

## A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ON CORRUPTION AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose for which government system is established in any society is to control and safeguard the life and properties of the citizens as well as the development of the society. Relating the expectations and procedures for which government was established in the country Nigeria to the concept of the general will in the J.J. Rousseau's social contract theory, it will be cognate that the reverse is the case. There is crisis everywhere in the country. Corruption and insecurity has become order of the day. The heights of corrupt practices in Nigeria these days, is quite alarming. No sector of life activity in the country is free from corruption. This is what the writer in this context tagged as "overt corruption". A lot of atrocities are happening, human heads are rolling, blood flow is on the higher rate, and peoples' health is at risk. Everyone behaves the way they want, and no one cares to question. Yet, the leaders and the led are screaming that Nigeria is corrupt. Now the big questions here are, is Nigeria as a society corrupt? Or, are we the citizens corrupt?" What is the cause of this insecurity in the country? Nigeria apparently is not corrupt rather, it's we citizens that are corrupt, and that is why we established the government to take care of us. Therefore applying evaluation method of philosophical inquiry in this paper, the writer finds out that the purpose for which we instituted the government of Nigeria has failed woefully. Our elected leaders are too incompetent to pilot the affairs of the citizens and the country at large. At this point, however, they are only conscious of their pockets and all about the citizens isn't under consideration. In spite of all these, says the writer, Nigeria can still be a better society if and only if Nigerians will realize the power of their votes, and if the leaders will change from their dishonest and selfish mindset*

**Keywords:** Philosophy, Corruption, Insecurity, Nigeria.

## **Introduction**

The universal purpose of instituting government system is to ensure the security of the human life and property, maintain economic development and the stability of human race. Men in the state of nature according to Rousseau were plain and pure, but their contact with society made them become brutal, nasty and solitary in behavior. Realizing what such behavior has done to them, and what the future of the human race will be, they consensually decided to contract out their sovereign power to a body of representatives called government to control the human race to ensure peace and security of life and property of the people, maintain development and stable humanity. Nigeria is a typical case study to this. The pre-colonial Nigeria was peaceful and orderly, human relationship was the norm of existence and communalism their pattern of leadership based on wisdom, age, competency and inheritance. Nigerians encounter with the colonial rule became polluted, the white man came to Nigeria with the evils of slave trade, exploitation and the Christianity that was featured with oppression and subjugation, a type of religion that killed our culture and tradition and imposed their alien ways of life on us. Nigerians suffered too much from the colonial masters, thus, the prevailing peace and security in the country were disrupted and life became uneasy with the people. This encounter provoked the agitation for self governance which became materialized in 1960. The first civilian election conducted between 1957 and 1960 marked the beginning of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria. This x-rayed the election violence between the then political parties whereby the Northern People's Congress (NPC) thugs attacked the leader of Bornu Youth Movement and killed about five (5) persons, and nothing was done to arraign the culprits. A lot of corrupt practices were recorded during this regime. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the governor general under the party platform of N.C.N.C (National Council for Nigeria and Cameroun) was accused of money fraud through the then African Continental Bank (A.C.B), and so many parliamentarians and regional ministers were involved in one corrupt act or the other.

The post colonial democratic governance that came to be between the first republic in 1963, and 1966, brought different cases of corrupt practices and insecurity that prompted the taking over of the government by the military juntas. Thus, the military ruled Nigeria from 1966-1979, and from 1983 to 1998. Nigeria from the inception of self rule till date is corrupt. The purpose for which government was instituted in Nigeria has failed woefully. The people to whom

