# Corruption and Good Governance: The Imperative of Effective Leadership in Africa.

**By**

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**Abstract**

*The paper assessed the level and impacts of corruption on good governance for sustainable development in Africa with reference to Nigerian experience. It is established that the socio-political and economic challenges facing Nigeria is a product of leadership failure. It also established that the level and the rate of development of any particular society is influenced by so many variables such as the political culture, leadership and corruption. Enmeshed in this condition, Nigerians had for long been yearning for a leader who has the determination and force of character to effect a change in several key aspects of their lives and welfare. With his return to power, Nigerians want President Buhari to hit the ground running on four priority areas namely; security, economic growth, accountability and improved living standards. Relying on descriptive method, the paper stresses the need for proper understanding of the basis of government as it affects the wellbeing of the masses. It is established that diversion of resources by public office holders at the expense of public good as well as the perversion of the course of justice engenders democratic reversal. Based on this, the paper recommends the need to appoint competent persons with unblemished track records of services to direct economic affairs of the country; formulation of policies that are implementable to avoid wasting*

*public funds on white elephant projects; the need to recalibrate our educational system to produce job creators instead of churning out "certificate-carrying" job seekers and the sustenance of the Treasury Single Account to checkmate corruption.*

**Key Words: Corruption, Good Governance and Sustainable Development.**

## Introduction

A bit more on the traumatic political and economic background of Nigeria might also help us to analyze the lingering issues of distress-democracy and corruption in the country. Nigeria is on one of the world's most endowed nations, with abundant human and natural resources. There is practically every vital mineral deposit in all the state of the federation: from crude oil to gold, cocoa to coal, uranium to gypsum, palm oil to rubber, coffee to timber, cattle to fish all in commercial qualities. Meanwhile, Nigeria remains one of the developing but under industrialized nations of the world. It was once observed that Nigeria is seen as the giant of Africa now economically bankrupt as a result of the way the leadership now mishandled the economy (Aderemi, 2015)

However, it is established that the socio-political and economic problem bedeviling Nigeria arose from the activities of visionless and irresponsible political elites who have manipulated its politics, economy and religion to serve their own parochial interests, stashing away dollars in to region banks (Azeez, 2004). As a consequence, the Nigerian ruling class preaches economic freedom but in reality works against it through the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes that deepen the country's neo-colonial status and, so negate economic freedom. With depleted foreign reserves, falling oil prices coupled with leakages and debts which were compounded by the apparent mismanagement of the country's economy by the immediate past administration Nigeria is faced with an economic recession. To get over

these challenges, Nigerians have for long been yearning for a leader who has the resolve and force of character to effect a change in several key aspects of their lives and well-being, and they have chosen to entrust it to Buhari - because he has a deep understanding of Nigeria's problems (Ekpo, 2015c). It is within the scope of this write-up to discuss the extent to which successive leaders have put Nigerian political economy to "good use" to satisfy their egoistic interest at the expense of common men, and the determination of the Buhari administration to put the country on the part of transformation and development.

**Nexus between Governance, sustainable development and Corruption in Nigeria**

Governance refers to the manner in which power is exercised in the management of nation's resources for development. Therefore, good governance can be said to refer to the effective exercise of power and authority by government in a manner that serves to improve the quality of life of the people. That is, a condition whereby such responsibility is discharged in an effective, transparent and accountable manner. It then follows that proper understanding of governance requires an in-depth knowledge of leadership. In the opinion of Idike quoted in Edema (2014), leadership entails the ability to take an initiative to motivate, influence, direct and control the thought, the opinion and the actions of the people in any given society towards the achievement of any desired end. Leadership is about envisioning lofty goals for the country and making hard choices to attain them. That is, to make progress entails, differed contentment today to ensure tomorrow is better. The good of the people precedes that of the leader. A leader is one who put the interests of the people before his personal interests. As can be gleaned from its usage, leadership describes a particular disposition towards the management of public affairs exhibited by public officers in their conduct while in public office. In this sense, it captures non-partisan positive leadership conduct by political leaders which promote institutionalization of fair and just political procedures, or

build consensus around such collective values that mould institutions and invigorate political processes. On the contrary, the concept of bad leadership comes with the act of prioritizing personal interests over and against the public interests.

Generally speaking as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain". Corruption can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs. Grand corruption consists of acts committed at a high level of government that distort policies or the central functioning of the state, enabling leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good. Petty corruption refers to everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies. Political corruption is a manipulation of policies, institutions and rules of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth.

