

The Causes of the Ineffectiveness of Selected Statutory Anti-Corruption Establishments In Fraud Prevention And Control In The Nigerian Public Sector

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ABSTRACT

One of the major attributes that have eluded the Nigeria policy for a long time is accountability and transparency. The fact that accountability seems to be the major road to good governance makes it inevitable. It is apparent that, without a reversion to this cardinal attribute fraudulent practices will continue to exist. It is on this note that this study titled: The causes of the ineffectiveness of selected statutory anti-corruption establishments in fraud prevention and control in Nigerian public sector is aimed at identifying strategies and measures that will strengthen the effectiveness of the commission in their fight against corruption in the Nigerian public sector ensure accountability and transparency. The researcher adopted content analytical method. The study revealed that lack of internal control system, poor financial records, keeping and inadequate qualified accounting staff and more so, plea bargaining and presidential pardon on fraudsters affect the effectiveness of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC). The implication of the findings is that, it will be difficult for the government to succeed in the fight against corruption in Nigeria if the identified problems are not addressed. The recommendation of the study is for everybody to collaborate with the EFCC and ICPC to get rid of corruption in Nigeria, government should ensure that the public sector officials discharge their duties in compliance with the code of conduct guiding the public sector.

Key word: Anti corruption agencies, fraud and corruption

INTRODUCTION

Public sector includes all organizations established, financed and operated by the government on behalf of the public (Nwabueze, 2005). It includes the civil service, parastatals and the government and companies. The services rendered by these organizations are influenced mainly by political consideration rather than by market related demands. Its primary aim is not for profit but to render services to the public (Akpan and Edikan, 2008).

The composition of the public sector varies by country. The 2011 constitution as amended did not really define public sector but instead interpreted civil service to mean service of the federation in a civil capacity as staff of the president, the vice president, a minister or department of the government of the federation assigned with the responsibility for any business of the government of the federation section 4(318).

The public sector consists of employees in Nigeria government agencies other than the military. Most employees are career civil servants in the Nigerian ministers, progressing based on qualifications and seniority, it also include the local government area authority.

The Nigerian public sector has its origins in organizations established by the British in colonial times. Nigeria gained full independence in October 1960 under a constitution that provided for a parliamentary government and a substantial measure of self government for the country's three regions. Since then, various panels have studied and made recommendations for reforming the public sector for efficiency and transparency. The public sector has been undergoing gradual and systematic reforms and restructuring since May 29, 1999 offer decades of military rule. However, the public sector is still considered stagnant and inefficient, and the attempts made in the past by panels had little effects on the efficiency and transparency of the Nigerian public sector.

In recent years, the number and monetary value of public sector activities have increased substantially. This increase in activities has brought with it an added demand for accountability officials and employees who manage these activities need to render adequate accounts of their activities to the public. The public needs to receive accountability report in order to assess the performance of those entrusted with the public sector

resources. The situation here is so unfortunate, in the sense that the law makers, who are supposed to demand for accountability from the public officer are even more corrupt (Ameh,2007).

Sequel to the menace of these crimes and the recognition of the magnitude and gravity of the situation led to the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), in 2004 and its twin commission the Independence Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) in 2000, which both are now enforcement commission set up mainly to arrest, investigate and recover funds and properties of the government that have been illegally diverted into private pockets by some dubious citizens.

Other bodies promulgated to provide a legal framework to combat these financial crime in public sector are as follows:

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act 1989.

The Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2004.

Advance fee fraud (and other related offences) Act 1995.

The Nigerian Government established the commission due to the severe negative perceptions of the country as a money heaven and other forms of economic and financial crimes. The preponderance of these criminal activities had discouraged numerous potentials investors to Nigeria (Adams, 2006).

Statement of the Problem

Corruption crept into the Nigerian system immediately after independence in 1960 and even if the magnitude was nothing compared to the level it has now assured, it was prevalent, particularly among the government officials and politicians (Akpan and Edikan, 2008). When the more against fraud and corruption eventually started in 2000 and 2004 when ICPC and EFCC were established. Several arrests, prosecution and recovery of public fund and properties have been made and yet fraud and corruption is still increasing rapidly.

