

## **Corruption, Development and Security in Nigeria**

**Maina Mackson Abga**  
PHONE NO: 07035665501 & 08112004001  
Email: [abgamainamackson@gmail.com](mailto:abgamainamackson@gmail.com)  
Federal University Dutse,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Department of Political Science

*And*

**Abdulrazak Aide**  
Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies,  
School of Social and Management Sciences  
Adamawa State Polytechnic,  
Yola, Adamawa state.  
Phone No: 07034802034  
Email address: [abdulrazak.aide@gmail.com](mailto:abdulrazak.aide@gmail.com)

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### **Abstract**

*Although corruption has existed in human society for quite a long time, the incidence of corruption and insecurity in Nigeria poses great challenges to governance and has become an issue of public concern; corruption has impacted negatively on national development in Nigeria; despite various policies and programmes adopted by previous governments in the country there is still the prevalence of socio-economic cum political challenges, Nigeria is still bedevilled by the problems of poverty, inequality and insecurity ,deteriorating educational system, high level poverty, poor living conditions and inequality. The paper seeks to assess corruption, development and security in Nigeria, the research specifically examines the impact of Corruption on Developmental and Security; there are various measurements, scales and variety of causes of corruption that are undertaken through various methods. There are several types of corruption being practiced by Nigerians. Findings from the study showed that, corruption serves as the major factor for the retardation of Nigeria socially, economically and politically and has negatively impacted on the country's corporate existence. What distinguished this study from previous ones is that, it examined the current security challenges faced by the country as a result of financial misappropriation. The study argued that financial fraud and insecurity have done more damage to the country than any other phenomena in our national history as a nation and recommends the need by all Nigerians to see the inherent dangers of corruption and do everything within our power and will as a people to bring to an end the scourge of corruption from Nigeria so that we can move forward in terms of development, safety and peace*

**Keywords:** *Corruption, Development, Security, Insecurity, Nigeria*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Corruption is one of the most precarious ills affecting the Nigerian society which is manifested in high rate of unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease, insecurity, infrastructure decay and deficit in other developmental efforts; the gloomy picture of corruption in Nigeria is like cancer that destroys the basic structures of the socio-economic, political, cultural, moral conscience of Nigerians. Corruption undermines the country's integrity, security and is being responsible for misery among the general population (Ake, C. 1996); the frightening state of insecurity creates fear, anxiety among the populace Chukwuemeka, (Emma 2012).

Various programmes were undertaken by successive governments yet the country remained backward socially, economically and politically due to inadequate infrastructural and capital developments; though huge finances are being allocated to the security sector, the country continued to experience perilous security threats such as pipeline vandalism, abduction, banditry, cattle rustling, Fulani/farmers clashes, ethnic clashes, alarming cases of rape and insurgency by Boko-Haram.

Development means improvement in an economic and social conditions, it refers to improvements in managing an area's natural and human resources in order to create wealth and improve people's lives (Shelly, S. 2019); while elaborating on the meaning of development Seers, (1972) suggest that to distinguish what is development and what is not, it should be universally acceptable aim of development to make for conditions that leads to the realization of the potentials of human personality, where people are considered as the agents of development, respecting the diversity of the people, the autonomy and the environment in which they act to promotes human development which calls for a direct participation by citizens, where the state acts as a facilitator in enacting and strengthens peoples capacity to enhance basic human potentials and freedom that enables people to be agents of their own development through different avenues for self-reliance which calls for a more inclusive approach to fundamental social, economic and political changes such that all aspects of peoples' lives, their, history, consciousness and their relations with others fosters balanced advancement. Nigeria has not achieved desirable development due to corruption as evidenced by lack of basic facilities and very bad quality of life in both rural and urban areas due to corruption which has become a prominent feature of the Nigerian society (Solaja, 2014); this has orchestrated high incidences of security challenges, people's lives and properties have become insecure, due to criminal activities (Godly, & Wilfred, 2019).

