

TOWARDS COMBATING THE ILLS OF THE PRESENT DAY NIGERIA

У статті розкрито новий підхід до розуміння й пояснення причин, що стоять за переважаючим сьогодні рівнем небезпеки, корупції й інших недоліків у Нігерії. Зроблено спробу вивчити корупцію щодо лідерства в Нігерії, виділивши специфічні проблеми суспільно-політичного класу. Більшість лих, що тепер існують у країні, викликані як внутрішньою, так і глобальною структурною несправедливістю, що призвела до економічної експлуатації, бідності, безробіття, зловживань на виборах, викрадання людей, озброєного пограбування, соціальної незахищеності й інших недоліків, які завдали збитку економіці країни.

Ключові слова: ненадійність, корупція, несправедливість, дискримінація, матеріалізм.

В статье раскрывается новый подход к пониманию и объяснению причин, стоящих за преобладающим сегодня уровнем опасности, коррупции и других пороков в Нигерии. Предпринята попытка изучить коррупцию в отношении лидерства в Нигерии, выделив специфические проблемы общественно-политического класса. Большинство бед, существующих в стране в настоящее время, вызвано как внутренней, так и глобальной структурной несправедливостью, которая привела к экономической эксплуатации, бедности, безработице, злоупотреблениям на выборах, похищению людей, вооруженному грабежу, социальной незащищенности и другим порокам, которые нанесли ущерб экономике страны.

Ключевые слова: ненадежность, коррупция, несправедливость, дискриминация, материализм.

The article develops a new approach towards understanding and explaining the causes behind the prevailing level of insecurity, corruption and other vices in Nigeria today. The paper has attempted to examine corruption with regard to leadership in Nigeria, highlighting the peculiar problems with the socio-political class in Nigeria. There is hardly any facet of the social, economic or political life of this country that is not immune to the menace of corruption. Most of the ills plaguing the nation at present stemmed from both internal and global structural injustices, which had led to economic exploitation, poverty, unemployment, electoral malpractice, kidnapping/armed robbery, social insecurity and other vices which has mared the economy of the country.

Key words: Insecurity, Corruption, Injustice, Discrimination, Materialism.

Economic and political freedom has always been the main issue of concern for the developing countries. Nigeria continues to struggle with what seems to be an elusive goal of political and economic freedom. Nigeria has been a victim of both internal and external criminal cartels, indulging in corrupt practices. The federal government expressed its determination to address illicit financial flows as they serve as major impediment to our national progress.

Mechanism that will assist in combating illegal activities in the oil sector, involving oil theft that has become a serious threat to the national economy and security, and combating

illicit financial flows across international borders has always been an issue of concern.

The parlous state of our nation is a real cause for concern. The greater worry comes from bribery and corruption. Several dimensions of these ills has been mentioned and treated, as it is practically impossible to treat all of them in one article.

In 2013, Transparency International deemed Nigeria one of the most corrupt nations in the world. This was confirmed when in 2013, the Central Bank of Nigeria reported that 76% of the country's crude oil revenue intended for the bank was unaccounted for. The most currently released result on the level of corruption in Nigeria indicate that it has improved when compared to that of 2013 and other years. In the 2014 result on corruption ranking, Nigeria was ranked 136 out of 174 surveyed countries. This implies that Nigeria is the 38th most corrupted nation in 2014. The result was published by Transparency International on Wednesday 3rd December, 2014.

Corruption is one of the greatest problems confronting many nations in recent times. Corruption in Nigeria has become endemic and systematically threatening the very foundation of our national life, security and democracy. There are several economic and sociological reasons which bear on the question and appear to have significantly influenced the rampant increase in bribery and corruption in Nigeria. Eze (2009) affirms that corruption has assumed an enigmatic position in Nigeria and invariably difficult to explain. Corruption runs completely counter to our value system, as it rewards those who do not play by the rules and also creates its own system of patronage, where the national resources are shared out by a group of bourgeoisie, who call themselves the elites, while the majority of the masses are trapped in poverty.

When it comes to tackling corruption, the international community has unfortunately looked the other way for too long. In attempt to tackle this evil, the United Nation has taken the bull by the horn by organizing a summit in London, christened "Anti-corruption, 2016. Even in Nigeria, tackling corruption has been a defining feature of the present administration. Upon assuming office on May, 29th 2015, the regime made fighting bribery and corruption as a priority to the pillars of his administration, by declaring zero tolerance for corrupt practices. As the present government is attempting to combat it, we are expecting leadership by example. The government has recovered a reasonable amount of money stolen by previous administration.

