NATIONAL UNDER-DEVELOPMENT A PERISCOPE VIEW OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA
(2010-2017)

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Abstract
This study examined the issue of corruption and National development in Nigeria (2010-2017). The indirect method was used in data collection from secondary sources. The Marxist political economy approach was adopted as the theoretical framework. The theory was applied using Marxist classification of classes in the society. From the research findings, it was discovered that corruption was more prevalent among the political office holders and civil servants in the public offices and that high level of poverty, unemployment among others in the country are as a result of high level of corruption. The findings also revealed that corruption can never be totally eradicated but can only be minimized to enable national development. Some of the recommendations made include, the establishment of independent specialist Courts for speedy handling of corruption cases, more drastic penalties for proven cases. Since it is recognized that stamping out corruption in Nigeria should not be the responsibility of the Government alone, all hands must be on deck to ensure that the war against corruption is won, so that the goods of National development could be successfully attained within the shortest possible time.

Keywords: National Development, Corruption, Government and Judiciary

Introduction
Corruption in developing countries continues to be one of the greatest factors responsible for poverty, under-development and internecine conflicts. Although many developing nations especially in Africa are endowed with priced natural resources, yet they continue to struggle and scramble for position in the lower rungs of the united national development index. Most developing countries continues to grapple with the ever changing trends in global politics, economic and technological advancement having little or nothing to do, due to the debilitating effects of corruption on their existence.

Nigeria, which is the most populated African country, has been ranked high in corruption by transparency with national and other notable organizations that monitor corrupt practices around the world. This bad image has not been helped by Nigerian’s students, business men or even entertainers who at one time or the other had been embroiled in criminal activities even beyond our shores. This has adversely affected some law abiding citizens who have been furiously subjected to dehumanizing treatment by foreign immigration officials. Thus corruption is a protent cancer that has mercilessly eaten up deep into Nigeria’s system.

Corruption has been responsible for the failure of many national development projects and plans since independence. The immediate attendant consequences of this, is high level of poverty, economic inequality, diseases, unemployment and under development.

In the quest and determination to fight against fraud, squandamania, abuse of public office, corruption and other similar vices, the Buhari-Idiagbon administration launched the “War Against Indiscipline” (W.A.I), during the military regime in (1983) additionally, through the efforts of the economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC) established in 2003 by the Obasanjo’s regime, Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC) established in 2000, Directorate of State Services (DSS) and the Code of Conduct Bureau, Nigeria has been trying to grapple with the monster.
The Buhari Administration set up a treasury single account (TSA) in which all revenue of the federal government goes into single account to avoid stealing it, making sure that budgets are not padded, to make sure stolen funds were returned by some politicians. The fight against corruption has been long and is still on going in Nigeria.

The problem of corruption has assumed embarrassing dimension. Successive Nigerian government have always been insincere about their commitment to the fight against corruption, even as the last majority of Nigerian’s wallow in abject poverty and want; government officials whose legitimate emoluments are low bestride the Nigerian terrain like colossus, parading their wealth and purchasing whatever catches their fancy, with stolen public funds.

This problem when assumed terrible dimension since the military intervention into Nigeria’s politics has continued unabated and left in it’s wake, along line of wealthy and influential people, with new members eagerly waiting to join their rank with every change of government, whether military or civilian. Thus, it is a recognized fact in Nigeria that the shortest cut to wealth and influence is through a government appointment and elective offices without any show of qualification and are prepared to do anything possible to achieve it. This then account for the do or die manner in which electoral fraud perpetrated.

Notwithstanding the anti-graft, anti-corruption agencies put in place to reduce corruption in the country, cases of corruption scandals are even on the increase. These have visible effects on various aspects of national development.

Corruption in Public Sector

Public sector refers to the government and it’s decentralize units including the police, military, public workers, transits, authorities, primary schools and health care system that use public funds and provide service based on the motivation to improve citizen’s lives rather than to make a profit.

Although almost every government since 1960 has promised to raise ethical standards and restore accountability and transparency in governance, massive looting of the nation’s wealth and resources by high ranking states officials has remained a permanent feature of the country’s political life. One scarcely get anything done without the hands of those involved being greased.

Members of the three arms of government have been found severally involved in bribery and corruption allegations. Since the inception of democracy in 1999 to date many governors have been accused of various corrupt practices ranging from money laundering, misappropriation of state funds, embezzlement of public funds, inflated contracts, and so on.

