Corruption Galore and The Development Initiatives In Nigeria

Moses Sunday Oyelere (MPA)¹

1. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife

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Abstract

It is the aspiration of every independent nation to attain some degree of development over a certain period of time but of course to achieve such, planning through deliberate formulation and diligent implementation of development policies is the wheel to success, since development cannot occur naturally or by accident. This study examined the Nigerian development initiatives from the first to the fourth National Development Plan and subsequent developmental agendas of each regime but more importantly, how corrupt practices had stolen, killed and destroyed the primary aims of each plan. A review of corruption cases in Nigeria political sphere revealed the extent at which corruption had made development becomes a mirage in Nigeria. Glaringly, the study unveils that Nigeria remains an underdeveloped country mainly as a result of unabated corrupt practices in all sphere of governance and non-governmental establishment in the country and thereby it proffer workable solutions to combat this wicked menace.

Keywords: Development, Development Plans, Corruption.

1. Introduction

Globally, development and development plans are important component of every government’s agenda. Most countries of the world that are referred to as ‘developed nations’ today attained this feet as a result of many years of diligent planning and focused implementation with little or no visible corrupt practices. Independent nations (Nigeria inclusive) had believed that since development is not accidental and that it does not occur naturally then development planning is expedient, hence, the quest of every under-develop or developing country to design initiatives or plans that will hasten their growth and development. Nigeria as a nation since its political independence in 1960 had not been left out of this quest. Nigeria’s development planning could be traced back to the colonial era when under the British colonial government a development and welfare plan was introduced to last for ten years (1946-1956) and it was widely criticized for lack of mass participation (Ejumudo, 2013) There follows many development plans after the independence and this are classified thus: Fixed term planning (1962-1985), Rolling plan (1990-1998) and then the democratic dispensation that witness diverse plans initiated by one regime after another (1999-date).

Despite the multiple development plans couples with over five decades of independence, development and development initiatives in Nigeria had always hit the hard rock; various efforts put in to attain some level of growth had always proved abortive, one wonders why? Hence, the aim of the study is to ascertain the effect of corruption on development in Nigeria. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has identified systemic corruption which engenders a low level of transparency and accountability as the major source of development failures (Urien, 2018). Unlike many African countries, where resources to implement plans was not always available, in
Nigeria the financial capacity to implement the plans was there (especially during the oil boom) but the political will was almost absent rather personal aggrandizement. According to Ejumudo (2013), Nigerians were more concerned with sharing the oil booty than in laying the foundation for the much needed industrial development index. Research has shown that corruption in the public sector is the most severe obstacle confronting Nigerian development process (Gray & Kaufmann 1998). This therefore, is the basis of the study, to examine the impact so far of the alarming corrupt practices on Nigerian development and development Initiatives. This study is necessary at this crucial moment of the national life because of the impending dangers underdevelopment can unleash on the nation as a result of jobless teaming youthful population of the country. Secondly, the study is of great significance at this time to re-awake the nation’s leaders of the future consequences of corruption if not speedily and properly curtailed.

The rest of the paper is in four sections, the next section discusses the concept of development, development planning, and corruption. The third section reviews literatures on corruption from global, continental and National (Nigeria) perspectives, the fourth, section reviews corrupt practices in Nigeria Political sphere, while the fifth examines the effect of corruption on development initiatives and the last section articulates or recommends some measures for policy makers and the society on how to eliminate corrupt practices, ensure growth and rapid and absolute development of the nation.

2. Conceptualization of Terms

2.1 Development

The term development is globally a complex terminology that had been debated over time. It is difficult to define because of its multiple contextual usages, According to Lawal & Oluwatoyin (2011) development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. It has generated many contentious definitions from different scholars. Ejumudo (2013), captures it thus, development is a relative term because it is not easy to measure, what may be considered to be developed in one community may not be so considered in another. At a point in history, some authors defined development to mean economic growth of a nation; this is seen by the increase in real national income over a certain period of time as engineered by government direct involvement in economic activities (Urien, 2018). Scholars such as Water Crouse, Williamson, Meier and Viner sees development as an increase in per capita income and positive improvement in economic structure.