The major objective of government in the establishment of these anti-graft bodies is the issue of accountability and the fight against fraudulent practices (Momoh,2010). Some of the specific objectives of these establishments include:

- Fight corruption; minimize waste, dishonesty and extravagance.
- To apprehended dishonest corrupt civil, public servants and deter potentials ones.
- The co-ordination and enforcement of all economic and financial crime law.
- Taking charge of supervising, controlling, coordinating all the responsibilities, functions and activities relating to the current investigation and prosecution of all offences connected with or relating to economic and financial crimes consultation with the Attorney General of the federation.

The biggest problem facing the fight against fraud in Nigeria is its political connection, internal control system, poor accounting record keeping and qualify staff and the problems of plea bargaining and presidential pardon on fraudsters (Ameh 2007). (Akpan, 2008), posits that most Nigerians are of the view that the fight against fraud and corruption is sometime selective, some believe that some people can carry out corruption without being noticed. Moreso, the Attorney General of the federation who is empowered with the constitutional right to institute criminal proceeding against any offender as enshrined in the 2011 constitution as amended section 174 and sec 211 for state do not want to exercise this constitutional right but rather prefer to enter Nolle Prosequi to free fraudsters. This undoubtedly is the most controversial power of the Attorneys General, to discontinue at any stage before judgment of a criminal proceeding. (Achua, 2009) posit that there is an urgent need to protect the common wealth from poor performance and fraud and also to protect individuals from lawless, arbitrary and capricious actions by the states surrogate administrators.

This paper therefore seeks to establish the causes of the ineffectiveness of these anti-corruption agencies in the prevention and control of frauds and forgeries in the Nigerian public sector.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this paper therefore is to seek to establish the effectiveness of the anti-corruption agencies in the prevention and control of frauds in the Nigerian public sector.

More specific objectives include:

1. To ascertain the impact of poor internal control system as causative factor for the ineffectiveness of the anti-corruption agencies on the prevention of fraud in the public sector.
2. To ascertain the impact of poor financial record keeping as causative factor for the ineffectiveness of anti-corruption agencies in Nigerian public sector

3. To ascertain the impact of unqualified accounting staff as a causative factor for the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies in Nigerian public sector
4. To ascertain the impact of political connection as a causative factor for the ineffectiveness of anti-corruption agencies in Nigerian public sector

EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Economic crimes relate to defaults in the distribution of income and wealth in the economy while financial crimes also relate to defaults but in the area of providing and managing funds for economic activities. In the public sector, economic and financial crimes are committed in several ways. Transparency international annual corruption perception index consistently rated Nigeria as one of the most corrupt and at one time or the other the most corrupt nation in the world. Corruption specifically is often characterized as directly impacting to the economies of developing countries. It undermines governance, economic growth and ultimately the stability of countries and regions. Corruption is simply the abuse of public power for private benefit (Spector, 2005). The fight against corruption in Nigeria one must acknowledge, is one of the most daunting and challenging task to embark on, but with political will and commitment by her leaders and the right attitude by all Nigerians there is no doubt that someday, the transparency international will in her report rank Nigeria as one of the least corrupt countries in the world (Ameh, 2007).

Boluwaji (2008), he examined “Transparency and accountability in the public sector and the role of the anti-graft agencies”. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. He found out that; lots of accounting and financial control failures exist in the public sector and the public sector officials use these lapses as a shield for their actions. Also in his findings is that so many actions that are not in line with the code of conduct in the public sector are not investigated by the anti-graft agencies, some officials are not even queried at all when at fault and some when queried are not given adequate punishment because they have godfathers. He recommended that the government should install good account control to avoid embezzlement and/or mismanagement of funds in the public sector. He also recommended that the government should publish code of ethics to engender accountability and transparency in the conduct of any public sector officer. He urged the government to help tackle the problem of godfathers and sacred cows in the country and provide management with the techniques that will ensure proper accountability in the public sector in Nigeria.