Senators and honourable members in the national of assembly are not left out in bribery and corrupt practices, over the years there have been several senators and honourable members that have engaged in corrupt act, the two for former speaker of the House of Representative, Honourable Dimeji Bankaoke were also tried for miss-appropriation of pubic fund. Even Dame Patience Jonathan, the former first lady of Nigeria was arraigned in 2017 for 5.5billion naira. Scam by the economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC). Many fraudulent companies and fraudulent bank accounts traced to her were seized by (EFCC) which she later sought for help of the national assembly to help her order the EFCC to defreeze her account and assets.

Also with the case of Col. Sambo Dasuki, the Former national security adviser to president good luck Jonathan, who was arraigned in December 2015 for allegedly looting 2.1 billion. Money meant to buy arms and ammunition for Nigeria troops to tackle security challenges in the nation. Dansuki was said to have shared the money among politicians all over Nigerian in a bid to facilitate the re-election of the president good luck Jonathan.

The judiciary has over the years been alleged to have perverted justice where the trial involves high profile personalities. The judiciary has been alleged to been influenced to pervert justice. It follows that, hardly has any of the governors, legislators, ministers and other high profile individuals alleged to have been involved in bribery and other corrupt practices outer been in Nigeria to deter others, the highest that has happened to them is just confiscation of property and freeze of some accounts which do not send any deterring signed to others, rather encourages, as no stringent penalty is applied at the end.
Even Mrs. Deziani Allison Madueke, the former minister of petroleum during President Goodluck Jonathan administration have been having battles with both the British anti-money laundering agency and Nigeria’s EFCC; where she was accused of looting and laundering about ten billion dollars of public money. Also with the case of government Ekpemopolo (Alias Tompolo), the former Niger-Delta militant leader was arraigned in absentia along with six others on 22 court charges bordering on forty seven billion fraud early in 2016, he absconded in Nigeria and the case is still in court.

One scarcely reads the newspaper any day without coming across one form of scandal or the other. The issue is found in every facets of Nigeria society specially in the public section, like in the case of former Governor of Adamawa State, Alhaji Murtala Nyako and his son Abdullaziz Nyako were arraigned for twenty nine billion naira, alleged for money laundering. The two were arrested but later released on bail and the case is still ongoing. Also the case of former Nigeria Chief of Defense staff, Air Marshall Alex Baden, who was charged for embezzlement and corrupt practices in January 2017, likewise Oliseh Metuh, a former spokesman of the PDP was changed for two different cases in 2017. Firstly he was changed for four hundred million naira money laundering for which he was granted four hundred million bail, secondly he was charged with criminal destruction of evidence but was also granted bail of three hundred million naira. The case has been ongoing and at a certain time during the need of the year he even beckoned on former president Jonathan to come and testify as witness for turn of which the former president declined.

Corruption fight also swept into the judiciary as justice Sylvester Ngwu and John Okoro of the Supreme Court were arrested by the department of state services (DSS), Justice Adenyi Ademole and Nnamdi Dimgba of the federal high Court were also arrested.

Chinua Achebe (1983; P38) said “Nigeria are corrupt because the system under which they live today makes corruption easy and profitable. They will cease to be corrupt when corruption is made difficult and inconvenient” corruption in the public sector thrives because the system under which they operate provides a fertile ground for it to thrive.

This monster called corruption has denied Nigerians the right to enjoy constant power supply, the power sector in Nigeria remains another aspects of public sectors where corruption thrives. Despite epileptic power supply, Nigeria still pay through the nose. In other words people pay for maintenance fee, excess amount of money paid by those who have no meter, even those who have meter but are not billed based on the meter reading. Power holding company officials conspire with their customers who they connect and supply power ill-legally, thereby losing revenue in government and this lead to the privatization of power holding company in Nigeria.

Corruption in Private Sector

Private sectors is run by private seeking individuals or groups usually as a means of enterprise for profits, and is not controlled by the state. Corruption in the private sector takes various forms, it distorts market and creates unfair competition.