we contracted out our supreme power to control the country for our well being have disappointed us. Thus corruption has become the norm and insecurity the order in Nigeria. The attitude of these monsters is becoming outrageous. No sector of life activity in Nigeria is exempted from imperils of these cancer worms. Our political leaders and the judiciary which is the hope of a common man are corrupt, religious and ethnic/tribal leaders are corrupt, education, health, and oil sectors administrators are corrupt, even we the electorates are also corrupt. Yet, everybody is screaming Nigeria is corrupt. The big questions, however, are who is corrupt in Nigeria? Is Nigeria as complex body corrupt? Or, are the citizens corrupt? Where is the place of morality in Nigeria? The truth is that Nigeria as a state is not and can never be corrupt; rather, it is we the citizens that are corrupt. It is we the citizens that steal, embezzle public funds, abduct, tell lies, kill and murder our fellow human beings, do child-moleesting/human trafficking, gang rape women and men etc. According to the Expat insider survey of 2019, by the Inter-Nations, Nigeria occupied the third position amongst the most dangerous countries of the world and featured on the Global Terrorism Index due to incessant activities of Fulani/herdsmen militant group which was tagged the fourth deadliest terror group in the world. Boko Haramism and Herdsmenism, however, are the political motivated thugs for rigging of elections by Northern leaders, and initiators are incapable of disarming and dissolving them after election. Now, the entire Nigerians are eating the sour soup maliciously prepared by few individuals. If this problem continues, what should be the hope of the future Nigerians? And, what shall we do to rest this problem in this kind of situation?

To assure the limpidity and good understanding of this work, we resort to split it in the following sub topics such as: The Discourse on the meanings and causes of corruption and insecurity: Corruption and insecurity in Nigeria; the implications and the solution as the conclusion of the work.

## **1. An Overview the Concepts of Corruption and Insecurity**

To elucidate the problems of the meanings and causes of these concepts, calls for defining them separately. Thus, what is corruption? And what is insecurity?

### **Corruption**

There has accumulated, over time, a plethora of definitions of corruption. The definitions varied and are quite often confusing. Thus, all attempts at providing a

consensual acceptable definition of corruption have failed. This is so, because of the differences in individual conceptualization. The concept corruption, “is etymologically derived from the Latin words namely “Com-meaning “with”, “together” and “rumpere-meaning” to break. Thus, engaging in corruption can break or destroy someone’s trustworthiness and good reputation with others.” The Cambridge International Dictionary of English defines corruption as, “a dishonesty using one’s position or power to one’s advantage, especially for money. This definition restricted corruption to those acts that violate the virtue of honesty, while corruption deals with more issues than dishonesty.” Acha (1991) defines corruption as any act by a public official who violates the accepted standard of behaviour in order to serve private or selfish ends.” This view implies that it is only public officials who are involved in corruption, though Acha did not clarify who a “public official” is. For instance, is a market woman, a taxi driver or roadside mechanic not, a “public official”? This idea of limiting corruption to public officials would do harm to the task of dealing with such a dangerous plague in society as corruption.

The Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary defines corruption as, “a dishonest or wicked behavior.” Stretching further, every “wicked behavior” or villainy is socially censurable. However, not every “wicked behavior” should be categorized as corruption. A wicked behavior could be an act of vengeance or vendetta carried out without any clear expectation of personal financial gain. Such act could be operation of bandits, assailants or terrorists. Although such behavior may traumatize the society, the actors are simply not expected to perform otherwise being already depraved and perverted. In other words, every corruption is an evil and a wicked act, but not every evil and wicked act is corruption. Corruption as defined by Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English is simply, “a dishonest, illegal or immoral behavior especially from someone with power.” There are innumerable standards that do not need to be disallowed by law, but which are violated often and on, and are tantamount to corruption. There are for example, certain mode of dressing that do not have to be allowed by law, still they are considered as right or wrong in a given society. As to what constitute immoral behavior, it is questionable if prostitution, which, in some cultures, is an acceptable standard of sexual behavior, be classified as corruption. Put in some other way, can an action be deemed corrupt because it is evil or immoral? Does the violation of any of the ten -commandments in the Bible, amount to corruption? What actually is corruption?

The concept “corruption” supposes before hand that in a given system, there is a blueprint or standard of behavior expected of persons who operate within that system. In every profession, institution or social system, there are precepts or code of conduct which members are meant to conform to for the smooth running of the system. These guiding precepts are constructed around such absolute, universal and external values such as honesty, uprightness, decency and modesty. On the other hand there is also the presumption that the human actions within a given system have been adjudged mature and sufficiently encountered to abide by a given draft of operation. The ultimate good of making these provisions is to ensure efficient performance, healthy growth and remarkable progress for the common good. There is therefore, the natural inclination towards inscribing into public life, persons whose quality, ability and behavior would be guided by the aforementioned eternal values. This however, explains the assiduity, which characterizes the enrollment of activity into any reputable establishment. People are recruited based on their occupational fitness and personal integrity. In other words, competence and reliability of holding the institutions code of ethics becomes the criterion for employment. However, any active involvement in public life, whether executive, business or commercial, demands disposition of sanity that would provide a conducive environment for wholesome living for all. This nevertheless is the essence of maturation-the acceptance of moral responsibility. It is in such situation that man is able to experience normative development, and secure human existence. This is the scenario that constitutes the basic conditions for the detection of the virus of corruption, which is, a departure from the status quo.