In other words, it is sad that we have not had any committed leader who has articulated a clear-cut and well-thought-out goal, objectives and programmes for this country. On ways out of corruption our leaders have always been products of cheap compromise. They amass wealth uncontrollably, aiding and abetting the dubious contractors that saw them to power in their evil proclivities. While this goes on, the people stagnate deplorably in unbearable poverty" (Fanon, 1982:134). This paper is not intended to indict any individual or group. Rather we tried to present some forms of corruption that emanate from Nigeria and give some recommendation to overcome or directly combat this phenomenon as it is harmful to the country's economic and social development. Different forms of corruption manifest itself in Nigeria. It is protected by certain interest groups, political-parties. Civil servants, businessmen/women, and individuals who patronize corruption. Corruption according to Krasniqi (2013) have other facets; financial corruptions, crime, moral/material, social and

spiritual corruption. Empower by god fatherism, nepotism, extortion, preferential treatment, abuse of office, mismanagement of public fund forgery etc. these forms of corruption can be seen in almost every where including governmental institutions. Corruption has come to stay and we are taking it as a normal way of life despite the adverse effects. Corruption has a lot of negative impacts on our nations economic growth.

The moral reproach which corruption attracts has ceased or is no longer sufficient deterrence to corruption as people with questionable and ill-gotten wealth are admired and highly respected in the society. This is one of the reasons why corruption is termed to be the major cause of insecurity in Nigeria. As people are doing everything humanly possible to get money. Majority of Nigerians want to do exploits, achieve greatness, and break records and be fulfilled without hard work. We therefore suggest that the Nigerian government should find everlasting solutions to crises while giving top priority to eradicating corruption in its transformation agenda.

The police belong to an organ of the government responsible for maintaining law and order and also protect the lives and properties of the citizens. Bribery and corruption is a phenomenon which seems to have settled comfortably with our men/women in the police force. We have often times recorded instances where the police derive pleasure in violating the human, rights which they are supposed to protect. This can come in form of humiliation, abuse and intimidation of individuals in public places. In Nigeria today, it appears that one can do anything and go free as long as one is ready to settle the police. The police can be bought over at anytime. They collect bribes in public places without fear. They collect money from motorists. Bribe-taking is already a cancer-worm within the rank and files of the Nigerian police. It has become fashionable for retired criminals to join the police so as to steal officially with the uniform assigned to them. About four years ago, the Nigerian police force was reported to have made over 2 billion naira from the application fees paid by unemployed young men and women who applied to join the police force but were never recruited. The inability of the Nigerian police to ameliorate the security crisis in Nigeria has resulted to excessive kidnapping incidences, high rate of politically inclined killings, uncontrollable electoral violence leading to loss of many lives; ethno-religious violence that claims thousands of lives, many ritual murder oriented killings, without police trace. Atrocities of Fulani herdsmen without police interference, cultism related killings in many tertiary institutions of Nigeria and armed robberies operations in urban and rural areas of this country that are hardly checkmated etc due to the laissez-faire attitude of our men and women in the police force. Unlawful arrest is another money-making venture which the police embark upon. To combat their activities, that arm of the government needs to be totally overhauled. When this is done, Nigerians are bound to have a sigh of relief.

Examination malpractice is one of the areas where corruption has manifested itself. It is a serious problem plaguing our education system in Nigeria today. Examination malpractice occur in many forms; impersonation writing from outside the examination hall and more recently the use of mobile phones. Nwarukwe affirms that the mobile phones and other communication gadgets in a way have not only facilitated malpractice, but has revolutionalized it in the school system. The students collaborate to cheat in exams. The corrupt supervisors and invigilators extract money from students and allow them to commit

this offence. Gboyega further affirmed that assessment of students should be handled with all level of sincerity to redeem the image of public examination in Nigeria such that only students ability would be the explanation for the performance.

One should not loose sight of the way and manner elections are conducted in Nigeria. It beats my imagination of what will befall a country of over 140 million people that are not allowed to elect their leaders democratically. It is a litany of woes recounting the atrocities many politicians committed by the way they initiated the conduct of political elections. Our electoral system does not encourage honest and patriotic individuals to contest or aspire for political positions.

Some serious actions must be taken in order to curb electoral malpractices in Nigeria. The government must ensure that the electoral commissions were provided with the necessary administrative materials that would enable them carry out their duties effectively. Electoral offences should attract stiffer penalties including long jail terms to serve as deterrent to potential corrupt official. After the jail term they should be forced to refund all stolen money.

The present trend of events in the country has shown that a greater number of youths are unemployed. Unemployment is a situation whereby an individual is not gainfully employed or is not engaged in any meaningful economic activity. It is a stressful and an agonizing condition of joblessness. It is quite sympathetic that major streets and towns throughout the country are filled with young university graduates and school leavers of different cadres looking for jobs which are not forthcoming. It is quite a pity that unemployment has become the nightmare and the leering bugbear of every youth in our country. A youth bemoans his fate when he foresees the inevitability of job hunting once he graduates.