Nigeria’s banking sectors for example has been criticized for “corruption” which was described as partially responsible for the collapse of many banks in the 1990s. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) through its policy on bank, reform unravelled steady practice (unethical practice) that have been going on in the banking sector that has ruined many banks. The former bankers include Bertla Ebong of Union Bank, Sabastine Adigwe of former Afri-bank, Okey Nwaosu of Fin bank and Erastus Akingbola of Inter Continental Bank, all of whom were removed by the central Bank of Nigeria on account of mismanagement of investor’s funds. Mrs. Cecilia Ibru of Oceanic bank was convicted in October, 2010, sentenced to six month imprisonment and to forfeit over N150 billion in assets and cash.

The Mobile Telephone Network (MTN) call center in Jos who were employed and managed by consulting firm, Communication Network, Support Services Limited (CNSSL), protested and subsequently went on strike over wage disparity involving them and their contemporaries in other states. These two incidents reveals the extent to which corruption is being perpetrated in Nigeria’s private sectors.
Manifestation of Corruption In Nigeria

Chinua Achebe (1983;39) said “there is nothing wrong with the Nigerian land or Climate or water or air or anything else. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability, of its leader to wise to the responsibility, to challenge of personal examples which are the hall marks of true leadership”. Corruption constitutes the greatest waste of human and national resources in Nigeria and even in any society as a whole.

For the purpose of this study however, we shall examine some practical manifestation of corrupt recorded during the period under review, with particular reference to corrupt practices perpetrated at the federal level and government efforts at addressing them.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) charged a former minister of Aviation under President Olusegun Obasanjo, Mr. Femi Fani-Kayote popularly known as FFK and others to court for 4.9 billion naira fraud. He was however granted 280 million naira bail but the case is still ongoing with trials on different adjourned dates.

Similarly, the Senate President Bukola, Saraki survived in 2017 false assets declaration charges brought against him by the (EFCC). The case generated much controversy as Saraki loyalist believed the charge was just political persecution from people who do not like Saraki’s emergence as the senate president. He was finally acquitted and the case was discharged, in the tribunal court.

Sunday Punch, alleged that many soldiers have died in battle because they were ill-equipped, when they could have been armed better, spouses of soldiers in Maimalari Barracks in Maiduguri in August 2014 blocked the barracks gate to prevent military trucks from carrying their husbands away.

“We don’t want to be made another set of widows give our husband modern and better arms, weapons and vehicles or they go nowhere, they cried”

Also in the year 2017 huge money discovered by whistle blowers at a house in Ikoyi Lagos which was about 23 billion dollars, it lead to the sack of the director-general of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). The then Musiliu Obanikoro, the former minister of state of defence was allegedly, part of Dasuki loot. Obanikoro reportedly got 4.7 billion naira which he claimed to have shared amongst some politicians. The former minister has since returned over 100 million naira to the economic and financial crime commission. Similarly Alhaji Abdukahi Dikko, the former boss of Nigeria customs services is said to have stolen 40 billion from custom revenues. The EFCC arrested tum and charged him to court but he is on bail now and have already returned one billion naira to government.

Also Patrick Akpobolekemi the former boss of Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety (NIMASA) also made his mark as one of the most reported former government officials who stole public money. Akpobolekemi reportedly looted over 12 billion naira from (NIMASA) using various companies to perfect his act.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The concept, development is indeed difficult to define accurately. This difficulty of conceptualizing development stems from it’s complexity wide scope, multifarious cum ambiguous character.

According to Rodney (1972) development is the ability of a nation to tap and harness it’s natural resources to better the lot of it’s citizens. Thus, development in the world of Todaro in Ujo (1995;P5) could be seen beyond economic indicators. He therefore maintains that development is both a physical process and a state of mind, justices, fair play and equality are moral ingredients of developments. Okpaga (1999;p6), work the debate further when the argued that development must involve human development, which is a process by which people through their own individuals and or joint efforts boost; production through the mobilization and management of some combination or ads factors of productions.

According to Okeke (2006;P2) in this book “politics of development and underdevelopment”, defined national development as the increase in high production of wealth and also an equitable distribution of this wealth in an environment of basic equilibrium.

As Duley in Akure (2004 P97), observed an analysis of development is important in it emphasis on equity as well as growth development can be stressed by asking what has happened to equity. From the above definition put together, we shall conceptualize national development as referring to an increase in the
national income of a country as a result of structural transformations accomplished by improvement in the people's standards of living through employment generation, income redistribution and poverty eradication.