However, (Ajayi, 2017) contends that the essence of state is to protect its citizens and cater for their welfare in order to contribute meaningfully to the development of their society. In that case machinery is put in place to actualize those goals through effective utilization of available resources. Government and its agencies therefore could be seen as the people's servants and questions such as 'why' and 'how' certain things happen the way they do are brought to bear as very critical issues of collective 'national interest whatever that means. The underlying assumption, however, is that government as the representative of the people becomes answerable to the same people it so represents in the affairs of the State (Akinsanya, Erunke & Kwong-Ndung, 2014). It also follows logically that matters of public interest are carefully harnessed and managed by those at the helm of affairs, bearing in mind that the democratic project and its survival is contingent on the level of policy consequences and it impacts on the people at large.

On the 10th of July the United Nations' High Level Political Forum on sustainable development began in New York. The Forum's aim is to take stock of how far countries have progressed towards the 17 sustainable development goals. (SDGs), an ambitious set of development targets to be met by 2030. Starting today and running until 19th July, government from forty four countries. are scheduled to present reports on their work towards meeting the SDGs. Transparency International is there town experience measuring progress towards meeting Goal 16, "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". Goal 16 includes commitments to fight corruption, increase transparency, tackle illicit financial flows and improve access to information. While Goal 16 itself is not due for comprehensive review until 2019, there is a broad consensus that without meaningful action to reduce corruption, progress towards the other goals is likely to be extremely limited. Corruption represents a major obstacle to reaching all the SDG goals as hampers economic growth and increases poverty, depriving the most marginalized groups of equitable access to vital services such as healthcare, education and water sanitation. Nor is corruption only an issue for low-income states; rich countries must take action on cross-border corruption, foreign bribery, tax evasion and related illicit financial flows which collectively deprive developing countries of around US$ 1.26 trillion per year. Given the scale of the problem and its devastating impact on sustainable development, Transparency International chapters and partners in 12 of these countries (Argentina, Afghanistan, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, EL Salvardol, Honduras, Jordan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Portugal and Peru) are presenting civil society parallel reports based on a common methodology that assesses each government's progress towards SDG 16. All the Latin American results are presented in a regional report published on Friday. Transparency International's contribution is key to both holding governments to account and identifying specific recommendations for anti-corruption action. These civil society parallel reports also provide a range of alternative indicators and datasets allowing

a broader understanding of corruption beyond that captured by the official global indicators, which are limited to measuring bribery in narrow terms.

Transparency International hopes that these reports will generate policy discussion and reforms at the international, national and sub-national level to clamp down on corruption and ensure that no-one is left behind when it comes to implementing the SDGs.

The foregoing becomes attainable when leaders pursue people-oriented programmes. In a situation where political leaders treat their followers as second class citizens, the latter would be subjected to exploitation. In this regard, Dasaolu (2014) posits that the development of Nigeria like any other nation, to a significant proportion, depends on the perspective in which the nation's chief executives at various times view the issue of state and how they prioritize and appreciate these issues. However, the issue of having to accord priority to pressing national issues is dependent on the perceptions and preferences of the political loaders. Explaining the Capture Theory of politics, Onuoha (2009) stresses that public official's front for well organized group and rent-seekers. These influential personalities own most wealth that the nation depends on for its prosperity. This view was substantiated by Ajayi (2004) that:

> *there is asymmetric class character of the society, the uneven distribution of governmental patronage, pervasive corruption, profligacy and flagrant display of ostentation and affluence in the midst of unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, lack of accountability of leadership at all levels of government which has negative impact on the standard of living of people.*

Governance entails the exercise of political power to manage a nation's affairs. Because countervailing power has been lacking, state officials in Nigeria have served their own interests without fear of being called to account. Politics become personalized, and patronage becomes

essential to maintain power. The leadership assumes broad discretionary authority and loses legitimacy. The extent to which some members of the past administration looted the treasury is alarming and disturbing. The degree of primitive capitalist accumulation portrays the level of greed, self-interest and impunity, all without a heart for the plight of the people. The revelations of the pattern and amount of alleged looting from the treasury confirms oligarchic tendency. What is more, the rebasing of the economy had no positive impact on the economy. Politics dominated economics such-that data on poverty, unemployment, etc were politicized and given false impression that the economy was performing satisfactorily. Little wonder, the World Bank disputed some of the statistics published by the National Bureau of Statistics (Ekpo, 2015a).