According to Social Science Encyclopedia (1985), “Corruption is the perversion or abandonment of a standard.” First is that in every incident of corruption, there must have been an established normative standard. Put differently, a normative standard precedes an act of corruption. This premise has been dealt with earlier. In every human set up, there are levels of quality, behavior, decency, value and measure of weight which are adjudged necessary and acceptable for social well-being. The absence or alteration of these standards will result in chaos, insecurity, retrogression and frustration. Secondly, corruption is not simply that abandonment but perversion of these standards. Mere abandonment of standard may impede or stall growth. What is really corrupt is the perversion of standards? An act of perversion consists of, “the alteration of an established normative standard in an unnatural and often harmful way.” Every act of perversion in public life is not only an abnormal and aberrant behavior, but also

injurious and damaging to the social system which leads to social unsoundness, decay and morbidity. Even in its apparent physical existence, the system attains the stage of spiritual putrefaction, while those who violate their standard seemingly revel in the proceeds from their deviation, they became the corruptors, as inclined to accept by, Olusegun Olugbeka's (2001) definition of corruption as; "the putrefaction, taunting debasement perversion or venality, spoiling destruction of purity or falling away from standard of integrity or rectitude, defund by law, weld by social harms of conscience, or recognized by the general conscience of mankind."

Both the phenomenon of corruption and corrupters exists in subtleties of corruption. Those in authority and those under authority should alike share in the blame of the pandemic scourge. What are the causes of corruption?

## **2. Causes of Corruption**

It is a thorny issue to deal with corruption, especially to account for its persistence in societies. Certainly, corruption is a global phenomenon, although, its effect varies from one place to another. Corruption is as old as humanity itself. World historical records established clearly that the collapse of many empires, even some renowned celebrities in the world were a result of the irrepressible level of corruption in their lives and those societies. Corruption menace is found both in the underdeveloped and developed countries alike. In 1970s, for example, the United States of America and Britain were hit by series of social and political scandal<sup>5</sup> which took the world by storm. In the USA, between 1972 and 1974, the Watergate Affairs led to a wave of investigations that resulted in hundreds of conviction of Americans for corruption. Take a look at the present day suspected Chinese initiated covid-19 virulent pandemic that tends to put mankind to halt. So many of such corrupt practices that intended to thwart other societies have been trailing in Nigeria since independence, think of the corruption act that cursed the life of Murtala Mohamed by Dinka around 1976 and 1977. What of the death of the famous Nigeria journalist, Dele Giwa during Babangida Regime between 1985 and 1993. Corruption and insecurity rate in Nigeria are too alarming, thus, the verdict of the Transparency International says, corruption about Nigeria, is a matter of ranking. Nigeria is ranked the most corrupt country in Africa. Thus, corruption has become Nigeria people's way of life. This consequently implies that no Nigeria can confidently lift up a stone against fellow Nigerian on the question of corruption. The question, however, is,

why this level of corruption syndrome in Nigeria? A number of factors however, have prompted corruption tendencies among Nigerians. The factors are as follows.

**(i) Corrupt Leadership**

Leadership involves, among other things, pointing to the right direction via words and action. A leader who points to the right direction in words, but acts in a manner that contradicts his words, is a bad leader. His inability to march his words with action could be a result of his moral or administrative weakness. In such a situation, corruption becomes part and parcel of his leadership style, and flows down to the grassroots. Any attempt to correct the already corrupt system under such leadership turns out to be more of hypocrisy and a smokescreen for further lubrication of the engine of corruption. It is in this vein that the Anglican Bishop of Jos, Rt. Rev. Benjamin Kwashi (1999) accused the political class and Nigeria leaders in all sections of the society as being responsible for the increasing wave of corruption in the country. Thus he stated, "as long as Nigeria and indeed, African leaders continue to pay lip service to fighting corruption, without purging them selves first, the menace of corruption will continue to live with us."