Also Walter Rodney as quoted in Omolayole (1991;P76) defined development “as a process of increasing the ability, capability, and capacity of people to exploit their resources so as to satisfy their needs.

Implication of Corruption In National Development

Corruption, in whatever form it manifests, is not healthy for the development of any society not in the least Nigeria. Corruption upsets ethical balance, and exacerbates problems of national integration in Nigeria. If a corrupt but popular ethnic leader is replaced in this position, it may upset ethnic groups and the cohorts may revolt.

Corruption can also destroy the legitimacy of government. The Shehu Shagari administration was written off as inept because of the magnitude of corruption on the administration and its lack of policy direction. This explains why Achebe in this book “The trouble with Nigeria” observed that grown enormously in variety, magnitude and brazenness since the beginning of the second republic, because it has been extravagantly funded on an unprecedented scale

in a nutshell corruption is ultimate cause of underdevelopment in Nigeria as large amount of money is embezzled by our political leaders, leading to inadequate roads, hospitals, and also our power holding company is current in a mess, giving room for Nigeria to depend on other country for development. Currently corruption is the major cause of the problem Nigeria is facing in terms of oil as we lack refineries to refine the extracted crude oil. This is because most of the money allocated to the political leaders in other for them to maintain and also repair the machineries used in the refineries are embezzled allowing Nigerians to be defendant in other countries for development thus, giving room for underdevelopment in the country. Also corruption gives room for unemployment as recruitment is not done based on merit, but on “whom you know”. Thus allowing citizens to engage in criminal activities which invariably affects the development of Nigeria.

At independence in 1960 Nigeria inherited a peripherally weak capitalist economy, which underpins a feeble state that could hardly cater for the needs and aspiration of the citizenry. The Marxist political economy believes that if the wealth of the society is concentrated in the hand of a few who use that advantage to exploit the masses, the inequality consequent upon it may lead to social as such as corruption. The concomitant effect of all this the stagnation of national development in Nigeria.

Bringing it down to corruption and national development, Karl Marx divided the society into two, the bourgeoisie and protectorates, the have and have not. Now it is this bourgeoisie, the political leaders that occupy greater position in house of representative, senators, commissioners, Governors that carry out this corrupt acts in the public sectors. These corrupt acts are carried out through the embezzlement of public funds allocated for the services of the public i.e. the have not or protectorate, for the construction of roads, public hospitals and institutions.

Also one can see how their corrupt act has affected the power Holding company to the extend that it has been privatalized, this also applies to all other public sectors like Nigeria Telecommmission (NITEL) which is no more in function because of the high lack of maintenance which is a result of corruption, thus affecting National development.

MAJOR CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

(Chinua Achebe, 1983) said “there is nothing wrong with the Nigeria land or climate or water or air or anything else. The Nigeria problem is the inability of it’s leaders to rise to the responsibility to the challenge of personal example which are marks of true leadership”. Corruption constitutes the greatest waste of human and national resources in the Nigeria society as a whole.

President Muhammadu Buhari described corruption as the greatest form of human right violation.

Since the creation of modern public administration in the country there have been cases of official misuse of funds and resources.
Thus, it has become a norm for people in all aspect of the Nigeria society to constantly engage in obtaining power, influence and other personal gains through illegitimate means. Corruption has eaten so deep that when you find someone who is not corrupt it becomes surprising. Some of the major causes of corruption in Nigeria include:

**WEAK GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION**

This weak institution can create an environment that reduces motivation and productivity. When employees face challenges such as low salaries and promotion unconnected to performance, it is easy to become disheartened. Most government staff members have also been demoralized by dysfunctional government budgets, inadequate supplies and equipment and loss of organizational purpose. We saw how the 2017 budgeting was delayed that it affected most of the institutions in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the motivation to remain have been weakened as a result of senior officials and political figures using official power for private gains. We can see how the Nigeria steel industry is nothing to write good about, due to corruption and embezzlement it was same experience with the Agricultural Bank in many states during the regime of Olusegun Obasanjo. When corruption is rife within government institutions or organization, the citizens will be left out and are distanced from the benefits of government services, beading to underdevelopment in the country.