But this view was seen as lopsided because it is more concerned with the increase in economy’s output, a gradual increase in one of the components of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumption, government spending, investment, net export etc. The definition sees development as a purely economic phenomenon. The critic of this definition grew in the 1960s because it eliminates human factor out of development. This obvious omission of human factor led to a more all-inclusive conceptualization.

According to Todaro (1994) Development is not a purely economic phenomenon but rather a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system. Todaro’s view is broadly accepted because of its wider view of the development concept as related to social, economic as well as political changes in the society (Nsanganira, 2011). In conceptualizing the term, central attention is now on poverty reduction, gainful employment opportunities, and reduction in income inequalities. Chambers (1983) in his opinion refers development to a strategy to enable specific people or poor rural men and women to gain for themselves and their children more of what they need. This view is further strengthened by Seer (1979) he stressed that development had occurred when poverty, inequality, and unemployment are reduced. This invariably means that a rise in any of these central challenges disqualifies a society from being called developed. Similar to Seer is Sen (1999) who wrote that development involves reducing deprivation or broadening choice. Here, deprivation represents the multidimensional view of poverty that includes hunger, illiteracy, illness, and poor health, powerlessness, voiceless, insecurity, humiliation, and a lack of access to basic infrastructure (Narayan 2000).

Therefore, development can be defined as economic growth of a nation with trickle-down positive effects on its inhabitants. It connotes an increase in real national income that paved the way for employment opportunities thereby alleviating poverty and reduced social inequalities. It is an Improvement in human condition constituted by
alleviation of unemployment, poverty, misery, and social inequality as a result of an increase in GDP. The term development should be all-encompassing and this includes economic, political and social development that translate into social development.

2.2 Development Planning
Development planning just like many other social science concept is not easily defined and it does not have one single definition. It happens in a diverse context so to define it is a bit tricky. This may be due to problems of semantics as well as the divergent philosophical and ideological orientations of writers as opined by Ibietan and Oghator (2013). In its broad sense, development planning is the strategic measurable goals that an individual or group of people scheduled to attain within a given period of time. As it pertains to the nation, development planning comprehensively involves predetermining a nation’s, vision, missions, policies, and programs in all facets of life (Ikeanyibe, 2009). Development planning should be a predetermined line of action rather than a sporadic action towards attaining the specific developmental goal. Egonmwan (2001) explained further that development planning is a consciously directed activity with pre-determined goals and pre-determined means to achieve the set goals. According to Ejemudo (2013) development planning is a necessity for every country since economic growth is neither accidental nor does it take place naturally and quickly of its own accord. Daggash (2008) concurred with Dagash’s opinion and posited that it is a long-term integrated comprehensive national plan of actions: that indicates the trajectory of national growth and development. It can be seen as a long or short term agenda formulated by the government with the aim to effect some structural changes in the economy which ensure the development of the nation. Usually, the development plan includes time-based benchmarks.

It is paramount to note that development planning cannot be equated with economic planning, although the economy is known to be the bedrock of every nation’s development, but development planning is much more than proposal for economic growth rather it is a holistic approach that involves processes to ensure that national policies and strategies are realized and development concerns of the nation’s sectors are fully integrated in to the overall national development thrust (Datta 2010). It can be summed to mean proposed points of actions or inactions to attain improvement in collective and concrete terms across social, economic, political, and technological as well as religion and aimed to be achieved through strategies mapped out by the government. In his opinion, Ejemudo (2013) averred that a typical development planning should include set of phases such as situation analysis of both internal and external forces which have an influence on the area proposed to be developed. This can also involve a set of tools to assess the strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) facing the area. Development planning is not only about economic planning but planning that includes how to attain equal distribution of wealth, provision of health care, education, housing, and other essential services all aimed at improving the collective quality of life for the people (Naomi, 1995).

The importance of development planning is not limited to the objectives of such plans but a well-articulated development plan is of immense benefit in the allocation of scarce resources. It is a strategy for a prudent allocation/ utilization of the scarce resource. A development plan provides necessary ingredients for the private sector to make wise and profitable investments. In developing countries like Nigeria, development plans assist the development partners such as international development banks and donor organizations to provide technical assistance to selected projects with a clear understanding of the benefits. This also will prevent overlap of projects thereby limiting wastage. But a conscious look into the current economy and social status of development in Nigeria reveals the least expected after many years of continues planning and execution of proposed development plans. Lawal Oluwatoyin (2011) asserted that the gap between Nigeria and the developed countries has not been static or narrow but is continually widening, a greater percentage of the population lives in poverty, the problem of unemployment, and growing inequalities are on the increased. Then the question, what happened to many years of development planning? Why have the plans failed to achieve its aims? Corruption! Corruption maybe the culprit.