In Nigeria, for instance, the setting up of the Anti-corruption Committees has never been a sign for differentiating one leadership quality from another. Such action has, more or less becomes a mere face-saving bureaucratic process than a genuine intention to decisively deal with corruption. Under poor-weak leadership, corruption infects a very high proportion of members of the society. The reason is that the uncontrollable rate of corruption complicates the existing social and economic problems, thereby drawing almost everyone into one corruption chamber. At this stage, corruption becomes a people way of life.

**(ii) Lust for Power/Wealth**

The word "Lust" has been defined as "a strong desire to have something." Ordinary desire to have something may not be suggestive of a negative value. When a person's desire turns into being very strong", greed sets in, and renders such desire unnatural because it is uncontrollable. It is at this stage that "desire" becomes "lust" which affects one's perspective on everything else. Therefore, lust for power is an unnatural, proclivity and inordinate thirst to get into a position of authority at all means, this involves doing everything possible, which means at

any price, which includes bribery, blackmail, lying, deceit or assassination. Those who lust for power or wealth are in the habit of saying, "I do not mind whatever it would cost me to get there."

### **(iii) Old Colleague (Kinsmen Pressure)**

Some members of the society, who may not, by their natural disposition, be inclined to corruption, may be driven, by external pressure to become involved in corruption. The people appointed to government positions are victims of induced corruption. Relations and friends of those appointees usually mount such pressure. It has been an ordeal set by almost every ethnic groups or tribes in Nigeria to their appointed children in government, probing their performances so far to their various kindred, clans and tribes. Even friends to the appointees also pressurize them, by asking for help, for example, the people of Igboukwu of Anambra State, once, attacked their son, Chief. Dr. Ezeife, the then governor of the state for having wasted two years in the state government without doing any project for Igboukwu people. Speaking against this factor on the occasion of the swearing in of new ministers, the then President of the Federation, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (2001), made appeal to relatives of the ministers, friends and well-wishers, "not to impel the new ministers into running fowl of the rules and regulations of the administration."

The impression, however, has been created (and a strong one at that), that being given a high government office is more of opportunity to partake in the share of the national cake than to serve the nation. Thus, the government officials who had heeded to their kindred pressure in enriching themselves and their relatives and friends through corrupt means had been hailed as heroes and successful "sons of the soil" and had often been honored with traditional titles. And the few who had obeyed their conscience, and lived with their legitimate earning had been invariably conceived as fools and seen as a total let-down to their people. It is however, one thing to condemn corruption, but it is entirely another to have the courage to shun the profits of corruption.

### **(iv) Poverty**

It has been strongly debated whether, indeed, poverty contributes to the involvement of certain individuals in corrupt practices. In his contention, Miguel Schloss (2001) suggested thus: *To fight corruption effectively, the poverty level*



*prevalent in the country must also be significantly reduced. Poverty plays a role in the sense that it facilitates the creation of conditions for corruption.*

It should be admissible that low wages and earnings provide the conditions that force certain individuals to seek for shady and illegal ways to augment their income in order to meet certain basic needs. Poverty the writer avers, "is a disease, it can cause someone to do the undoable." It is because of poverty that some voters decide to sell their consciences by exchanging their votes just for a piece of cloth, cups of rice and even for a token of ₦500 or ₦1000. It is because of poverty that many Nigerians had fallen victims to the greedy and wicked political leaders. Complementing on this, Olateru Olagbeji (2003) says, "Poverty could explain the cases for which some politicians influence peasant voters who readily surrender their consciences for the cheap gift of the sum of fifty naira, this attitude he (Olateru) tagged as "need-induced corruption." The needs however, says the writer, did not stop with wages, they also include daily meals, payment of house rent, electricity bill, clothing, even children's school fees etc, all propel the poor to fall prey to the politicians.

#### **(v) Materialism**

Our idea of materialism in this context is not strictly the philosophical concept which sees the entire universe, of which man is part, as entirely material although it is related to it. The use of materialism, according to Ben Okwu (1994) in this paper refers to the ideology that places emphasis on the material rather than on the spiritual side of us."