These weak institutions comprises of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Police, and the Judiciary all of which are actually weak. We tend to see the cases of Dasukki, Olusegun Obasanjo, and former Governor’s of Delta State who was James Ibori, whose cases are still under investigation and the EFCC could not handle it efficiently. The weakness also affects the Judiciary, in the case of form secretary of the People Democratic Party (PDP) who was accused of embezzling party funds, Olisa Metuti, Abdulrasheed Maina who allegedly embezzled pension funds but the judiciary is so slow to deal with the issues properly, thus giving more room for corruption as the lawyers use some legal technicalities to cover up corrupt acts in the country.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CORRUPTION BY THE POPULACE**

This is often the case where we see individual who have been convicted of corruption with public titles and awards. This sends an underlying messages and in the eyes of the public there is the feeling that “if Mr. A was corrupt and still got an award or title, then there is nothing wrong in engaging in corruption”. Public perception plays a large role in shaping the future of corruption in Nigeria. There is the case of a former Governor of Jigawa State and his son, how they both embezzled the state funds. What do these examples teach the youth out there? So if the public say “No” to corruption, then individuals will think twice before engaging in it. This is the more reason why everybody wants to get involved in politics in other to get power and steal as much money as they can. This is the main reason why employment or rather recruitment in Nigeria is not done by merit but of whom you know and even the citizens that try to do the right thing end up being cheated. Using our Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) we tend to find out that it was the acceptance of corruption by the populace that actually drained it. Majority of the citizens struggle to work in there and now the four refineries in Nigeria are virtually comatose.

**GREED**

When the desire for accumulation of wealth becomes inordinate, then corruption is bound to follow. Political positions are often tagged as been associated with power and wealth due to the huge amounts of funds allocated to political office holders. A greedy individual therefore perceives the attainment of a political post as a means of primitive acquisition of desire to continue holding the political office is high and they would often resolve to do anything possible to maintain the positions thus engaging in corrupt acts. We have read how the Governor of Kogi State built this own personal house which was reported as worth 22 million Naira while his citizens have not been paid for the past eight months.

This also relate to cases, where institutions go on strike due to the fact that the top officials have used the institution’s fund for their own private purposes. It is imperative to also identify Lord Bryeer as
quoted in (Nye, 1967 p 418) has aptly summarized these factors that engender corrupt practice in less developed nations including Nigeria.

Some of these factors include;

i. Create inequality in distribution of wealth.

ii. Political offices as the primary means of gaining access to wealth.

iii. Conflict between changing moral codes.

iv. The weakness of social and governmental enforcement mechanisms.

v. The absence of a strong sense of national community.

The cause of graft, and it’s institutionalization. Is traceable to the fundamental fact that the processes and practices of governance in Nigeria have always been pre-determined by what could be described as a “family constitution”. What else would an earnest enquirer call the existing 1999 military decreed constitution of a supposedly democratic Nigeria?

I intend, here to illustrate the falsity of the claims of the 1999 constitution. As a body of fundamental laws of nation-state which lay down the system of government, the 1999 constitution is neither a federal nor a republican constitution but a quasi federal constitution. The financial power is distributed between the federal and states, which is currently operating “fiscal centralism”. The constitution also allows immunity clause, where the Governors, President and Vice President are not permitted to be punished until their tenure is over. Before then, they must have drafted out a way out their crime, like that of Olusegun Obasanjo tenure. Aboyede (1971) also discussed the above causes of corruption and suggested fattier that the great difficulty of financing political particles causes corruption.

In our own context, the time lag between new regulation and their enforcement and the loopholes discovered in law and rules create conditions for corrupt practice. Additionally, where people use their wealth to “buy” political power or to occupy formal or informal positions of political influences, there is often desires to corruptly replenish spent wealth and to covert such a political position to an economic resource.

Citizens are prone to be corrupt in a system such as ours where the fact of being wealthy is acclaimed, accepted and respected, without an examination of the means by which such wealth was acquired. In addition, corruption in it’s various forms in Nigeria can be attributed to the growing spirit of materialism, the inordinate pursuit of wealth and material possessions through the embezzlement of public funds and thus leads to under-development in the country.

Obviously, therefore there are numerous causes of corruption in Nigeria. It has not only become pervasive but endemic and debilitating.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CORRUPTION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria would have been one of the most developed country due to the great number of natural resources it possesses, but the point remains that it is underdeveloped partly because of the evil effects of corruption.