Babatunde (2009) examined “Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the fight against corruption in Nigeria public sector”. He adopted a survey research design and used questionnaire to generate data. He found that economic and financial crimes are most times not disclosed to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) either out of no confidence in the commission to administer justice or as a result of patron client relationship (god fatherism). Also in his findings is the lack of commitment on the part of the government to appraise and review the financial performance of the public sector parastatals, making it impossible for public officers to give account of their actions. He recommended that the government should invest more in the procurement of equipments for the commission (EFCC) and create enabling environment for them to be able to stop economic and financial crimes before they are committed and be able to achieve maximum result. He also recommended that the government should as a point of duty appraise and review the financial performance of the public sector as a way to avoid sharp practices by the public officers.

In a study carried out by Idaewor (2010) on the “Roles and responsibilities of banks in the implementation of money laundering, economic and financial crimes in Nigeria” sought to find out the strategies for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, economic and financial crimes. Six research questions were raised for the study while four (4) hypotheses were formulated. The descriptive research design was adopted for the study within a sample size of 44. The simple random sampling technique was the main instrument used for data collection. The data collected was subjected to validity and pilot test reliability. The analysis of the data was based on statistical frequency (percentage distribution) tables, Pearson product moment coefficient of correlation, and t-test statistical tools used for the study were similar to the study. (at 0.05 level of significance). The statistical tools used for the study were similar to that used in the present study although the tools differ in a way. In the present study, the researcher used mean and grand mean in analyzing the research questions and t-test in analyzing the hypotheses. While Idaewor’s study employed simple percentages, Pearson product moment correlation coefficient and t-test statistics. The researcher observed that the challenges posed by economic and financial crime to banks are gargantuan. Also, government has demonstrated strong political will to fight corruption and other economic and financial crimes in Nigeria, e.g. the EFCC is the financial watch dog of Nigerian business environment. The researcher further recommended that financial institutions should have adequate measure in place for internal controls, compliance and audit.

In another study carried out by Nwali (2009), on “Making effective use of accountants in the fight against corruption by the EFCC”, aimed at identifying how the agency EFCC uses accountants in the fight against corruption. The methodology adopted for the work is the exploratory research method leading to deductive conclusions using, secondary data and papers presented at various seminars and the internet. The researcher discovered that EFCC and ICPC are one of the anti-corruption establishments by the government to fight economic and financial crimes in Nigeria. The researcher also concluded that positive changes in the accounting profession will impact largely to the success of the ICPC and EFCC in Nigeria. The EFCC should partner more with bodies like ICAN, ANAN in the area of training of the operatives.

Also, Emechele (2009) on the study titled “A critical Review of the Role of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) in public sector accountability” focused on effective and efficient system of managing and accounting of public funds. The data for this study were collected through observations, questionnaires and interviews. The population of the study consisted of 50 staff. Stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the staff. Data generated were analyzed using the percentage analysis; the hypotheses formulated were tested using product moment correlation coefficient. It was discovered that not much is done about accountability in Nigeria. Financial statements are usually in arrears and public office holders tend to use the laxity to get with away financial control failures. The researcher recommended that everybody must be ready to collaborate with the EFCC if the move to rid the country of the criminals must succeed.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the Organizational Role Theory. This theory was developed by Katz and Kahn in 1966. It states that the assignment of work-roles prescribes the behavior that employees are expected to comply with, so that they are able to perform their specific tasks and duties effectively. It provides insight into the processes that affect the physical and emotional state of an individual in the workplace that affects their workplace behavior (Kahn, Wolfe, Quinn & Rosenthal, 1964). Role theory as it relates to organizational leadership is how the leaders and followers in a business, usually management and employees, define their own roles, define the roles of others, how people act in their roles and how people expect other people to act in their roles within the organization.

Role theory is based on the observation that people behave in a predictable way, and that an individual’s behavior is context specific, based on social and other factors. It is designed to explain how individuals who occupy particular social positions are expected to behave and how they expect others to behave.