Materialism stresses material value, and holds that money is everything, thus, money makes man what he is. Life without money, wealth and possession is nonsensical. Money keeps and destroys life, it accords respect to people that have it, thus, one without money (poor person), is seen as no body in the community no matter the extent of his moral uprightness. That is why in communities, churches, even in universities, only the wealthy people are accorded chieftaincy titles, knighthood and honorary degrees, irrespective of the questions pointing to the dubious acts encircling their root of the money or wealth.

#### **(vi) Poor Parental Moral Upbringing (Ethos)**

Unfortunately, many Nigerian families fail in the duty of moral upbringing of their children. In the absence of a fervent ethical background for children, the natural tendency is for them to be swayed by crowd or societal pressure, and

commit evil, Nigerians have unrolled a number of vicious apothegm like; *na Niger we dey.* "If you can't beat them, you join them." "Are you not a Nigerian? "If you scratch my back I scratch your back." "Nothing goes for nothing," etc. Even the popular Greek storyteller Aesop's aphorism that "the gods help those who help themselves" is being used by Nigerians to justify their corrupt acts, which aims at gaining merits and resolving their problems. In this situation, Nigeria families contribute to the menace of this cancer worm that tends to destroy the entire Nigeria.

### **(vii) Lack of Patriotism**

Chinua Achebe (1983), in his text "The Trouble with Nigeria", made series of inflammatory statements amongst which is that, "there is no doubt that Nigerians are amongst the world most unpatriotic people." The question is this, how factual is this statement? The term "patriotism" can be defined as, "having or expressing a great love for one's country." This implies having or expressing a strong loyalty to one's country or, it invariably, involves remaining faithful to ones country. Drawings from this Achebe's statement, Nigeria, generally, rarely have love and loyalty to their country. If they truly love their country, they would definitely be conscious of her well-being, they would be trusted and stanch in carrying out their civic duties. The yard sticks for examining the level of patriotism in Nigeria centers on the level of their fidelity to the national pledge and anthem confessions, these, however, are worded so as to convey the state ideals and peoples commitment to these ideals. The ideals prescribed that Nigerians should endeavor to serve their fatherland with strength, love, loyalty, faith and honesty for the intent of creating an ideal state where truth, order and justice shall reign for the glory of Nigeria at its entirety, with the recitations of this anthems, it is assured it will rhyme with their actions. Thus Chinua Achebe (1983) depicts.

Nigeria patriot is not necessarily a person who says he loves his country, he is not even a person who shouts or swears or recites or sings his love of his country.

The truth is that Nigerians confess one thing and do another. This explains the highly solemnized swearing of oaths of loyalty by public officers and the high level of corruption in every sector of life in the country. Both the political, economic, bureaucratic, judiciary, administrative and electoral corruptions which have devilled Nigeria are perpetrated by or are executed in collusion with public

officer who had at one time or the other sworn to these oaths of allegiance and recited the national anthem and pledge. Being unpatriotic contributes to a lot of criminal acts that are troubling Nigeria today. One for example, could imagine how unpatriotic the then President Sani Abacha was by looting Nigeria's treasury, what of other Nigeria leaders who have in one way or the other involved themselves in money laundering and other criminal activities like sponsoring terrorism such as herdsmanism, which are marauding Nigeria's economic system and endanger people's life. Lack of patriotism, like greed, has the capacity of beclouding men from realizing the grave disservice they do to their country. Thus, Achike Udenwa (2001), the first Imo state's fourth republic governor (1999-2007), in his call for a re-orientation of our value system, pointed out that the basic trouble of the nation rests;

Not so much (upon) dividing resources nor bad leadership but a brazen display of being unpatriotic by a greater percentage of her citizenry... only a reversion to moral rectitude and self-discipline would spare the nation from total collapse.

### **Insecurity**

The need for security is the foundation of the social contract amidst the citizens and the states of the world. With that being said, security should be a basic right and entitlement of the citizen in which people willingly relinquished their power to the government who take care of the well-being of all. Drawing from this view, security contains the mechanism put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce or resolve violent conflict, and other problems that originate from other states, non-state actors or structural social, political and economic conditions. Security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. Insecurity is hard to define due to the diversity in individuals' understanding. Insecurity is an adversary to security. Insecurity according to S.C. Chuta (2004) is, "a breach of peace and security; whether historical, religious, ethnic, regional, civil, social-economical and political that contributes to conflicts and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property." Insecurity according to Beland (2005) "is a state of anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. In the same vein, Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, "insecurity is a state of being open subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury." Secondly, "insecurity is the

state of being exposed to risk or anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.”