Corruption has a great negative impact or effects on Nigeria’s economy leading to underdevelopment. The foremost effects of corruption is that it, not only leads to reduction in economic growth and underdevelopment but also divestment in the economy.

According to the latest Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released by Transparency International (TI), as obtained from the internet, records that Nigeria scored 27 points, out of 100 on the 2017 corruption perception index. The corruption rank grew to 148,000 from 136.00 in 2017, while corruption index in 2016 went down to 27.00 point from 28.00. As Nigeria was ranked 148 out of 150 countries. In the African continent, Nigeria ranked 32nd position in Africa out of 52 assessed countries in 2017.

Meanwhile, the Civil Society Legislature Advocacy Center (CISLAC), the national contact of Transparency International (TI), says it is “seriously worried” about the new but unfavourable trend in the fight against corruption in the country. Oladeinde (2017, p.2) reported that “the perception of corruption in Nigeria worsened between 2016 and 2017.
In relation to National development as reported by Fernandes (2015), that Nigeria GDP growth slows to 1.9; Nigeria inflation rate edged down to 12.5 in April 2015 and Nigeria inflation rate increased to its highest level since 2016. The Transparency international (TI) in 2017 reported that “when the corruption index is between approximately 2.0 and 4.0 their appears to be a relationship with the human development index” leading to underdevelopment in the country. Consequently, there is a great relationship between corruption and National development from 1979 till date.

**EVIDENCE OF HOW CORRUPTION HINDERS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Corruption is a disease that have bedeviled everything in Nigeria and Ministries, Parastatals, Agencies, and Departments are not left out. They are in fact the main agents of corruption and routes in which corrupt practices are perpetrated. For instance, The health sector has been in shambles because of the corruption in the Ministry of health, money budgeted for equipment and drugs are allegedly embezzled. Even the employed Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses are not paid well which have led to incessant strikes and downing of tools. The problem of corruption in the health sector is of multi-dimensional nature.

According to Obi (2016, p.12), “workers shut down the health ministry, raised alarm over corruption and misconduct”, based on this case. It was reported that Doctors and Nurses increased the price of drugs making it the expensive for the poor patients to afford them.

The number of reported and unreported cases of ill-treatments, medical services extensions and carelessness of medical staffs across Nigeria cannot be counted. Thus, it was reported by Akinbajo (2012; p.6) about the “massive MDG frauds”, how ministry of health steals from sick and dying patients which leads to increase in death rate in the country. Also more than five thousand and people die every year due to malaria and increase in child’s death. This makes the country the second largest contributor to the under five and maternal mortality in the world.

Ogbonna (2017; p.4) report of how Aisha Buhani told EFCC to look in to the health ministry as the lament “the deplorable condition of the Aso Rock Chris despite N3 billion allocated to the clinic”. The simply show that huge amount of money is usually allocated but embezzled by the officials, beading to lack of modern medical equipment and infrastructures with chronic shortages of essential drugs.

We tend to record cases where the rich personnells and politicians travel to other countries for medical treatment in situations where private hospitals cannot handle their ailment because they do not trust the public hospitals. Recently, there was a corruption saga in the National Health issuance scheme which led to the indefinite suspension of the chairman by the Minister of health. However, President Buhari later reinstated the chairman without giving the reason.

The United National International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in it’s annual report stated that every single day, Nigeria loses about 2,300 under five year old and 145 women of child bearing age. The Joint Health Sector Union (JOHESU) went on strike, clamouring for the adjustment of salary scale, implementation of earlier signed agreement by Federal Government. This has actually incapacitated the health care sector as most government hospitals are not providing any meaningful service. These are the things adversely affecting development in Nigeria.

In the course of this research, I found out that for a country to be developed, there should be increase in life span which Nigeria lacks and it is as a result of corruption. For Nigeria to be developed there should be well equipped medical centers and trained doctors, Nurses, were other foreign citizens would come for treatment or consultation in other for advancement in health sector.

**POWER SECTOR**

Power in the form of electricity supply, no doubt is important in the life of any nation as it affects virtually every other sectors. Power is needed to run businesses, industries, health facilities, agricultural processing, information e.t.c. Though Nigeria has all natural resources like coal, crude oil, Dams and high degree of sunlight needed to generate power. The country has been in darkness with epileptic power supply every now and then due to corruption in the power sector.
This is because money budgeted yearly for the power sector are allegedly embezzled, as only few power plants are functional. The National Electricity Power Authority (NEPA) was privatized to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in November 2013, so that it can efficiently managed without corruption, but still there is corruption and inefficiency.