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

### **The concept of Corruption**

The word corruption is derived from the Latin word “corruptus,” which means “corrupted” and, in legal terms, the abuse of a trusted position in any of the branches of power (executive, legislative and judicial) or other organizations with the intention of obtaining material benefit which is not legally justified for itself or for others (Richard 2020). The subject of corruption is of vital importance in any political discourse among scholars, theoreticians, researchers and analysts yet it is an ambiguous concept; perhaps, it may not be unconnected to the concealed manner it is being undertaken (Chukwuemeka, 2012). Because of its perceptible relationship to secrecy, corruption seems to defy simple extrication due to its multifarious existence and practice with certain implicit functions in all societies, thus a bad practice that retards growth and progress of any society, hence eradicating corruption becomes a creditable ethical objective admired by all societies. Several scholars have examined the concept of corruption from academic perspectives; especially by sociologist, political scientist, technical and management experts whose work were committed to the study of under development (Abiodun, 2012).

While corruption is most often being attributed to bribery, it is a broad term referring to the misuse of authority for selfish gratification that may not necessarily be monetary. It is a nomenclature referred to as ‘political whoredom’; a condition in which the bureaucrats sell their public office to the highest bidder for private expenses and the benefit amassed from such deals may be both financial and non-pecuniary (Bayley, 1966). In the words of Werlin (1973), corruption is a way of converting public resources to private usage; the office holder overtly or covertly converts public assets into private use. Balogun (2003) asserts that corruption is whereby public officer(s) deliberately manipulates or decides to ignore established codes of conduct for their personal gains. To Wilson (1968), corruption occurs whenever a person in authority traded his position or acting beyond the requirement of his duty for some private benefit. According to Transparency International (2006) corruption is the misuse of delegated power for private benefits. For example, where payments are facilitated in order to obtain special treatment or preferences for something that the bribe recipient is required to do by law is regarded as corruption.

### **The Concept of Development**

Basically, development connotes gradual growth of something so that it becomes more highly developed or stronger; a process of producing or creating something new or advanced. According Jhingan (2005), development means increase or transformation that will result into efficiency and awareness about technology and resourcefulness that bring about social and structural advancement of human capacity and enhanced standard of living, respect and self-determination of the citizenry. In economic terms, development represents continued growth in per-capita and increased productivity of a nation-state. Holmes (1990) opined that development is a combination of industrial growth and increase in the income level of the society that improves the quality of life and decision making for good governance. Remenyi (2004) corroborated that development has to do with being self-dependent and enhanced livelihood and good life.

Seers (1972) posited that development is not just about wealth but about people who are satisfied with their living standard where inequality is either absent or greatly reduced and must necessarily include social justice, prosperity, equitable allocation of resources and good governance that makes people confident to pursue their aspirations. Ake (1996), opines that development goes along with advancement in civilization, changes in social structures, attitude, s economic growth, reduced inequality and suffering; development is expected to bring about change in a social system widely perceived as unsatisfactory to a life of satisfaction and fulfilment (Todaro and Smith 2003).

### **The Concept of Security**

Essentially, security has to do with presence of peace, safety, happiness and safeguarding of human life and resources. It's the absence of crises or danger to human dignity, all of which enhances development and progress of any human society, freedom from threats, fear and apprehension. It generally addresses threats of any organized inter-group violence and the ways to manage and prevent it. Security has peace as its central component which is either directly or indirectly concerned with safety. It denotes measures taken by the state, international agencies, individuals or groups to guarantee continued communal survival and safety (Agbekaku et al, 2016); no state is free from the negative consequences of insecurity. Corruption has negatively affected Nigeria's national security, lives were lost, properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed and many families rendered as internally displaced persons. (Mustapha 2015),

## **MEASUREMENT AND SCALES OF CORRUPTION**

Corruption is perceived to be deeply entrenched in the Nigerian body politics and our day to day endeavours such that almost all the strata of social order in Nigeria has been profoundly affected by insidious and devastating way of life of corruption such that it has been remarked as the headquarter of the world's poor people by May, (2017). The debate on corruption has been going on for some time now; while others rely on subjective measures, other tends to look at it from the objective perspective; the controversy is accentuated by the phenomenon of deceitfulness which invariably makes it complex to unravel the practicality and magnitude of people's complicity and making it public knowledgeable is almost negative, meaning that there is always something that should have been done deliberately when evaluating any issue on corruption; thus, to evaluate levels of corruption is much easier said than done owing to the fact that it's difficult to establish (Svensson, 2005).