2.3 Corruption
Corruption is one of the most common terms whenever the topic of development is on the table in developing countries. In some quarters, it is seen as the only bane of national development in third
world countries. Most western liberal scholars posit that corruption is as a result of moral decadence and cultural decay. On the contrary, the Marxist opined that it is a direct result or effect of capitalism on the social relation of production. According to Oguonu (2014) in support of the Marxist view opined that the root of corruption should not be sought in the value and attitude of individuals in the society rather in the nature of social relations of production. Corruption is generated as a response to unequal treatment in the society brought about by the private accumulation of wealth which is the central doctrine of capitalism. Then, what is corruption? Corruption is the use of legitimate power to serve self-interest. Morris (1991) defined it as dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power typically involving bribery. He further buttressed saying it involves the embezzlement of public fund and any action or inaction considered to be a criminal based on the law of such a society. Gorai (2016) put it thus, the abuse of public office for private gain. He further asserts that corruption is a dishonest act, which is wrong and bad. From the opinion of Azelama, (2002) corruption is any action or omission enacted by a member of an organization which contradicts the rules, regulations, norms and ethics of the organization with the aim to benefit oneself at the expense of the organization. From all the definitions above, there is a general consensus on the nature of corruption that it is unlawful, it is immoral and antithetical to the values of a society; there exist unlawful gain for one at the expense of another or the society. However, in whatever way or from whatever perspective is corruption defined, it is still an act that is against public interest and it defiles both legal and moral statutes and these acts are either directly or indirectly harmful to the society (Omenka, 2013). This unlawful act of diversion of public funds and self-aggrandizement at the expense of the common-wealth of Nigeria can be said to be responsible for the failures of several development plans of the nation. The next phase of this study will review the history of corruption in the Nigerian political sphere, and then considers how it affects some Nigeria National development plans.

3. Literature Review
3.1 Global Corruption
Corruption is a global phenomenon and every country of the world can be said to have had a taste of it. It is not restricted to underdeveloped or developing nations alone but even the developed countries had their own awful taste of the bile. It occurs in democracies and military dictatorships and at all levels of development and in all types of economic systems, from open capitalist economies such as that of the United States to centrally planned economies such as the former Soviet Union's (Elliot 1997) According to the then World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn, “we need to deal with the cancer of corruption” for countries to achieve and sustain development. Bhargaya (2005) assert that such declaration from the World Bank President helped to direct global attention towards the development discussion on the fight against corruption. The global awareness of the pervasive nature and high cost of corruption to global sustainable development had made many international organizations to give prompt and great emphasis on how to combat the menace. International Organizations such as The World Bank, the United Nations (UN), Transparency International (TI), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) The International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum, Interpol, and a number of bilateral aid agencies had taken the giant stride in the fight against global corruption. (Bhargaya (2005, Elliot 1997, TI)

3.2 African Continent and Corruption
Although corruption is present in all nations of the world as asserted above but the level of its pervasiveness differs, according to Hanson (2009) Africa is considered to be top among the best destination for corruption and this he claims is responsible for the stunted development of many African states. This perspective was further buttressed by Lawal (2007) when he postulate that corruption had ravaged the entire continent of Africa causing the continent to be the most corrupt in the world. Of the ten countries considered to be most corrupt, six are in Sub Saharan Africa (TI). He further stressed that corruption in Africa is a development issue, and it has minimized the ability of African governments to reduce poverty. Little African leaders generally had made little or no significant effort at combating the scourge of corruption in the continent, Gumede (2012) opined that most African ruling elites and their political parties lacks the political will required to fight the ‘monster’. However, the African Union (AU)
designated 2018 as the year for “winning the fight against corruption” but much more needs to be done (TI 2018). Therefore, the fight against corruption is scanty in the continent, this has made or allowed it to impede to a great extent development initiatives. Some African countries can be single out to say they have made effort to curb the menace but has such effort been fruitful?