Role theory was originally seen as a way to describe how organizations, as “a planned social systems,” manage to inculcate or produce reliable behavior on the part of their members (Katz & Kahn, 1978). Accountability theory is also rooted in explanations for predictable behavior. However, at its base, accountability implies the anticipation of an “accounting”, having to report or explain oneself to others in the future. In role theory, the focal worker also anticipates facing an accounting as well, in this case, having to respond in the future to the expectations of role senders (Klimoski and Ash, 1974). Moreover, role theory and accountability both place a great deal of emphasis on interpersonal relationships. Besides these striking similarities regarding the structure and functioning of role theory and accountability theory in public sectors, the former perspective provides what we feel are important new insights regarding when and where accountability theory refers to the building of self actions standards perceptions, role theory also deals with such linkages, but in the form of role expectations (Schlenker et al., 1994). Both perspectives deal with social control in the public sector.

PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES IN PUBLIC SECTOR

The most known perpetrators of crimes in the public sector are the officials who move in and out of the offices as well as the outsiders who delve in into this ugly business. Outsiders include: those who commit fraud using forged signature and/or documents of recognized personnel to commit financial crimes e.g. signature forgers. And those who connive with the officials in the public sector to commit fraud e.g. contractors (Emechele, 2009). There also exist the opportunistic or occasional crime perpetrators who commit crime when there is any available loop-hole discovered in the course of working, while professional crime perpetrators create loop-holes themselves either by individual effort or through officials in the public sector.

In Nigeria today, corrupt practices are many. Corrupt practices is the (Aroh, 2009) involvement of a public or private official to accomplish an act called corruption. Corruption is an attitude that is not the norm of the society. The following are involved in corrupt practices:

- A judge who thwarts the cause of justice is corrupt.

- A president who doesn't follow due process in the administration of government business is among.
- A lecturer who sells mark or extorts money from students is involved.
- An accountant who adds figures to approved ones is not left out in corruption.
- A clergyman or woman who collects money for salvation is included.
- Security personnel such as police, army, custom, road safety, corps etc. who extorts money from innocent citizens for services not rendered is corrupt.
- A contractor who inflate contract costs or the one who collect contract funds and abandon the job is a corrupt person.
- A journalist who collect bribe to report in favour of a leader, when what he or she is reporting is not correct is corrupt.
- A minister and his officials who share unspent budget to their personnel gains are corrupt.
- A legislator who approves money not appropriated for is involved.
- A student who seduces his or her teacher to curry favour is among.
- Children who dupe their parents are deep in corrupt practices.
- A head of institution who issues certificate to unqualified candidates for a fee is corrupt.
- An administrator who signs false documents for a fee is deep necked in corruption.
- A businessman who sells fake product to people is corrupt.

It is essential to state here that we are all victims and perpetrators. However, the people involved most times in the public sector are the secretaries, burses, accountants, ministers.

ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN NIGERIA

The menace of corruption and the lack of effectiveness of the existing institutions to fight corruption prior to 1999 led to the establishment of the ICPC (2000) and EFCC Act (2004) and the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004. These Acts made comprehensive provisions to prohibit the laundering of the proceeds of a crime an illegal act, provide appropriate penalties and expands the interpretation of financial institutions, it also provides scope of supervision of regulatory authorities on corrupt activities among others (Ademola, 2011). The establishment of these institutions has contributed significantly in combating those activities to the extent that the scorecard assessing both the ICPC and the EFCC as at 2006/2007 revealed as follows:

Table 1.1: Showing Effort by the Anti-Graft Commissions at Combating Corruption in Nigeria

| ISSUES/AGENCIES | EFCC | ICPC |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Number of persons arraigned | (300+) | (185) |
| Number of persons convicted | (145) | (20) |
| Value of assets/funds recovered | (N725 billion) | N3.9 |

Source: ICPC Monitor, vol. 1, Issues, August to October 2008 and EFCC Magazine, vol. 3, No. 2, August, 2008.

In addition, since 2004, Nigeria has taken significant steps towards complying with the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), including conducting comprehensive audits of the petroleum sector (World Bank, 2006). The Yar'adua/Jonathan administration also added the Public Procurement Act and the due process office, i.e. the E-payment (since January, 2009) and the e-procurement (since 2008) to improve transparency in public procurements (Ademola, 2011).