In spite of purported marginal improvement in economic performance in Nigeria, the socio-economic realities confronting the average citizens seem insurmountable. In Nigeria today, almost every social service is sought for privately. Individuals organize to repair roads leading to their residences, security is privately organized in what is popularly known as vigilante groups, private electric generating sets have replaced electric supply *by* the state, water comes from commercial boreholes and plastic containers, 'workers in government service today save their pension while in service in accordance with the new pension scheme policy' (Obianyo, 2009).

As regards job creation, the issue of graduate unemployment, which is put at over 60 per cent, captures grim picture of bad governance. A good illustration is the case of Sunday Omotayo, a graduate of Mechanical Engineering from Ekiti State University, who attempted suicide out of frustration *(TELL,* October 6, 2015). The problem of youth unemployment is very evident in Nigeria as thousands of graduates are churned out annually for whom there are no meaningful / relevant jobs.

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN-) reported that in the last five years, 834 firms and 37 factories in Nigeria closed down due to

unfriendly operating environments ranging from power shortage, high cost of production to poor quality of manpower, *(TELL*, May 5,2014).

The problem with Nigeria, as observed by Akinkuotu (2014) is the failure by those who are at the helm of affairs to put people first. The implementation of policies must be seen to impact peoples' life. In Nigeria today, jobs have become scarce commodity. Sometime ago, thousands of graduates applied to the Ministry of Internal affairs for the few vacant immigration officer positions. Rather than use the opportunity to recruit people on merit, favouritism and nepotism marred the whole exercise as the slots were shared among public servants and "power behind the *throne"(Leadership*, December25, 2012). When government could not perform its functions effectively, people began to take their destiny in their own hands by seeking jobs wherever they may be. Due to lack of visionary leadership characterized by profligacy and ostentation, the rate of unemployment has become pervasive in Nigeria to the extent that an advertisement for a single position in an office attracts a minimum of one hundred applications. Among these applicants, it will not be unusual to find graduates who out of desperation, have applied with their WASC. At present, self-degradation has become a survival strategy in which case graduates work as night guards, taxi-cab drivers, GSM card hawkers, sachet water merchants, attendants at filling station, etc*(Nigerian Tribune*, October 5, 2014). This parlous state of the economy has forced thousands of graduates to resign to fate by sending applications to become truck drivers.' In the advert for recruitment for the post of company drivers by Dangote Industries Limited, of the about 13000 applications, 6 were Ph.D holders, 704 master's degree holders, and over 8460 bachelor degree holders. This shows the extent to which Nigerians have been dehumanized by their so-called leaders. However, those who cannot do menial jobs or be active in the informal sector have joined the gangs of armed robbers and kidnappers.

It is in recognition of this that Ekpo (2o16b) stresses that policies like the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Transformation Agenda, SURE-P, YouWin etc, which ordinarily

should benefit Nigerians end up making the elite to become richer. Within their (Nigeria's ruling elite's) ranks, while some floated programmes for looting the treasury, others embarked on outright thievery of the commonwealth, even, as there are those who wish to alter positively the underdeveloped structure of the economy. At the end of the party's rule, the elite became richer, such that 80 per cent of Nigerians did not benefit from the 6 per cent growth. As unemployment soars, most citizens lack the basic amenities of life in a period characterized by huge oil revenues. Perhaps, this is why Obamuyi (2016) asserts that the high level of corruption in Nigeria is a reflection of flagrant and deliberate abuse of best practices and due process all in a bid to steal public funds. The blatant squandering of public resources by the past leaders in Nigeria is a case in point. This is evidenced in the recent arms scandal perpetrated by the some officials of the Goodluck Jonathan administration.

If current developments are anything to go by, it appears corruption walks on all fours even at the temple of justice in Nigeria. In what was described as "Justice for Sale", the Nigerian judiciary faces a huge integrity challenge with controversial rulings by election petition tribunals and Code of Conduct Tribunal. A case in point is that of Justice Danladi Umar, Chairman of CCT, who was investigated and found culpable of conspiracy, bribery, abuse of office and money laundering (Agbo, 2015). Based on this, it is argued that the Nigerian judiciary is corrupt and has been compromised through financial inducement and political manipulations which make some judges and lawyers twist judgment in favour of money and power (TELL, November 23, 2015). The *Sting Operation* undertaken by the DSS during which some judges of superior courts were arrested in the country (The *Nation,* November 23, 2016) substantiates this view.