To categorize a country as either corrupt or not depends on one's personal judgment which have the propensity of being predisposed to tell the enormity of corruption (Svenson 2005); Collier (2000) said the categories and the means/ methods of measuring corruption could be divided into two namely: Financial corruption; that is normally measured through economic indicators and accounting auditing measures, and non-financial corruption that is related to transparency index and practices evaluation. Any major approach to fighting corruption must provide us with a yardstick with which we can assess our progress; probably the reasons given for measuring corruption are that once corruption is on the decline, it will strengthen transformation (Collier 2000). Though there are several ranking bodies that are generally used by anti-corruption institutions such as: The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) published annually by Transparency International, The Business Environment and Enterprise Survey (BEEPS) and the World Governance Indicators (WGI) developed by the World Bank.

All these yardsticks used in measuring corruption are inherently prone to bias and serve as imperfect proxies for actual levels of corruption as pointed out by Kurtz and Shrank (2007) due to limited information about corruption. Especially, with less transparency and accountability these institutions assesses and analyses corruption through surveys of populations of Nigeria through questioners but because the act is illegitimate and is being perpetrated in secret, makes its accurate measurement almost impractical, it could only be projected based on surveyors

opinion; in any case, corruption perception indices are derived from surveys of respondents' views or perceptions relative to the actual extent or the amount of money involved ; The 2019 corruption perception index published by Transparency International indicated that Nigeria ranked 146 out of the 180 countries considered. The country scored 26 out of 100 points, a drop from the 27 points that it has maintained since 2017. In the 2018 index, Nigeria rose by four places on the index from 148 to 144. The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption in the opinion of experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean (Olusuyi, 2020). Nigeria has repeatedly counted along with the major corrupt countries of the world for the past three decades; the repercussions of the full-scale corruption in Nigeria's social, political wellbeing are too numerous to mention (Maina & Samuel, 2018).

## **SCALES OF CORRUPTION**

Corruption can be categorized by considering different factors based on the amount of money involved, the frequency of occurrence, where the act was committed and whether it is illegal or uninhibited (Svenson, 2008) These categories are:

### **Petty Corruption**

This type of corruption transpires at a less significant level in any conventional social frameworks or government establishments. It is often undertaken by junior cadre workers who collect bribes for services offered. Example of this type of corruption includes collection of a token amount of money, influence, favouritism, special treatment at the expense of others, giving jobs and promotion to friends and family members. It may also include practices like extortion or complicity mostly done to augment meagre monthly earnings where public servants are under paid or are not contented with what they are being paid (Abga & Samuel, 2018).

### **Grand Corruption**

This is simply regarded as corruption at the top echelon of governmental authority associated with subversion of the entire administrative structure. It is largely committed by political office holders and senior public servants. At times heads of private sector institutions conspire in sharing the proceeds amassed through bribes and illicit business transactions. Grand corruption could either be domestic or at worldwide proportions. The Mallabo oil scandal, the Dasuki gate and the cash for

arms deals among others are good examples of grand corruption. (Lionel, & Margot, 2020, *Agency Report 2020*)

### **Systemic Corruption**

It's a situation in which the major institutions and structures of the state are majorly dominated by corrupt officials. Factors which encourage systemic corruption include conflicting incentives, misuse of discretionary powers, monopolistic powers, and lack of transparency, low pay, and culture of impunity. It is the pervasive form of corruption in public office where public officials brazenly accept bribes or gifts from the public when they exercise favouritism in official appointment and contract awards. It is entrenched when wrong-doing is taken to be the accepted norm and standard of accepted behaviour and integrated as essential aspect of the economic, social and political system and embedded in a wider situation that helps to sustain it. (EFCC, 2005).

### **Sporadic Individual Corruption**

Sporadic corruption occurs occasionally and it does not harm the economy but it can seriously weaken the financial resources of the country TI Corruption Index (2001)

### **Political Corruption**

When laid down policies and programmes are not followed, abused or disregarded to satisfy personal or any parochial interests then Political corruption has taken place; especially when laid procedures are weak, undermined and violated by office holders and those at the helm of affairs especially when decision-makers are themselves corrupt (Encyclopedia Americana, 1999). It is also prevalent when policies or legislations are made to benefit the privileged only, or any connivance between the private and public officials in which cooperate resources are illegally perverted into private pay-offs (Victor, 2008).