Our dear motherland, “Nigeria”, has of recently been bewildered with series of major security situations. Nigeria that most people, both indigenous and aliens conceived as heaven, has of recently become a hotspot. This has extensively existed that the United States of America and a few other nations of the world have issued a red-flag warning to their citizens on travelling to Nigeria. So many crimes, ranging from killing, kidnapping, armed banditry, abductions, rape, human trafficking and of course terrorist attacks and the rest unmentioned constitute the major force of insecurity issues we are experiencing today in Nigeria. Though Federal government has equally devised diverse measures to curb the peril by deploying several security personnel to these hotspots, yet no positive result has been achieved till date. Tracing back to about 8 to 9 years ago, even to this day, the major security challenges that have been perturbing us Nigerians include the Boko haram and hardsmen terrorism, these specifically took its root from the abduction of the 200 Chibok girls under Goodluck Jonathan regime and inherited by the President Muhammedu Buhari’s leadership. The worst of it all is that these terrorists torment and raid both the North eastern and Northwestern states of Nigeria such as Maduguri, Kastina, Kano and Kaduna states using both the porous borders of Lake Chad, from where the logistics are said to be supplying to the terrorists, via both the Sambisa and Rugu forests in the North. These issues however, have sky rocketed and spread out outrageously to other states of Nigeria. The terrorists have been killing people, via bombing, setting homes ablaze, kidnapping and gang raping men and women, and also demanding a huge ransom of which if the owners of the captives, couldn’t meet up to, may lead to the death of their relations. Nigeria truly is in trouble. The truth is that diverse factors contribute to this tormenting beast in Nigeria.

### **3. Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

- (i) **Corruption:** This is the prime cause of insecurity in Nigeria. The transparency International places Nigeria on top of the least for most, corrupt countries of the world. Corrupt Nigeria politicians have become a turn off for international investors. Once, Vanguard Newspaper, explaining the height of corruption in Nigeria, “States that there is no real politician who wants to kill corruption in Nigeria. Corruption has already

become a culture in Nigeria. Despite all the established measures to curb corruption by the Nigerian leaders since independence, none of them has become committed to battle corruption for real

- (ii) **Unemployment:** The overwhelming unemployment rate in Nigeria causes panic. Many Nigerian youths indulge in one criminal act or the other due to unemployment. They involve themselves in banditry, kidnapping, even in gang raping. "An idle mind" the writer says, "is a devil's work shop". Our politicians and leaders use our youths as thugs to achieve their primitive self interest, after which they will find it difficult to retrieve back the guns and other weapons that were given to them. Thus, they use them in terrorizing the society.
- (iii) **Imbalance:** Different parts of Nigeria have different speeds of development. Due to this, the oil rich states of the country feel cheated that federal government are using their wealth without giving them priority in terms of development, thus, they take justice into their hands, which results in vandalizing oil pipe lines, abducting and killing of government officials and causing unrest to their communities and Nigeria in general.
- (iv) **Weak Judicial System:** This causes insecurity in Nigeria. Judiciary is the last hope of a common man. But the reverse is the case with the Nigeria judiciary. People feel insecure when criminals and terrorists are set free. So many evil minded people believe with money, a deviant can go free in Nigeria no matter the degree of corruption and crime, thus, the corrupt Nigeria government system proves certainty of this thought. This rich people/the leaders buy freedom with money and no offence will be charged against them, while the artisans are always in trouble.
- (v) **Porous Borders:** Poor guard of Nigeria borders causes insecurity in the country. Insurgents from our neighboring countries can infiltrate Nigeria with ease. This is specifically linked to the North Eastern and North Western borders of the country. Thus, the federal government inability to provide enough troops and sophisticated machines to secure the borders is the main cause of insecurity issue in the country.
- (vi) **High Influx of Arms:** Smugglers use porous costal borders of Nigeria to sell their arms. The corruption system and weak judiciary help smugglers to sell more guns such as; assaults rifles, pistols, shotguns, grenades and

explosives. These arms and ammunitions are used against people and the military forces. The federal governments pretends to be tackling these problems while they are the chief cause of it, and are, also weak and, in fact are not willfully committed to halt it due to their selfish interests, thus, the problem becomes more complicating everyday.

