
2008	121 st	180
2009	130 th	180
2010	134 th	178
2011	143 rd	183
2012	139 th	177
2013	144 th	177
2014	136 th	174
2015	136 th	168

Sources: www.transparency.org

Nigeria has been ranked high in corruption by Transparency International (TI) and other notable organizations that monitor corrupt practices around the world. In 1996 when TI began to cover Nigeria, Nigeria was ranked the most corrupt in the survey carried out, placing 54 out of 54 countries surveyed. Nigeria still maintained the same position the following year, ranking 52 out of 52 countries. In 1998, there was a slight improvement with Nigeria placing 81 out of 85 countries and making it the 5th most corrupt country. This position dropped again in 1999 when Nigeria placed 98 out of 99 countries surveyed, making it the second most corrupt country in that year.

In year 2000, Nigeria occupied the 90th position out of the 90 countries surveyed, making it the most corrupt country that year. In 2001, Nigeria improved by one step by ranking the second most corrupt nation out of 91 countries, falling only to Bangladesh. In 2002 and 2003, Nigeria still maintained the same position, making no improvements from 2001. However, 2004's ranking showed a slight improvement as Nigeria ranked the third most corrupt country, performing better than Bangladesh and Haiti. The record further improved in 2005 when Nigeria ranked eight most corrupt nation; occupying 151st position out of the 158 countries surveyed.

In the subsequent years, Nigerian's ranking showed gradual improvements, but not good enough. In 2002 for instance, the country ranked 139 out of the 176 surveyed countries, making Nigeria the 37th most corrupt nation. In 2003, Nigeria ranked 144 out of 177 surveyed

countries. This indicated that Nigeria was the 33rd most corrupt nation in the world that year. The 2014 ranking however showed a little improvement as Nigeria ranked 136 out of 174 countries. That year, Nigeria was the 38th most corrupt country. With the emergence of a new government in year 2015, many believed that corruption will be minimized. Unfortunately, despite the on-going war against corruption being waged by this new administration, Nigeria was seen at the bottom of the table, retaining its 136th position of the previous year, out of the 168 countries. This implies that Nigeria was the 32nd most corrupt country in the world in 2015.

Effects of Corruption on National Productivity

Corruption has no doubt done inestimable damage to Nigeria and her people. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges of our nation. A challenge that is not only leading to impoverishment and loss of lives, but also threatening the stability of the society. As rightly observed by Anyaoku (2009), corruption is by far the greatest bane of our national economic and political development. For how else can one begin to explain the fact that the Nigerian economy and infrastructure, especially the roads and other transportation networks, our education institutions and hospitals, amongst others, have not benefited more appreciably from the large revenue that this country has earned from its export of crude oil in time past.

According to Mr. Kofi Anan, a former Secretary General of United Nations, corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign investment and aid (Uju, 2009). This is certainly a great obstacle to national productivity. Corruption ranks high as the most devastating threat to the fortunes of the nation. It has contributed to massive depletion of national wealth that could have been used for national development.

It erodes the institutional capacity of government and destroys their ability to achieve public welfare as a result of inefficiency, wasteful spending and distorted public decisions (Mauro, 1997). Capital projects that promise large side-payments are usually preferred to those that benefit the public at large. The best connected contractors and those most willing to offer bribes are preferred to those offering the best product. The quality of investments therefore suffers because control mechanisms that are required to guarantee the contracted quality level, can be circumvented due to corruption.

Corruption is associated with poor public finance management and poor provision of public goods. It encourages tax evasion, resulting in a lower tax base for government revenue collection. It also allows for government expenditure in vested interest rather than public interest. This results in a lack of provision for public goods such as infrastructure for businesses, education and healthcare for households. This not only reduces the quality of government services, but also increases budgetary pressures on government. It also results in erosion of talents in public institutions and therefore, government effectiveness, as public servants/civil servants are appointed/employed based on nepotism, patronage or bribe payments, while aspects of efficiency and capacity are disregarded. Thereby, reducing the quality of human capital and ultimately of the public institutions.

Corruption is associated with lower investments, higher prices and barriers to entry for business. The harsh business environment makes it difficult for businesses to thrive. Worse still, corruption creates poor national image making the country unattractive to foreign investors whose investments could have created employment opportunities for our teeming unemployed youths, reduced poverty, and enhanced their living standards in the long run. At the same time, it undermines the legitimacy of government and results in mistrust, intolerance, insecurity and suspicion. Jobless youths turn to crime such as kidnapping, political thuggery, cybercrime, armed robbery. Militancy, terrorism, etc., as they see no hope of a desirable future. In this kind of scenario, the government ends up wasting enormous national resources in battling crime and other security problems, instead of channeling the resources into productive issues of national development. Corruption inflicts untold hardship on the populace and has contributed to the unprecedented rise in poverty in Nigeria, making it an unenviable classic study in paradox of grinding poverty in the midst's of abundant human and material resources. In a recent research by Action Aid Nigeria, it was revealed that in many ways, the level of deprivations to which a great majority of Nigerians are subjected today is a consequence of the greed of a few people in both the public and private sectors (Adeniyi, 2015).

Way Forward

Having seen the damaging effects of corruption in our nation, there is need to develop practical strategies that will totally eliminate corruption and corrupt practices from our midst. It is important for the anti-corruption crusade to be anchored on transparency and fairness. There must be no sacred cow. Anyone, irrespective of status, who is found culpable in the looting of our common wealth should be made to face the wrath of the law. The legal/judicial mechanism must be strengthened to ensure that the guilty are convicted, and that convicted felons do not get out of the court, simply by paying some ridiculous fines from their pockets (in the name of plea bargain) after stealing billions of naira. The plea bargain arrangement and the fact that former "thieves" can get presidential pardon will not only worsen corruption but will take it to the crescendo. However, our efforts cannot stop at our borders. Nigeria's financial intelligence unit should collaborate with its counterparts all over the world in order to make it increasingly difficult for those who steal from public treasury to find safe havens for their money, outside the country. Just this simple step-refusing to take stolen money from a poor country- addresses much of the problem of corruption.

Conclusion

Corruption is a formidable cankerworm that has wrecked irreparable havoc in our nation. This monster has defied every antidote and has found expression in all our societal institutions. It is anti-progress, anti-development and anti-productivity. Recognizing the damaging effects of corruption, coupled with the current economic recession, this issue needs to be comprehensively addressed if our country is to regain her lost glory and begin to function maximally for the benefit of the entire Nigerian people. The anti-corruption crusade will only be more meaningful if it succeeds in giving birth to a new Nigerian society in which the urge for aggressive accumulation and greed gives way to a more modest lifestyle.

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