3.3 Corruption in Nigeria
In Nigeria, corruption has become a complex, omnipresent and multi-faceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects (Akor 2016). It is a social menace that has eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian polity. Omenka (2013) suggest that it has been acknowledged that corruption and its practices are both endemic and systemic in both public and private sectors of Nigerian economy. Akor further averred that the enormity of corruption in Nigeria probably necessitated the establishment of anti-corruption agencies such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The presence of corruption in every sector of Nigerian public service is no longer a subject of debate but the impact. Therefore, this paper is aimed at assessing the effects of corruption on Nigerian development and development initiatives.

4. Research Methodology
The study employs archival methodology for data collection. It assumed that this method is most appropriate method of obtaining data on all the development plans in Nigeria under study. Through this method we also collect data on the success or failure level of each development initiative as well as the impact of corruption on the plans. These data were obtained from government publications, extant literature, media reports, and other relevant materials.

5. Brief Review of Corruption Cases in Nigerian Political Sphere

There is no gain in any study that seeks to establish the existence of corruption in Nigeria because evidence abounds in the literature that suggests the menace is as old as the origin of the country. Not only has it been established but flourished and had become an accepted way of life. According to Omotola (2006), it has been traced to the colonial era and that the colonial system was built on corruption. The far-above reach lifestyle/luxurious living of the colonial masters has in no small measure influences Nigerian first Republican politician and civil servants to seek wealth at all cost.

The prominent politicians of the First Republic (1960-1966) were flamboyant, rode in Pontiacs and Chevrolets, and lived in big houses (Akinola, 2015). Corruption became pronounced during this period and was one major reason for military intervention in 1966. According to Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu, January 15, 1966, Nigeria enemies are political profiteers, swindlers, those in different levels of government who subtly use divide and rule policy to keep the people permanently in a situation that will enable and encourage tribalism, nepotism and to make the country big for nothing before the international community. They corrupted the society and put the Nigeria political calendar backwards by words and deeds and have provided the basics matrix upon which other faulty structures developed (Ezeibe & Oguonu, 2014). Both the regional and federal levels of government were indicted by the military administration that took over the government after the first military coup in Nigeria.

Political corruption continues unabated from one regime to another under both democratic and military leadership. The I.T.U Aguyi-Ironsi regime had made little or no impact before it was overthrown by General Gowon in 1966. According to Chuta (2004), Gowon’s regime laid the foundation for graft, corruption and shameless embezzlement of funds in Nigeria. The administration was engulfed by a corruption scandal in 1975; many of his officials were accused of falsifying ship manifests and inflating the amount of cement to be procured (Akor, 2014).

Akinola (2015) averred that the Murtala-Obasanjo regime could be described as ‘corrective’ regime because of its efforts to eradicate corruption in the society and its strict adherence to policy and programs to return to civilian rule. But the return of civil rule in 1979 under the leadership of President Shehu Shagari was described as “the return of political termites and the democratization of corruption” by Akinola (2015). The administration
demonstrated a high level of the pervasion of standards and huge public funds was directed towards personal gains. At this point, corruption had become a competition among the military officers seeking who will out-run the other. It all seems that the previous regimes are not good enough in their corrupt activities, then, comes the Babangida regime (1985-1993) through a ‘palace coup’ to dash a more devastating blow to the economy of the nation via corruption. Akinola (2015) emphasized that corruption under this regime was elevated to an instrument of state policy. To date the era had refused to account for the gulf war windfall estimated to be $12.4 billion; He annulled the only most free and fairest election in the history of Nigeria. Again, the Babangida regime was considered a decent when compared to General Abacha’s era (1993-1998). It was unprecedented and completely beyond the imagination of Nigerians. The era in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria looted the nation to a stand-still position. Revelations continue to unfold of looted funds by the regime. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/corruption in Nigeria) Sudden death of the General brought a sigh of relief but unfortunately, General Abdulsalami Abubakar that took over maintained the corrupt ‘status quo’. The regime actually revealed the corrupt practices of its predecessor but he also ‘walked along the same path’ before he handed over power to a democratically elected president in 1999. The beginning of the new era came with much anticipation from the masses and the new President hastily came up with plans to eradicate corruption. This move brought succour to an embattled citizenry who had witnessed the worst excesses of government. There had been no democratically elected president or military Head of State that strongly mobilized and campaign against corruption as President Olusegun Obasanjo (Ezeibe & Oguonu, 2014). In the word of President Obasanjo (2000), “corruption has been responsible for the political instability of successive government since the First Republic. Every coup since then has been in the name of stamping out the disease called corruption. Unfortunately, the cure turned out to be worse than the disease. And Nigeria has been worse for it. Nigeria external image took a serious bashing, as our country began to feature in every corruption index” He blamed the current state of corruption in Nigeria on the negligence of the previous administration. In a demonstration of leadership and serious commitment to fight this menace, an Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) were established. Despite the frantic effort by this administration, the ‘monster’ grew stronger into every facet of Nigerian as a nation. According to the yearly rankings of Transparency International (TI), Nigeria status had not improved significantly since the new democratic dispensation. The table below captures Nigeria’s ranking from 1999 to 2017.