This has actually affected the development of Nigeria or operating with difficulties, as Nigeria has become synonymous with epileptic power supply, without doubt, the country harbors the largest number of Generators of all brands and sizes of all nations on earth. Today, we have graduated from epileptic power supply to centaury zero power supply. The government seems not worried about the incalculable harm of these Generators to public health, the environment, our psyche and the owners.

According to Ujah and Nwachukwu (2016, p. 14) “corruption is crippling the Electricity firm”. It is scandalous that a nation that sit on nearly inexhaustible quantum of oil and gas, petrochemical, trash, wind and sunshine is at the same time living in the darkest part of the earth. This is mainly because of the great, ignorance and partisanship of it’s political class and leadership.

The Socio-Economic Right and Accountability Project (SERAP), (2017,p.2) reported of “How Corruption killed power sector", that there is corruption in the power generation, power transmission and power distribution department which makes every government policy to improve supply not realized.

The nation’s economy is seriously threatened as industries are being shut and employees laid off because companies cannot meet production targets as many operate below their installed capacity. In the year 2000 Nigeria generated 1500mw, in 2014, it increased to 5000mw, by the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) as reported by Adefaya (2017; p.1), and in the year 2016, it was reported by Adefaya (2017; p.1), and in the year 2016, it was reported by the Sahara, March 31, 2016 that Nigeria electricity has crumbled to a point that it could only produce a single megawatt of Electricity supply.

This has actually drained our economy drastically as most foreigners are scared to invest on manufacturing companies, industries to unemployment as most infants industries are shut down. In the year 2014, the steel industry in Kogi State was functioning but currently not in existence due to the epileptic power supply and high cost of petroleum and maintenance.

One could possibly agree that the issue of this power supply is not only from the top officials in the ministry of power but also the citizens. There are cases where the transformers are stolen or destroyed by the vandals for their own personal pocket. All of these invariably lead to underdevelopment, as a developed country must posses the attribute of high standard of living which Nigeria’s is lacking as a Nation.

PETROLEUM SECTOR

As an oil producing country, Nigeria shamelessly imports refined products as corruption has made sure that the nation’s five Refinaries are not functional. There are constant oil theft, illegal oil drilling, vandalization and bunkering of oil pipeline, mismanagement of oil revenue by the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The Nigerian economy is predicated mainly on oil revenue and any change in international oil markets gives our economy high fever which was the reason by Nigeria’s economy went into recession in 2015, after the down turn in oil price, with all this, Nigerian’s can not always find it easy to buy fuel as Independent marketers will intermittently come in their own corrupt syndicate way to cause artificial petrol scarcity leading to queue for days and weeks.

Nsehe (2015; p.12) reported that “Nigeria’s former oil minister was arrested in London over corruption charges”. This was the case of money lundering by Deziani Allison Madueke, she was alleged by the Economic Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to have stolen 3 billion dollars. That same year Chukwu (2017) reported that “Deziani finally broke silence of the 3 billion dollars stolen”. Although it is still under investigation by the EFCC. Going with that, the former security Adviser, Gen. Sambo Dasukki was alleged to have taken and shared to his party men 2 billion dollars from the Excess Crude Account. The issue of corruption has eaten up the petroleum sector.

Recently, the Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Ibe Kachikwu alleged that the Group Managing Director of the Nigeria National Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC) Mr. Maikanti Baru was awarding illegal contracts. This clearly shows that there is corruption in the corporation.
The economy has been drained as Niger Delta, where the major crude oil are extracted from is one of the underdeveloped parts of Nigeria, the workers in refineries are made unemployed as most workers are sacked.

EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

The educational sector is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Corruption in the educational sector is particularly damaging the system because it endangers a country’s social economic and political culture.

Nigeria government has systematically neglected the educational sector, as money budgeted for school building, school stationeries, research grants and even teachers’ salaries have been allegedly diverted and embezzled or out rightly stolen over the years.

Lere (2017, p.1) reported that “Governor Mallam Nasir El-Ruffai sacked 22,000 teachers in Kaduna State”, this is due to the lack of competency by the teachers. This show that Nigeria’s Educational sector has become an open field harbouring corruption such as policy makers, bureaucrats in various educational institutions, ministers and school officials responsible for school management.