### **Bureaucratic Corruption**

It is the kind of corruption the general public come across daily at work places and offices usually perpetrated in the civil service by both junior and senior career bureaucrats. It usually involves the civil servants and political office holders; it is concerned with the violation of extant laws and protocols for private gains; its superfluity tends to be supported in a patron-client centralized institution where the

pattern followed are most often through patronage and collaboration with aliens to drain off state resources at the detriment of national interest (Falana, 2007).

### **Legal and Moral Corruption**

A corruption where the law is not working; laws usually specifies with no reservations about their meaning or any discretion to the public officials, a legal interpretation of corruption separates between what constitutes corrupt behaviour and what is not (Gardiner, 1993); corruption from law perspective serves to emphasize a worsening behaviour and reliance on legal means to decide right from wrong. Making laws about behaviour authorizes the legality of an action and not the morality of that same action. Hence, a corrupt act can be susceptible by lawful justification...‘excessive and prejudiced prominence given to legalism tends to support some misdemeanour where “legal corruption” may be more pronounced than its illegal forms’ (Kaufmann, 2006).Corruption therefore exerts unjustifiable control over laws and regulations by vested personal comfort at the expense of the public interest and that non-corrupt actions may be within the context of the law which may not be in tandem with the spirit of the law because the legality is not within the precincts of moral judgment that is evidently guarded by specifically defined rules.

### **ROOT CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA**

The main reasons of corruption in Nigeria include but not limited to the following (Okwagbala, P. (2020)

#### **Weak Institutions**

Weak institutions suggest that there is susceptibility that corruption may increase when establishment are scrawny which may have the propensity to engender rent seeking, frail legal and judicial procedures that may encourage wrong judgment or delay in delivery of justice due to lack of strong-willed anti-corruption agencies, and inability to prosecute public office holders who are still in office due to immunity they enjoyed by virtue of the offices they occupy. The inability of anti-corruption agencies to take legal action against illicit practices even in the private sector shows the inept and ineffectiveness of government institutions in pursuing the anti-corruption crusade. (Habu, Luaigba Aminu, 2012)

### **Lack of Transparency**

A management system that is apparently corrupt often have the proclivity to encourage and make the supporters of that system to be crooks through benefaction, patron-clientelism, asymmetrical access to public resources, abuse and bastardization of political positions, administrative bickering, weak or absence of Transparency and accountability to check corrupt practices (Abga & Samuel, 2018).

### **Unhealthy competition over Resources**

Dishonesty is not tapered to politics alone, in as much as politics is defined from Harold Lasswell's belief of "who gets what, when and how"; the fight for national wealth called "national cake" in Nigeria will continue to boost the appetite for corruption. Any slightest political issue is most often associated to resource control. The "national cake" that is supposed to be shared equally among the various ethnic groups that make up Nigerian federation entices the few kleptocratic elites who are fixated to drain public resources not minding the masses. Consequently, any chance to hold any public office is often seen as an opportunity to take one's share of the national cake (Financial Times, 2013).

### **Decline in Moral Values**

There is breakdown in moral values or principles of behavior for deciding what is right and wrong which gives governments officials and private establishments chances to work at their own discretion with corrupt predisposition, e.g. the settlement syndrome where one think he would be able to "settle" (bribe) his way through so as to continue their despicable acts; uncontrolled greed, weak working principles and lack of decent moral integrity, erosion of moral values and hankering for influence are some of the factors that enhances corruption (Adagbabiri & Ugo, 2018)

### **Failure of Institutional Democracy**

A situation where a country is unable to entrench genuine and justifiable democratic values due to inducement and settlement as tactics for claiming legitimacy of governments. Most often, influential personalities or policy makers are often induced with cash reward or award of contemptible and overblown contracts just to allow the sitting officer or government to justify its legitimacy (Abga & Samuel, 2018).

## **TYPES OF CORRUPTION MOSTLY PRACTICED IN NIGERIA**

There are many types of corruption being carried out in Nigeria; some of them are hereby highlighted below (Maduekwe, 2002).