A good illustration is that of a former governor who was reported to have told his friends of how judges at the lower court ruled against him, because he paid half of the amount demanded for by agents of the judges, with the promise to give the balance when the judgment is given. In another development, another governor once complained that he had spend much

more on the case to retain his seat than he spent campaigning for office (TELL, November 23, 2015)

So disturbing is the situation that some of those who preside over the temple of justice are not above board. Upholding the qualities of uprightness, honesty, sobriety, wisdom and impartiality is a Herculean task facing the Nigerian judiciary today. This realization forced the Nigerian Judicial Council (N JC) to recommend that any judges found culpable be sanctioned or queried for misconduct. To this effect, Mahmud Mohammed , Chief Justice of federation declared that no fewer than 64 of the 1 ,020 superior court judges had been sanctioned in the past five years in an effort to rid the judiciary of bad eggs (TELL, November, 23,2015).

It is widely believed that corruption continued unabated despite the efforts at cleaning the system. As a United States' report on Nigeria in 2012 observed, "there was a widespread perception that judges were easily bribed and that litigants could not rely on the courts to render impartial judgments. Citizens encountered long delays and alleged requests from judicial officers for bribes to expedite cases or obtain favorable rulings..." (*TELL*, November23, 2015).

Since 1999 Nigeria has an impressive array of institutions designed to combat corruption and to promote public accountability, reflecting the strong public demand for action in this area. The institutions include the Code of Conduct Bureau and its tribunal, the Public Complaints Commission, the Public Accounts Committee in the National Assembly, the Office of the Auditor-General, the ICPC, and the EFCC. The overall limited effectiveness of the institutions charged with enforcing accountability is a major explanation for the persistence of the problem of corruption that had become institutionalized in Nigeria (Obasi & Otobo, 2011). The obvious conclusion is that Nigeria remains among the most corrupt countries in the world in spite of the slight improvement that have been made possible through the work of the EFCC, the Due Process Office, and the prosecution of some Chief Executive Officers of banks for corrupt practices as well as some corrupt politicians and public servants among many others.

With his return to power, the Buhari administration is confronted with the issues of subsidy removal, devaluation, high rates of unemployment and underemployment, high lending rates and high incidence of poverty, declining revenues as well as decayed infrastructures, among others. To cope with the harsh economic realities and ensure fiscal discipline, the new administration has pruned the existing federal ministry so as to save resources. This was reflected during budget process. Unfortunately, the process was fraught with suspected corruption, conspiracy and connivance which was linked to the alleged existence of a budget mafia in government bureaucracy whose greed may scuttle recent innovations introduced to stamp out corruption from government (TELL, February 1, 2016). While most Nigerians are wallowing in abject poverty, state governors live in sheer opulence, discarding old governors' lodge to build new state-of-the-art mansions that run into billions of naira. To Egwaikhide (2016), the decline in the price of crude oil exposed the states' overdependence on centrally snared revenue. The profligacy of states and the return to civil rule shaped government expenditure. At present, almost all the states are weak economically and depend heavily on the centre for funds through a distributional pool system predicated on a revenue sharing formula. Only Lagos, Kano and perhaps Rivers states can survive for a while without federal allocations. The recent sharp drop in revenue allocation due to the collapse of oil prices resulted in the inability of most states to pay salaries. To douse tension occasioned by the non-payment of workers' salaries across the federation, the "Buhari administration decided to intervene with a view to assuaging people's feelings by giving bailout funds to states in distress. Having approved over N800 billion bailout fund, made up of soft loans, special allocations and restructured debts converted into bonds, the governors could not resist the urge to ask for more like Oliver Twist.

Meanwhile, previous efforts designed to save for the rainy day and limit the spending bazaar of the governors have been vehemently resisted. For example, the attempt by the Obasanjo administration to establish

Excess Crude Account was opposed by the governors due to their avaricious attitudes, With ECA depleted and the external reserves halved in 2013, the governors equally kicked against Goodluck Jonathan's initiative to set up the Sovereign Wealth Fund (TELL, .December 7, 2015), Buttressing this view, Soludo (2015) noted that during the oil boom, the managers of the economy refused to save for the rainy day and the little that was kept in the Excess Crude Account has been frittered away through massive corruption and mismanagement (TELL February 16, 2015). To make matters worse, most of the states contend largely with prohibitive overhead costs thereby eroding massively infrastructural development and people centered development programmes.