This possibly leads to strikes like the case of Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU) strike which was due to the fact that the federal government refused to increase their salaries and allowances. The public university lecturers keep going on strike every now and then, making citizens to prefer private universities which in itself is very expensive for poor and middle class parents.

Teachers especially primary and secondary teachers have been made to look as if teaching profession is a cause. They lack motivation and it shows in their student as the value of education and quality of graduates these days have diminished. Many are unemployed; because the school system is rotten and can’t produce skilled graduates.

The standard of Education has dropped to the extent that the minimal score for Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), has dropped from 180 to 120 as against 200 in the past 20 years. It is now an open secret, that student to pass standard examination in secondary schools.

National and state government have cut down on educational funds, making education appear unimportant to economic growth. Some Nigeria outside the country see the Nigerian educational level as very Boon, but the point here is that most of our leaders too take their children outside Nigeria to study, this implies that they, themselves don’t even care for the Nigerian educational system. Obviously, Achebe (1988) is right as he said that corruption has reached the alarming stage. Invariably, if all the sectors are tainted by corruption then Nigeria cannot rapidly develop. Though corruption cannot be eradicated completely but it can be minimized or reduced, as no nation can say that there is no corruption in their country.

THE FINDINGS

A majority of Nigerians are aware of corrupt practices being perpetrated in this country, which affects them either directly or indirectly. Most people also believe that corruption is the major causes of poverty because it not only impedes development of human capital and Natural resources but additionally beards to inflation, underdevelopment and scares investors.

From the findings, a majority believe that corruption is more rampant among the political office holders and civil servants in the public sector, and involves the web individuals more than three poor. These dealty individuals who indulges in corruption want to acquire more wealth and not that they lack.

The findings shows that corruption hinders National development, reduces social services, diverts investment in infrastructure, institutions, which possibly beads to underdevelopment. Corruption also affects the poor due to their powerless to change the status quo and inability to pay bribes, leading to low standards of living and creating inequalities that violate their human rights.

In the educational sector corruption is particularly damaging the system because it endangers a country’s social economic and political future, this likewise, applies to every other sector in Nigeria like the power sector, Health sector, petroleum sector. The power sector is corruptly mismanaged and result to a graduated epileptic power supply to virtually zero supply of electricity. In the country, the Health sector is at the edge of crusting because of the high embezzlement of funds budgeted for the purchase of hospital equipment and drugs.
The reason being that corruption can be found in every society whether developed, or developing would, and Nigeria is not an exception. Any attempt to eradicate corruption in totality may involve an effort to wipe out the whole generation, which may not be feasible.

This is because corrupt practice some systematic and endemic in all aspects of our society. The Nigerian government should try to minimize the extent to which corrupt practices are being perpetrated and not deceive the general public that it wants to achieve zero level of corruption. Also the citizen should try their best to do the right thing at the right time and prevent corruption at the private sectors.

**CONCLUSION**

The major reason why Nigeria is still underdeveloped is due to the level of corrupt act in the country. Starting from 1979, Nigeria have been faced with this issue and have sort for diverse ways to eradicate this parasite, but the point here is that corruption cannot be eradicated totally from the system, but could be reduced through rebuilding and restructuring the political and Economic system in order to foster development.

Thus, it has eaten up the different sectors, organizations and institution established to foster development in the country. And so, it is important to understand that no country is free from this disease of corruption and so it should be minimized and the political leader should look deeply into this different sectors and sort a way to rebuild it.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings obtained, the following recommendations have been made to facilitate the drastic reduction of corruption in our society.

1. Anyone found guilty in the public offices as a civil servant should be dismissed without any benefit. For political office holders they should not only be relieved of their past but be banned from holding any political position for life. The wealth and funds acquired, should be confiscated, auctioned and proceeds should be used to provide public utilities.

2. The establishment of independent specialized courts that should have constitutional power to try convict and jail anyone found guilty of the offence, based on incontrovertible evidence that may not require further proof in any other count of law.

3. No political office holders should have their children educated abroad. In other words, all political office holders should have their children educated in this country except in few circumstances have, when their children are on scholarship, when their children have already gotten admission before they took the oath of office as well as when they want to do a post graduate study.

**References**