### **Provision of services**

This type of corruption affects almost all the stratum of the entire country; in (2013), a study carried by the Global Corruption Barometer proved that corruption impinge on people's right to public services. Public officials have the tendency of using their privileged positions to exploit the public (Kayode et al. 2014). About 30% of the people who were associated with agencies in charge of licenses and permits either directly or indirectly pay or receive bribes; personnel in charge of delivery of essential services like health and education were also implicated with about 30% of people in the society pays bribes before they could get health or educational services. The police are perceived as extremely corrupt with 81% - 92% people who came in contact with the police claimed to have paid bribes at one point in time or the other and about 41% of those interviewed agreed that they were expected to give either cash or kind, to civic officials before they could get their demands attended to (GCB, 2013)

### **Back sheesh and Kickback**

This is a fraudulent act of trade by barter undertaken between individuals and public officials in exchange for large public contracts. Huge sums of money were lost because of over inflated contracts, delayed or non-delivery of procured goods and services (Oarhe, 2013). The category of public officials that practice baksheesh and kickbacks tend to be senior government officials, state ministers, multinational and local companies. A Project Assessment carried out by the World Bank in 2007 shows that companies make off record payments to public officials to secure contracts. The payment of bribes and kickbacks are also prevalent within government circles; members of the National Assembly have been accused of frequently receiving unlawful payments from ministers, departments and agencies to get larger budgets for their ministries (Mohammed 2013); the recent Niger Delta Development Commission probe was a good example of this type of corruption (emphasis mine)

### **Slush Fund**

A slush fund is a fund or account that is not properly accounted, money used for corrupt or illegal purposes, especially in the political spheres. Such funds may be kept hidden and maintained separately from money earmarked for legitimate purposes. Slush fund occurs when funds set aside for a particular and genuine purpose is stealthily substituted for an unlawful intention. The expression “slush fund” designates a deceitful exploitation of funds which might be seen as justifiable expenditure but disproportionate to the task it is meant to carry out. When an officer utilizes slashed fund to take care of his family and associates or when an elected official uses public finances intended for the execution of public projects to pay for a sumptuous holiday; a secretly reserved cash held by the top management of an organization for which the executives stealthily have unofficial custody and cannot adequately account for how it was expended (Arthur, 1999).

### **Political funding and patronage**

An investment system practised by public office holders to gain political support and votes during elections or legislation. It is akin to Political God-fatherism where an individual or group sponsors a candidate for political office in order to control or influence the candidate after securing the office. The system most often ignores the prescribed government regulations and use immoral processes to gain advantage. Political patronage usually employed to sustain control and political support includes the allocation of employment, award of contracts to party loyalist as a way to placate and mollify them for loyalty and guaranteeing stability while in office. (Ojukwu & Shopeju, 2010)

### **Plutocracy**

The concept ‘plutocracy’ refers to a principle where power resides with people whose main concern is wealth, advocated by the wealthy class in the society in a surreptitious manner to control a government or state. This class of people controls government often in a hostile manner and exercise predominant political power directly or indirectly and manipulate the State wealth to strengthen their profitable supremacy but not to improve the populace. Nwankwo (1997) noted that most Nigerian leaders are devoid of truthfulness and integrity ....a class of oppressors that cherish wasteful living and extravagance; they operate on diverse platforms such as political parties, socio-cultural fraternities, alumnus and political organizations (Ujomo, 2001).

## **CATEGORIES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA**

Corruption in Nigeria are undertaken through different methods, below are some of the various techniques used. (Igwe, 2019)

### **Electoral Manipulation**

Electoral corruption is a dimension of corruption in Nigeria; it is the deceitful manipulation or unlawful interference with the electoral processes which most often influences the outcome of election. In principles, the term 'electoral malpractice' are actions which are illegitimate, it expresses steps taken that are lawful yet considered ethically wrong and are inconsistent with the prevailing electoral laws. It is a contravention of the democratic principles which can be described as a rape of democracy because it can alter the electoral outcome completely or even if the result is not affected, it has the tendency to make people not to accept election results or have confidence in the entire democratic processes or when it is consented, it may lead to legitimacy crisis. Elections can be manipulated at any phase of the electoral process but generally it takes place during electoral campaigns, voters' registration or counting of votes and collation of election results. (Oluwadare, 2017)

### **Fraud**

This is a method of corruption that is practiced through deceit, double-crossing, forgery, racketeering and smuggling; it involves some kind of hoodwink of the unsuspecting party. It is a dishonest scheme by which the resources of organizations are diverted to loathsome ventures; thereby depleting the gains and leads to complete failure of the organization (Orukwogu, 2006).