- (vii) **Narcotics Problems:** Narcotic trafficking is one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Criminal groups are involved in smuggling of illegal substances to Europe, Asia, South- Africa and North America. Nigeria gangs are one of the largest distributions of opium in the world.
- (viii) **Slavery/Human Trafficking:** This is another root of insecurity in Nigeria. The walk free foundation of Global Slavery reports that so many Nigerians are trapped in human trafficking, for example some Nigeria women are tricked to migrate to other regions or countries with hope of giving a good job as were promised, but incidentally they found themselves either in local or foreign brothels prostituting. The situation with human trafficking and forced labor in Nigeria is hideous, some people are kidnapped or trafficked for ritual purpose, while some are trafficked and sold for adoption etc.
- (ix) **Criminality:** Nigerians have been victims of robberies, which sometimes happens in day light. Organized criminal gangs take over the street of Nigeria without fear thereby hampering people's security of lives and property. One should take cognizance of the 419 and yahoo boys scams that have been traumatizing Nigeria, Europe, America and other countries of the world to part with money.
- (x) **Terrorism:** This is not new in Nigeria About 8years ago, Boko Haram and Niger Delta Avengers are two main terrorist organizations that caused damage to Nigeria. But, presently, Herdsmenism has over taken the event and thus, become the worst threat to Nigeria. Both the Boko- Haramism and Herdsmenrism have troubled Nigerians to extent that our warriors (solders) are attacked and killed in their struggle to defend and protect us the citizens and the country at large.

#### 4. Corruption and Insecurity in Nigeria

Despite her potential for greatness, a large population with great human capital (i.e a dynamic workforce), enormous natural resources, growing economy, raw materials and great reservoir of oil deposit which present her as the largest exporter of crude oil in the whole Africa. Nigeria, as a country, does not suppose to allow its systems to deteriorate to this level where corrupt practices become the norm and insecurity the order of the day. Although societies vary in terms of approach, methodology and policy implementation vis-à-vis curbing corruption as well as establishing adequate and effective security systems, there is a universal rating standard against which every society is assessed in order to determine quality, progress and improvement. In this regard, Nigeria's resume is not impressive. Nigeria is rated the third most dangerous country in the world. This however, is because of bad governance, mismanagement of resources, widespread of corruption and insecurity. These factors contributed immensely to the sustained proliferation of terrorist activities, infrastructural deficits, poverty, religious unrest, militancy, insurgence, abduction etc, with no apparent and convincing indices to prove that these negative narratives could change any moment soon or in the nearest future.

Nigeria, more so, featured on the Global Terrorism Index because of the incessant functions of Herdsmen militants which was tagged the fourth deadliest terror group in the world. When a nation's institutions become weak, freedom from punishment becomes widespread, its security forces and entire system becomes feeble thereby carving a breeding ground for all manner of criminal endeavors and social perils. Thus, the criminal activities as enlisted above are traceable to weak institutions. Hence corruption continues to pose a challenge to development in Nigeria by fueling insecurity. The pseudo solution by the aid-seeking ideology which has become culture exhibited by government in Nigeria, has not helped to ameliorate the deplorable state of affairs-the idea of always seeking financial help and military hardware from foreign countries is not likely to halt the endemic issues of corruption that fuels insecurity. This is not to invalidate the importance of foreign aid and the invaluable consequences it could cause to Nigeria's economy. This obviously is making an independent country dependent. The idea of aid is often regarded by lawmakers as regular income, thus they are not creative enough to enact good laws and make decisions that will enable the country to independently finance growth and development. Nigeria has incurred a lot of debts from foreign and, even, recently, the federal government publicized its intention to adopt \$29.96bn, despite the admonition by the I.MF on the disturbing current debt profile. Federal government keeps on

borrowing money, forgetting that, when money is invested into a corruption-infested system without proper plans on how to “root out” insecurity, the ultimate impact of such liquidity is difficulty felt by the citizens who continue to suffer the affect of corruption via diversion, mismanagement or outright looting. For instance, President Muhammadu Buhari recently voiced out his dissatisfaction on the age long infrastructural deficiency in the country despite huge yearly budgets for infrastructural development. Mr. President emphasizes on the disproportion of the actual budgets and the current deplorable state of affairs via-a-vis infrastructure in the country. The question therefore is; where did all the money go? Moreover, the country has yet to heave a sigh of relief about security. Despite the yearly humongous budgets on security, yet crime rate is on the increase day by day. Nigeria is deemed unsafe and perceived as one of the most dangerous nations by the World Economic Forum report. The security agencies are poorly funded; they need total reform, the military (warriors) is in dire need of modern military hardware etc.