**Implications for Nigerian Development**

Corruption impacts societies in a multitude of ways. In the worst cases, it costs lives. Short of this, it costs people their freedom, health or money. The cost of corruption can be divided into four main categories: political, economic, social and environmental. On the political front, corruption is a major obstacle to democracy and the rule of law. In a democratic system, offices and institutions lose their legitimacy when they're misused for private advantage. This is harmful in established democracies, but even more so in newly emerging ones. It is extremely challenging to develop accountable political leadership in a corrupt climate. Economically, corruption depletes national wealth. Corrupt politicians invest scarce public resources in projects that will line their pockets rather than benefit communities, and priorities high-profile projects such as dams, power plants, pipelines and refineries over less spectacular but more urgent infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals and roads. Corruption also hinders the development of fair market structures and distorts competition, which in turn deters investment. Corruption corrodes the social fabric of society. It undermines people's trust in the political system, in its institutions and its leadership. A distrustful or apathetic public can then become yet another hurdle to challenging corruption. Environmental

degradation is another consequence of corrupt systems. The lack of, or non-enforcement of, environmental regulations and legislation means that precious natural resources are carelessly exploited, and entire ecological systems are ravaged. From mining, to logging, to carbon offsets, companies across the globe continue to pay bribes in return for unrestricted destruction.

A primary underlying cause of under-development is corruption, which robs countries of their wealth, weakens the rule of law and public institutions, and by eroding public trust, destabilizes societies. Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the importance of rooting out corruption and its impacts on the enjoyment of other SDGs when he said:

> *"Corruption has disastrous impacts on development when funds that should be devoted to schools, health clinics, and other vital public services are instead diverted into the hands of criminals or dishonest officials. Corruption exacerbates violence and insecurity, and can lead to dissatisfaction with public institutions, disillusion with* government *in general, and spirals of anger and unrest."*

Investigating corruption is UK-based NGO Global Witness clearest contribution to the SDGs. For over twenty years, we have been a leading voice in the global anti-corruption movement, going after the most powerful, corrupt political and economic interests in the natural resource sector. At the heart of our work is an understanding that many of the world's worst environmental and human rights abuses, devastating conflicts and chronic underdevelopment are a result of the exploitation of natural resources and corruption is a critical, causal factor.

Central to this argument is the fact that the State has been greatly eroded by the excesses of prebendalism. In fact, corrupt practices have now gone beyond prebendalism to a system commonly known as "lootocracy" where the material conditions of life of many Nigerians are callously decimated (Joseph, 2000). As public office holders brazenly accumulate the national wealth, "our public finance is hemorrhaging to the point that over N30 trillion was missing, or stolen or unaccounted for, or simply mismanaged" (Soludo, 2015), Events across the federation indicate that leaders do not share the feelings of the ruled, let alone have an abundant sympathy for them. Neither do they show sympathy nor empathy for the followers. That the essence of leadership is to ensure citizens enjoy an acceptable standard of living makes no meaning to them. Recently, Ayo Fayose, governor of Ekiti state was reported to have told civil servants in the state to go on strike since he cannot sell himself, wife or property to pay their salary arrears, only for the EFCC to discover whopping sum of N 1.2 billion in his Zenith Bank account *(The Punch,* June 24, 2016).

However, the All Progressives Congress (ARC) that fielded Muhammadu Buhari in the 2015 presidential election came to power with the mantra of change aimed at improving the living standards of Nigerians through the development of state capitalism. His administration has promised to transform every facet of life. Beset with *Boko Haram* insurgency-in the north-east, renewed separatist agitation for Republic of Biafra in the south-east, pipeline vandalism by Niger-Delta militants in the south-south, Fulani versus indigenes attacks across the country, Nigerians looked up to President Buhari for decisive action required of a committed leader. Citizens felt that timely intervention of federal government in economic and sociopolitical challenges would fast track development. Perhaps the point that can be made about the quality of leadership needed in a developing country is that it should be development oriented. The leader should be committed to development of the entire society over which he or she rules, ensuring the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at enhancing the quality of life of all the citizens. This is essentially a

transformation task that is, moving a country from lower level of development to a higher level with reduced poverty, marked by significant improvements in respect of the basic needs of education, health, food, and housing. Thus, good governance demands that the government should build strong institutions that can effectively tackle corruption deliver goods and services, provide basic infrastructures and the enabling environment for development. When some governors could not pay workers' salaries in their states, the federal government intervened with the release of bailout funds. Apparently, one would regard government action as good. On the contrary, Egwaikbide (2016) is of the view that the bailout policy might have been designed in part, to achieve certain political objectives which, to be specific, include growing the political base of the party in power for future elections. According to him, the bailout can be viewed as a strategic tool designed by the APC-led federal government to construct a broad network of political coalitions across the country. These sterns from the tactical redistribution argument that an incumbent government takes into consideration the extent of its political strength in different constituencies. This supports the notion that politicians are investors who seek to maximize returns on their investment in votes by promising to redistribute resources among support groups, opposition groups, etc.