### **Extortion**

The practice of obtaining something from someone especially money and other resources extorted through threats or use of force; it is an act of frightening or to hurt a person, his or her name, or belongings so as to unfairly take cash, services, or other goods from that person. It is the illegal use of one's position or power to obtain property, fund or patronage from people either by physical or psychological pressure through misuse of authority; it could also be described as the wrongful taking of something of value from another by the use of force or other coercive measures. It essentially involves government departments, agencies and personnel obtaining money and other valuables by threats. For example, in Nigeria, this

method of corruption is very widespread on our highways usually committed by security agents (Bayart 1997).

### **Blackmail**

Blackmail is a specific subset of extortion; it is the crime of threatening to divulge secret information, usually embarrassing or damaging revelations about someone until a demand is met or unless the person who is threatened gives money or do what the blackmailer want. A criminal offence of demanding payments or other benefits from someone in return for not revealing compromising or damaging information about him or her. It deals with manipulating someone's feelings to force him or her do something he/she would otherwise not do (Ribadu, 2006)

### **Theft**

This is an act of stealing; an unjust taking and moving away of personal or material goods of another without permission with the intention of depriving someone's legal possession. It is a felonious taking and illegal removal of someone's property or money e.g. by burglary or embezzlement; seen as theft of public resources by civic officials especially when officials of government steals from the public establishment where he or she works. For example, the funds meant to pay retirees was stolen by the heads of those organizations which resulted to the failure to pay the pensioners, by so doing it increased the pensioners poverty level and exacerbated their suffering (Ayoade, 2006)

## **CORRUPTION, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ANALYSIS**

The impact of corruption on Nigerian development and security has been very upsetting; there is massive decline in practically all aspect of our national life underscored by the depth of deficiency in progress amid abundant natural endowments (Agbibo, 2010). This serves as basis for the distasteful momentous challenges in contemporary Nigeria. Security in Nigeria is endangered by several causes with consequent harmful force on a nationwide scale which has put all and sundry in perpetual fear and anxiety.

The disastrous consequences of these are increasing level of rotteness in public utilities and services, social disorder and political mayhem, an omen for inevitable conflict and violence (Kyambalesa, 2006). Along with the other encumbrances slowing down Nigeria's advancement are: unhealthy competition over national

resources cum national cake, rapid population growth; social and political volatility; disparaging cultural, religious and ethnic suspicion and prejudices; too much external debts, economic dependence and poorly developed economic infrastructures (Mbaku, 2000). Corruption leads to the accumulation of both local and international debt; loans acquired were stolen and are not used in executing projects for which they were borrowed. Donor nations and multinational companies who came to invest in Nigeria became reticent to continue doing business which ultimately exacerbated capital flight from Nigeria. According to (Barro, 2000) Corruption decreases opportunity for investment because investors consider it as superfluous liability. It depresses foreign aid and makes donor countries struggle with how to ensure that funds obtained from foreign aid is not swindled (Lipset & Lenz 2000).

Although there were poverty alleviation programs and policies initiated by various governments at different levels and at various times, the funds earmarked for those purposes were commandeered and stashed abroad. The people became Poorer because resources allocated for developmental projects are being diverted to other non-essential purposes (Mauro, 1997). Politics is seen as a money-spinning venture because any expenses incurred to win election is considered as an asset to be recovered after assuming office, Dike (2003) portends that only few that legitimately serve out of patriotism; they are only interested in how they could enrich themselves through the office they occupy. The deep tribal and ethnic segmentation, convulsive federal system of government has to large extent affected public value system and peoples 'way of life that now characterized the society, thereby creating enormous social and political disharmony, moral bankruptcy, cacophonous social ineptitude, increasing penchant for domestic and intercontinental criminal networks (Agbibo, 2010).

Most of the elites and the rich people engage in medical tourism due to ill equipped hospitals, inadequate and medical facilities, lack of adequate and qualified personnel; electricity that drives industrialization is epileptic in most cities and towns, some industrial plants use generators to power their manufacturing activities thereby increasing the cost of production of goods and services which in turn causes inflation and worsen environmental pollution. Inadequate funding has deteriorated the Nigerian university system causing lecturers to frequently go on strike due to inadequate funding (Adagbabiri, 2018).