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Source: Transparency international

5. Effects of Corruption on Nigerian Development
There is great consensus among researchers that corruption has dealt a great blow to the development quest of Nigeria (Akinola, 2015, Omenka, 2013, Ijewereme 2002, United Nations 1989) Corruption has bleeds the nation’s economy to the point of collapse thereby making all the development initiatives since independent of no effect on human lives. Omenka adds that corruption had made nonsense of development efforts of successive administration. He further affirmed that corruption in Nigeria had completely undermined
the government’s socio-economic development strategies.

Former President of the United States of America succinctly paint the situation of corruption in Nigeria in his address to the members of Ghanian parliament when he stated: “No country is going to create wealth if its leaders exploit the economy to enrich themselves, or police can be bought off by drug traffickers, no business wants to invest in a place where the governments skims twenty per cent off the top or the head of the port authority is corrupt…no one wants to live in a society where the rule of law gives way to the rule of brutality and bribery” Also, the situation was well captured by former Nigeria’s minister of finance (Ngozi Iweala), in Daily Trust newspaper of 1st January 2008. “At several junctions in Nigeria’s history, corruption has sent development into reverse” This shows the inverse relationship between corruption and development. Corruption reinforces underdevelopment because of its corrosive effects on emerging economies like Nigeria, affects infrastructural development and socio-economic living of the citizens.

The World Bank’s Federal Public Expenditure Review published in 1995 attest to the destructive level of corruption in Nigeria, they averred that approximately $200 billion US dollar was invested in Nigeria between 1973 and 1993 with very little to show for it, and thereby assert that obviously, corruption has attained the height of being the greatest impediment to the growth and development of Nigeria.

5.1 A Brief Look in to The Effect Of Corruption On Development Plans In Nigeria

5.1.1 The post-independence national plans begin with the first national development plan which was designed to last from 1962-1968 and was primarily focused on health, education, and employment. Other objectives of this development plan were to achieve and maintain highest possible rate in the living standard of the citizens, saving of about 15% of the GDP by 1975, a GDP minimum growth rate of 4% for the economy (Ibietan and Oghator, 2013). But as beautiful as the plans were, corrupt activities of the first republic politicians led to various regional crises which brought about military intervention and the ensuing civil war.

5.1.2 The second national development plan was between 1970-1974 and was a focused reconstruction of cities damaged by the war, the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons displaced by the war and demobilized armed forces personnel, the establishment of economic infrastructures, and creation of employment opportunities. It also aimed at reuniting the nation, just and egalitarian society with equal opportunities for all. According to Okoli (2004), the plan nearly succeeded where others failed in running its full course under one regime. But evidence of financial indiscipline surfaces during this era, the initial plan budget of #3.2 billion was adjusted upwards to #5.3 billion due to the oil boom (Osifor, 1987) In their opinion, Ibietan and Oghator (2013) argued that the nation leaders started the move towards economic regression from this era due to fiscal and financial indiscipline.