Table 1.2: Showing Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Profile Cases 2000-2010

| S/N | Name | Case Status | Amount Involved | Status Suspect(s) |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Ayo Fayose (Former Governor of Ekiti State) | Arraigned on 51 counts | N1.2 billion | Case pending, granted bail |
| 2 | Adenike, Grange (Former Minister of Health) | Arraigned on 56 counts | N300 million | Discharged and acquitted |
| 3 | Joshua Dariye (Former Governor Plateau State) | Arraigned on 23 counts | N700 million | Case pending, granted bail since 2007 |
| 4 | Saminu Turaki (Former Governor Jigawa State) | Arraigned on 32 counts | N36 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2007 |
| 5 | Oji Uzor Kalu (Former Governor Abia State) | Arraigned on 107 state counts | N5 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 6 | James Ibori (Former Governor Delta State) | Arraigned on 170 counts | N9.2 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 7 | Iyabo Obasanjo (Former Senator) | Arraigned on 56 state counts | N10 million | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 8 | Lucky Igbinedion (Former Governor of Edo State) | Arraigned on 191 state counts | N4.3 billion | Case determined, ordered to pay 25 million as fine |
| 9 | Gabriel Aduku (Former Minister of Health) | Arraigned on 56 state counts | N300 million | Discharged and acquitted |
| 10 | Jolly Nyame (Former Governor of Taraba State) | Arraigned on 41 state counts | N1.3 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 11 | Chimaroke Nnamani (Former Governor of Enugu State) | Arraigned on 105 state counts | N5.3 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2007 |
| 12 | Michael Botmang (Former Governor of Plateau State) | Arraigned on 31 state counts | N1.5 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 13 | Roland Iyayi (Former MD of FAAN) | Arraigned on 11 state counts | N5.6 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 14 | Prof. Babalola Borishade (Former Minister of Aviation) | Arraigned on 11 state counts | N5.6 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008. |
| 15 | Boni Haruna (Former Governor of Adamawa State) | Arraigned on 28 state counts | N254 million | Case pending, granted bail by court since 2008 |
| 16 | Femi Fanikayo (Former Governor of Adamawa State) | Arraigned on 47 state counts | N250 million | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 17 | Bode George (PDP Chieftain) | Arraigned on 68 state counts | N100 billion | Jailed in October 2009 |
| 18 | Rasheed Ladoja (Former Governor of Oyo State) | Arraigned on 33 state counts | N6 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 19 | Senator Nichola Ugban; Hon. Elumelu and others | Arraigned on 158 state counts | N5.2 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2009 |
| 20 | Hamman Bello Hammed (Ex CG Customs) | Arraigned on 46 state counts | N2.5 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2009 |
| 21 | Adamu Abdullahi (Former Governor of Nasarawa State) | Arraigned on 149 count charge | N15 billion | Case pending, suspect on court bail |
| 22 | Attahiru Bafarawa (Former Governor of Sokoto State) | Arraigned on 47 count charge | N15 billion | Case pending, granted bail by court |
| 23 | Hassan Lawal (Former Minister of Works) | Arraigned on 37count charge | N75 billion | Case pending, granted bail by court |
| 24 | Keny Martins (Police Equipment Fund) | 28 count charge | N7,740 billion | Case pending, granted bail since 2008 |
| 25 | Esai Dangabar, Atiku Abubakar Kigo, Ahmed Inuwa Wada, John Yakubu Yusufu, Mrs. Veronica Ulonma Onyegbula and Sani Habila Zira. | 16 count charge | N32.8 billion | Case pending, granted bail by court |

Source: Drawn from: Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) EFCC.org

It should be noted that in all these cases none of the culprits is currently being detained or serving jail term apart from Chief James Ibori, the Former Governor of Delta State who is currently being jailed in the United Kingdom. Giving this scenario where these offenders are allowed to go scot free in what is presently referred to in Nigeria as “plea bargaining”, corruption therefore is a lucrative business in the country. Also, in a situation where people steal billions of naira and after their arrest and prosecutions such persons are only jailed for three or six months make corruption in Nigeria the most lucrative business in the world.

Shortcomings of the Nigerian Anti-Craft Commission

The shortcomings in the efforts at curbing corruption had been prevalent. The record of success at various levels of government including states and local government had been short of expectations, considering the proportions of funds the country lost to swindlers, contract scams and money laundering (Ademola, 2011).