Security is the major responsibility of government, but most times the finances given to security are hardly accounted for. According to Ujomu (2001) a good

evidence of insecurity in Nigeria is the apparent incapability and inefficiency of the Nigeria security agencies to provide adequate security to the citizens. Despite all the sacrifices, more frightening evidence for the collapse of national security in Nigeria currently is the inability of government to protect themselves and the citizens from the blight of armed robbers, criminals, hoodlums, kidnappers; ethnic militia groups, assassins, etc. e.g. confirmed cases of the convoys of government officials coming under gunfire from snipers, robbers or assassins; the attack on the governor of Borno state recently was a typical example. Ujomu (2001) maintained that there has been a prevalence of ethnic tensions and hatred, religious conflicts and mutual mistrust. There are cases of armed robbery, abduction and kidnappings, ritual killings and the Boko Haram insurgency in the North east, herders and farmers conflict, communal conflict e.g. Tiv and Jukun (Eme & Onyishi, 2011). Ribadu (2006) posited that widespread corruption by political elites and their cronies has introduced a treacherously troublesome example to the majority of the Nigerian populace because of impunity, lack of honesty and blatant disrespect for rule of law such that their followers tend to imitate what they see their masters doing in their private domains such as bribery and misappropriation of public funds (Gwartney & Wagner, 1988).

## **METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION**

The mixed methods of data collection were deployed for this study. Both primary and secondary means of data collection were utilized. Primary sources of information were obtained based on people's personal views and perception on corruption in the Nigerian society through interviews and surveys, the secondary sources were the review of relevant existing literature on corruption such as text books, journals, magazines, newspapers, papers from conferences, seminars workshops and government gazettes. Materials from e - resources – internet such as, social media platforms like YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook were also utilized. Data was analyzed through qualitative and quantitative analytical tools and presented by using descriptive and expository approach.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Different scholars in an attempt to explain the phenomenon of corruption have developed several theories to investigate the determinants of corruption; among these theories are: the Elite theory, Greed/ Grievances, Frustration/ Aggression and prebendalism theories respectively, but there is no universally acceptable theory to

explain the phenomenon of corruption, development and security which relatively make it difficult to postulate a theoretical model that is agreed to all researchers in evaluating the topic under consideration. For the purpose of this article, a combination of the Prebendalism and the Elite theories would be adopted for this discourse.

Prebendalism is a political system where elected officials and government workers feel they have a right to a share of government revenues and use them to benefit their supporters, and members of their families or ethnic group, etc. The concept was first used by Joseph Richard in 1987 to describe a patron – client relationship – a sense of entitlements that many Nigerians use state offices to acquire material benefits for themselves and their cronies ; state offices are being appropriated by office holders who use them to enrich themselves, a kind of politics that has promoted corruption in the country such that appointments, promotions, admissions, award of contracts among others are given to their ethnic or religious affiliates first. It is the primitive acquisition of massive wealth which throttles socio-economic, political and technological development of a nation. (Joseph 1996). Talking about elite theory, scholars like John Milton, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton are of the opinion that the elites are good guardians, privileged to serve the people better than the people could ever govern themselves while Robert Michels posited the inevitability of elite domination, referring it to peculiar organizational features of modern politics and governance (cited in Ogbeidi, 2012); a theory of state that describes and explains power relationship in contemporary society where a small minority, consisting of members of the economic elite and policy planning networks hold power independent of the state's democratic processes because those who found themselves in position of authority uses their office to affect the environment and society either positively or negatively, influencing policies and opinions at governmental levels.

The reason for adopting these theories for this study is that, corruption remains one of the greatest albatross to development and security in Nigeria. The connection between corruption and security is that corruption fans the embers of poverty, crimes and insecurity. Corruption in the country has resulted in abject poverty, unemployment, injustice, and absence of infrastructure, ethnic conflicts, militancy, and accentuated insecurity; for instance, armed robbery, cultism, terrorism, disease, unemployment and other factors which lead to insecurity are directly or indirectly related to corruption (Dike, 2005). The advent of militancy, kidnapping and terrorism in Nigeria can be traced to corruption, these atrocious activities were