One serious problem of great concern in Nigeria is the scandal encircling the “Security vote” by state governors for which there is no accountability. A security vote is simply a monthly allowance that is disbursed to the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the purpose of funding security services within these states. This runs into billions of naira and varies based on the level of security needed by the individual state. Security votes, however, have not all that been generally accepted by Nigerians for there is no regulatory or monitoring agency to which the leaders are accountable as regards spending; the state governments freely spend the money based on the self discretion. Hence the governors and the then Presidents till date appropriate billions of naira into their personal accounts in the name of “national security” though, this serves as an avenue for these leaders to loot unrestrictedly into national treasury to enrich themselves and their cronies. Typical example is the late military dictator, General Sani Abacha, who wickedly penetrated into the nation’s treasury to loot and siphoned trillions of naira into his pocket, thereby added to the nation state of irredeemable decay. It is security vote that prompts our leaders into the desperation to grab power by all means to perpetuate themselves into government seats, causing mayhem and heating up the country especially, during elections. There is no doubt that security will be compromised when there is no unity of purpose vis-à-vis transparency and accountability as to how security votes allocation to each of the 36 states of the nation must be utilized.



## **5. The implications of corruption and insecurity issues on Nigeria's Economic Development**

The effects of corruption and insecurity on a buoyant economy can be extremely unpleasant; food, security, good management of natural resources, foreign investment inflows, resident investment, job opportunities etc, are threatened by corruption and insecurity. In fact, foreign investors are reluctant to bring their investment into Nigeria due to the fear of losing money. Likewise the resident investors, hence capital flight experience becomes a sad reality. In as much as the government is unrelenting in its efforts to establish the economy, the recent policy on the closure of land borders seems to be doing more harm than good; the government admitted that the rising inflation in the country is traceable to the law binding on border closure. Therefore, certain harsh economic policies such as border closure would emerge as a result of governments desperation to contain the failing economic state.

Politically, corruption undermines democracy, good governance and the rule of law, corruption undermines the legitimacy of government and democratic values like trust and tolerance; lack of legitimacy creates the breeding grounds for insecurity to thrive in society. People lose confidence in the government's ability to protect them, and therefore would rather seek self-protection than depend on government instrument. Even the nation's military had share of this foul-tasting development. It was once reported that Boko Haram engage the Nigerian Army with more sophisticated weapons and severely attacked and killed them to the extent that some survived soldiers escaped and fled into Cameroon. The big question that perturbed the mind of the writer is; how do the terrorists manage to get such sophisticated weaponry despite the humongous budgets on security? There is no doubt that the illegal funding of these terrorists is the work of some corrupt political leaders within the system.

### **Conclusion**

Corruption and insecurity are the two edged swords that are piercing, pinching and shattering the lives and properties of Nigerians, causing retardation in the growth and development of the Nigeria economy. These heinously affect all-roundly, every sector of life activity in the country. We have enlisted and discussed above the major factors responsible for the rising of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria. Socrates as cited by Plato says "unexamined life is not worth living, man knows thyself." Our leaders are aware of the strategies they

used to grab power, and know as well the foundational roots of corruption in this country; it is quite obvious that they must have anticipated the negative consequences of their conducts as regards to the present and future Nigerians. No matter how dead their consciences must have been, no doubt; right reasoning must be judging them, thus their minds must never be at rest. Though, the lay people are involved in contributing to these problems in one way or another. Yet, government will be apportioned with the largest blame. Because we the ruled acknowledged our weak points and thus contracted our rights to government institution to see to all for our wellbeing and that of the state as a whole. The obvious truth is that every power lies in the hands of the elected leaders, if they want Nigeria to be restructured and reformed for good, they can do it. Therefore, once the government gives priority to the eradication of corruption in its transformation agenda, surely security must swallow insecurity and Nigeria will become a better society.

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