The Acts establishing the Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAS) had been weak and ineffective. The agencies had been poorly funded and there were evidences of lack of political will be the crusaders to actualize an objective anti-corruption campaigns apart from this, the fight has been of sided, vindictive, selective, biased, one-sided and meretricious/falsefully attractive (Ademola, 2011). The effect has not yielded the desired results. Rather than abating it, it is festering uncontrollably. The campaign has been the instrument of the Presidency and his cohort ‘deal’ with opposition in order to serve as a deterrent to others who may want to go against the will of the state (the men in power). The point here is that his double standard, these warped treatments are in themselves acts of corruption (Ademola, 2011).

The EFCC has not done anything about N84 Billion Naira that was missing at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA). Also, nothing has been about the N311 Billion Naira that was missing at NNPC. In addition, about N50 Million bribe as given to pro-third term legislators, during the tenure elongation debate in the National Assembly, yet, the Anti-Graft Agencies did not do anything to bring offenders to justice. It was also noted that Senator Ibrahim Mantu mismanaged the sum of N400 Million in the Failed Hajj Operations in 2005. Nothing was done to bring him to book by the anti-graft agencies (Ademola, 2011).

All the aforementioned were aided by the fact that the agencies are not independent of the government who funds and appoints its leaders. With the power to hire and fire, the Commissions could hardly perform their duties without fear or favour. The Yar’adua/Jonathan administration did not only inherit corruption from the previous administration, they also inherited the weak and ineffective campaign against graft.

The Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAS) were unable to perform their noble duties. Even when the National Assembly held public hearings into allegations of corruptions that they fail to pass progressive legislations that could help track offenders including freedom of information bill (Ademola, 2011). In December, 2007 for instance, Nuhu Ribadu, the then Chairman of the EFCC took the bold step of indicting the Former Delta State Governor, James Ibori. Two weeks later the Nigerian Police Chief, ordered Mr. Ribadu to resign and proceed to attend a year-long training courses, because there were many things to cover for loyal party faithful and financiers (Ademola, 2011).

In recent times also, the financial scam involving the Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Dimeji Bankole was treated under dubious condition and swept under the carpet. Likewise, the financial scam involving Honourable Farouk Lawan over the Petroleum subsidy funds did not receive any good treatment.

CONCLUSION

The result of development in the past decade has been a weekend public service and a breakdown of the traditional instruments of control leading to corruption, misappropriate of funds and several other forms of economic and financial crimes hence the problem of public sectors accountability.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and ICPC; I will say has not done badly since its inception. If not for anything, the fear of these anti-graft agencies by an ordinary Nigerian makes people to be cautious in their actions. Although opinion leaders and even those considered to being the voice of the people have chosen to dismiss the impressive performance of the EFCC by politicizing the anti-corruption war. It is true that nothing is perfect on earth; the EFCC we know then is not the EFCC we know today. People now condemn their effectiveness on the assumption that they administer selective justice.

It is hoped that if the recommendations put forward in this research are effectively implemented and followed by all parties concerned, the problems of ineffectiveness of Economic and Financial Crimes and Accountability in the Nigerian public sector will be solved at a reasonable extent.

RECOMMENDATION

Since political corruption has continued to be a threat to the growth and development of democracy, there is a need to develop and articulate ways of dealing with the problem. If we must succeed in getting rid of corruption in this country, then, everybody must be ready to collaborate with the EFCC. It is not a one man business. The government should as well build an upright work force in the public sector for accountability and transparency.

Other recommendations are:

EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies should be empowered and granted absolute autonomy to handle cases relating to political corruption. The EFCC should be given a free hand in the discharge of its duties by not interfering in its duties.

The EFCC needs leadership that commands legitimacy, which will enable them to assert their independence and build the integrity with its rank and file.

There is the need to reform and strengthen all the laws that were used to establish the EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies so that they are not weakened by the court.

All persons not protected by section 308 who aids and abets these immunized officials in financial and any other type of corruption should be prosecuted immediately. The law should be strengthened to compel any elected officials declare their assets before taking oath of office.

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