5.1.3 The third national development plan 1975-1980 was seen virtually as a repeat of the second development plan with increment which suggested attainment of a high development level. It identifies three cardinal objectives: economic growth and development, price stability and social equality. Ejemudo (2013) stated that the plan also classified the policy into three namely: fiscal policy, monetary policy, and incomes policy. While the fiscal policy was meant to curtail importation and generation of revenue, the monetary and income policies were meant for the control of inflation and reduction of income inequality respectively. Although the plan succeeded to a great extent corruption thrived as prices of goods to be imported were inflated, financial indiscipline and embezzlement can be seen as the reason for the upward review of the planned budget from #30 billion to #43.3 billion in 1976, and further revised upward to #60 billion in 1980 (Osifor, 1987. Ibietan and Oghator, 2013. Akor, 2014)

5.1.4 The fought national development plan was aimed to last between 1981-1985 and it focuses on improving the standard of living, employment generation and even distribution of income among the citizens (Ogwumike, 1995) The plan like the ones before it reaffirmed the long-term national objectives of the preceding plans. The total investment envisaged under this plan was #82 billion (Ibietan and Oghator, 2013). This plan is the first to be drawn under democratically elected government was celebrated because it was perceived as involved in local government participation. But, indiscipline and growing corrupt practices were on the increase. Due to the decrease in oil revenue, there was need to curtail the
importation of consumer goods in order to be able to generate funds needed to finance the plan, Ejemudo (2013) averred that “but government lacked the discipline to pursue such a line of action”

5.1.5 The Fifth national development plan never saw the light of the day. Onah, (2006) explains that the idea Fifth development plan, mooted in late 1980 never materialized. Instead of the plan, the government came up with a series of integrated development initiatives.

5.2 Other Major Development Initiatives
Other major development initiatives include the Structural Adjustment program (SAP), Vision 2010, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Seven-Point Agenda (Akanji & Akosile, 2001). There is no doubt about the excellent developmental effort in the planning of Nigeria but the excellent implementation is far from the nation simply because of corruption. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has identified systemic corruption which engenders a low level of transparency and accountability as the major source of development failures (Urien, 2018). All developmental initiatives in Nigeria since independence have yielded very little fruit in achieving its aims (Garba, 2016) He further asserts that corruption among many other reasons is responsible. The impact of corruption on national development cannot be overemphasized; the consequences are in the manifold and this further retard national development.

Assessing the effect of corruption on Nigerian developmental initiatives, evidence abounds to show that the monster has massively frustrated the developmental policies and programs of Nigeria. It has defied statutory measures adopted by various regimes to fight it; this is apparently because those combating the monster are themselves corrupt in many ways. This gives reasons for the recommendation below for both the current and subsequent administration that will wage the war against corruption.

6. The Way Forward In Curbing Corruption in Nigeria
The study examines primarily the effects of corruption on development and development initiatives in Nigeria; with detail concept of the term development, development planning, and corruption, it also outlined how various regimes’ (both military and civilians) performance had been perforated by corruption. The article focuses basically on the first to the fourth development plans of Nigeria and discovers that the aims and objectives of these plans are gravely distorted which has led to the current economic underdevelopment woes of the nation.

Therefore, this article suggests first among many the set-up of a special court to trial corruption cases in all states of the Federation. This court should be independent and given all the necessary tools to function as an independent part of the judiciary. Secondly, the anti-corruption agencies must be made to function independently from the executive arm of government, it should be funded adequately to institute and effectively execute its plans and policies in pursuit of the aims for which it was founded. It should be empowered to sanction individuals or group without recourse to the personality involved. Thirdly, a holistic reform is most needed in the criminal and penal laws, reforms to provide most stringent punishment for corrupt individuals to serve as deterrence to others because the laws were not initially designed to tackle the type of systemic corruption being perpetrated now. Also, it is expedient to remove the immunity clause from the constitution and legislation should be made to expedite judgment on corruption cases.

Furthermore, public sector reform is most necessary at this point in time, a reform in all the sector of public service in Nigeria; electoral processes should be critically scrutinized and political parties should be mandated to present candidates based on merit and not regional, ethnicity or religious affiliation. Political appointments must be on meritocracy and not nepotism and tribalism. A more effective corruption reporting mechanism should be enshrined. Another major point of action by the government is to enforce equality of its citizens before the law and to ensure that equal and appropriate sanctions are meted out to any individual based on his/her offence. For a corrupt free society, the freedom of the press must not be compromised.

7. Conclusion
For the aims and objectives of developmental initiatives to be successfully achieved and the
globally accepted standard of living to be attained Nigerians and the Nigerian government must combat tirelessly the destructive monster called corruption. If corruption is minimized to the lowest level, there will be a tremendous improvement in every sphere of our national life.

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