It is worthy of note that the dialectics of development suggests that each country should define its own form of democracy based on its history, traditions and peculiarities. According to Adamolekun (2006), the leaders of success stones in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan all demonstrated strong commitment to development, with clarity of vision and of goals. They all consistently implemented growth-oriented and market-friendly economic policies, with some differences in the policy options and in their sequencing. For example, China speedily climbed to an industrial power and a respectable economy because of methodical planning. Also, China, Japan and South Korea have high quality manpower at every level because of the constructive steps they took on education, cybernetics and the sciences. Though many of their leaders were

semi-autocrats, it was not their dictatorship that moved millions of their citizens out of poverty. Instead, they were driven by a great visions and well thought-out plans and programmes to which they and their followers were committed. Singapore, India, Malaysia, China South Korea are shining examples of accelerated development with' tough committed leaders (Lawrence, 2015). Meanwhile, poor leadership has been the major factor of development crisis in Nigeria since independence. This is not unconnected with the high cost of governance in the country. However the introduction of Treasury Single Account by the Buhari regime to checkrnat[1] corruption is a right step at this critical time. But government should go a step further to minimize corrupt tendencies because no transformation can strive in a corruption ridden society.

**Recommendations**

Based on the foregoing analysis on government ineptitude and encouragement of corruption, the following points are hereby suggested. Government should formulate policies that are implementable to avoid wasting public funds on white elephant projects that add little or no value to people living .standards. Building state-of -the-art mansions when citizens are suffering is inappropriate.

There is the heed to increase budget allocation to education to uplift educational system in the country so that graduates can compete favourably with their counterparts elsewhere. With adequate funds, government should re-calibrate our educational system to produce job creators instead of churning out "certificate-carrying job seekers".

There is the need to appoint competent and qualified persons with unblemished track records of services to direct economic affairs of the country. People who are committed, devoted and accountable to good governance should be entrusted with .positions of authority.

Government should empower and strengthen anti-graft agencies to effectively tame the scourge of corruption in the country. This requires a lot of resources accountants, investigators, and lawyers trained in the ways

that wealth is moved, accumulated, and hidden, along with computer specialists and other support staff to back them up. The staff must be paid enough to deter temptation.

There is the need for collaboration between Nigeria and other countries to discourage money laundering that has become identified with Nigerian public office holders. Memorandum of Understanding should be signed between them to stem the tide of siphoning money into foreign bank accounts.

There is the need to sustain the implementation of the Treasury Single Account to block leakages in government finance. This is timely as existence and operation of different bank accounts by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government create loophole for public servants to embezzle and misappropriate public finance.

The judiciary must have significant capacity and independence if it is to be effective in controlling corruption. The courts need to streamline their administrative management and their capacity to track and process cases, both criminal and civil.

Corruption can be controlled through the construction of a comprehensive system of accountability. This entails an extensive apparatus of laws and institutions that is costly in human and material resources.

**Conclusion**

It has been argued that corruption undermines the quality of public service delivery thereby impacting negatively on growth. The persistent development crisis affecting Nigeria is due in large part to poor leadership: leaders who are not committed to the development of their societies and who lack honesty and a commitment to Democracy. Worse still, the wave of good governance is eroded by corrupt practices of rent seeking, weak institutional performance and a waste of national resources. This sliding trend to anarchy calls for credible leadership; Effective leadership is supposed .to promote social equity, participation, fairness and justice.

Whereas the economic team of the last administration inundated Nigerians with mouth-watering statistics indicating economic development, a growing irony in Nigeria is the mismatch between governance and socio-economic progress. Conversely, democratic leadership can only breed development and social equity when it is anchored on the principles of transparency, probity and inclusion (Anugwon, 2006). Thus, what connects democracy, with good governance is the creation of a conducive social environment devoid of corruption, injustice, marginalization and exclusion. This is what the Buhari administration has been trying to do to restore people's confidence and bring smile on their faces. Hence, Nigerians want government at various levels to design and implement policies and strategies that will move millions out of poverty.

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