championed by political thugs who were initially recruited by corrupt politicians prior to elections, these thugs who became idle after the elections had no other job but to join militancy which eventually metamorphosed into all manners of nefarious acts across the country and till date many find it a 'lucrative' business; e.g. many of the Boko haram sect members were once political thugs their activities were facilitated by finances from abroad and or within the country, recruitment is an opportunity to induct into fighting manpower is also made easier by the high rate of youth unemployment, endemic poverty and poor education (Maina Abdulrazaq, & Keneth, 2020) Conflict can arise as a result of relative deprivation, polarisation and horizontal inequality caused by the discrepancy between what Nigerians thought is their right as enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended and what they actually believe is theirs. For instance educational achievements may foster the ambition of the youths, but they become frustrated, and deprived – occasionally venting their anger through political violence due to disparities and poor service delivery. Corruption in this context is considered as an act of greed where its effects causes deprivation, alienation, inequalities and grievances leading to conflict and insecurity. Political corruption is one of the major causes of poverty; despite the abundant resources, Nigeria remains one of the poorest countries in the world with many Nigerians living below the poverty line. According to Transparency international TVC Breakfast show (27<sup>th</sup> November 2020) Nigeria is the third poorest countries in the world. The dismal poverty status of the country results from selfish individuals who divert funds needed for development into their pockets, embezzlement of funds by past officials who have robbed the country of the needed funds for development purpose while the masses are left in abject poverty.

## **CONCLUSION**

Conclusively, corruption can be measured and operated on different scales; several factors have been identified as motivating factors for unwavering causes of corruption in Nigeria. It is perpetrated through different methods or dimensions and takes different forms and typologies. Corruption promotes underdevelopment and retard progress, leads to suffering and misery among the populace, it is identified that with proper management, transparency and accountability, political commitment, corruption would be reduced significantly or totally get rid off in our society if the leaders would lead by example. Robert Klitgard in his book 'Controlling Corruption' said that corruption is like disease that stays with us, although the claim is heart-breaking yet it will not prevent us from making effort

to be cured of the disease, neither should it discourage us to remove corruptions' from our society (Klitgard, 1988.).

In terms of development despite the huge revenue being accrued from the sale of the abundant natural resources, the Nigerian masses live in abject poverty; the exploitation and utilization of these resources ought to enhance the development of the Nigerian nation but in spite of the revenues obtained from these resources, Nigeria faces serious crises of development. Corruption has made nonsense of the legality of governance, wrinkled the trustworthiness of political leaders, replaced merit and hard work with the principle of mediocrity and multifarious patron-clientilism, giving credence to wastefulness and hopelessness, mismanagement and ultimately economic crisis; beleaguered by social inequality, arms proliferation and suffused by violence, highest level insecurity, ethnic mercenaries, religious fanaticism, discontented youths, armed gangsterism, and secret fraternal associations (Badmus, 2010).

In assessing security in Nigeria, greater emphasis was laid on internal security; an approach to where security is always seen not from its causes but from its effects and has always come to be associated with the criminality of the people than what turns them into criminals, hence the failure to use the proper means of handling the security problems has propelled the worsening security situation in the country. The insecurity problems of Nigeria has retarded the nation's economic, social and political development, thereby resulting to social injustice, acute food shortage, population explosion low level of productivity, fragile infrastructural base for technological development, inadequate and inefficient public utilities and chronic problem of unemployment and lack of safety of lives and property tend to suggest a false sense of security (Ebeh, 2015);

Bye and Large, from the facts obtained from this paper, one is made to believe that corruption has hampered developmental efforts in Nigeria and exacerbated under development and undermined our development efforts and national security. The study hereby recommends that:

1. Emphasis must be laid on enforcement of relevant laws in order to checkmate corrupt behaviors which must be binding and complied with and evaluated from time to time to avoid any excuses for its eventuality in the society.
2. There must be strict penalty with life imprisonment or even death sentence, for whoever is caught in corruption.

3. The media must have the confidence to freely and cogently inform the public about corrupt activities in the society.
4. Mechanisms must be developed by the civil society e.g. refusing to accept assistance from corrupt people and stop respecting their wealth and personality; the society should not identify with them so that they can experience identity crisis in their immediate constituencies.
5. Government must adopt a national anti-corruption agenda from all aspects from education, detection, inquiry, prevention, prosecution.
6. There must be an increased localization of grass roots anti-corruption project coordination and advocacy through collaboration with local and international anti-corruption agencies.

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