Crimes and other vices have increased tremendously as a result of joblessness among school leavers. Such crimes include; stealing, armed robbery, prostitution, kidnapping etc. To combat unemployment, the youths should be adviced to read professional courses that will make them to be job givers instead of being job seekers. The government on the other hand should create job opportunities and also reduce the rate of crimes associated with idleness. The youths should be educated on the dangers of being political thugs.

When we talk about the ills of Nigerian society, armed robbery is one of the social vices that has claimed the lives of many innocent people in our society. We have heard many cases of armed robbery on our high ways, market places, our homes and many other places. It is a very serious problem as there is a feeling of insecurity everywhere. We have heard several cases of day light robbery, killing and car snatching on our street and high ways. The most devastating aspect of this menace is that the rubbers do not only come to steal and kill, they have on several occasions raped women in the presence of their husbands and young girls in the presence of their parents. Many a time armed-robbers serve as hired-killers. These things are happening because our society is crazy about wealth and material acquisition.

Prostitution is one of the most serious ills of our present day Nigeria. It has been an age long profession which ironically had continually won the hearts of ladies and young girls of different ages in our society. Nowadays, the business of prostitution is so flourishing that

even secondary school girls have joined the bandwagon. Prostitution among young girls in Nigeria comes in different forms. The first is referred to as “tapping” (secret prostitution). This happens when a young school leaver, undergraduate or an unemployed graduate declares herself a part-time prostitute (husband snatcher) by entangling herself with a married man or a man old enough to be his father, (Sugar daddy) because of material gain (Nwarukwe 2009).

There are several sociological and economic reasons that have significantly influenced the increase in prostitution among our young girls and the ladies in Nigeria. One may begin by considering the fact that a lot of young graduates from various higher institutions of learning and even the secondary school level remain unemployed several years after graduation. As these young girls remain in the labour market for so long, they sometimes find solace in getting involved in the dirty job in order to make ends meet.

Sexual abuse is one of the present ills of our present day Nigeria. It is another crude violence against women and girls in our society. It can be defined as an unwanted sexual approach and threats. Akanle (2010) asserts that sexual harassment or abuse is the act of forcing or attempting to force an individual through violence. Measures to eradicate this evil act is limited. In our society today, sexual harassment is used to trap women; it can also be used as means of exerting and maintaining power over women in different places Chukwejekwu (2010). Sexual harassment manifest in different forms: the first is by physical conduct of sexual act, such as touching, rubbing, patting, or brushing against an employee. Another aspect is verbal conduct such as tricky and logical persuasions which necessitates unwanted sexual advances. In recent years, evidence of worldwide child abuse and neglect has been growing and today there is a mountain of such evidence that can no longer be denied or ignored. The fact remains that many parents pay insufficient attention to their children and many a time are forced to embark on forceful treatment or an abuse. Children are victims of all manner of abuses. It is in recognition of the plight of children and the need to protect them that there exist local and international laws and conventions aimed at preventing and protecting against child abuse and neglect. They include the Nigerian child right act, united nations convention on the rights of the child, African union charter on the rights and welfare of the child, international Labour organization convention on child labour, united nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, trafficking persons (prohibition) law enforcement and administration act, etc. children the world over, have continued to suffer from different degrees of harmful actions or inactions from adults. This therefore, is what has generally known as child abuse. According to Ambrose (2001) child abuse is the deliberate and willful injury of a child by a guardian either by hitting beating with belt, cord, or other implement slamming against a wall, burning with cigarettes, scalding with hot water, locking in a dungeon, torturing, sexually abusing and even killing. It involves active and hostile aggressive physical treatment. While neglect means the act of paying insufficient attention to the child’s needs.

There is a rapid increase in church involvement in corrupt practices in Nigeria today. The problems facing our nation are enormous as a result of economic hardship, political propaganda and religious persecution. The temptation to abandon the truth and compromise with evil is becoming the order of the day among Christians. The slogan to justify their

unfaithfulness is “if you cannot beat them, you join them”. Many people in our society today believe erroneously that suffering is as a result of sin and prosperity is the reward for righteousness. In our society to day, the truth is left unspoken, especially when these involved men/women of authority. This should not deter us from speaking the gospel truth. We must learn to call corruption by its rightful name and admit the fact that every aspect of our societal life is corrupt. We should not be ignorant of the implications of what is happening in our society today as a result of corrupt practices.

From the foregoing analysis, the problems affecting our nation are diverse and complicated, ranging from political, economic, moral to ideological. These challenges are what Nigeria is facing for some time now. To ignore any of the problems would result to total collapse of Nigeria as a nation. The government should enact anti corruption crusade and other governmental initiatives. It is believed that the situations of the country will get better if these solutions are put into action by both the government and citizens of Nigeria. In conclusion the only way to combat the ills of the present day Nigeria is that all those occupying leadership positions at all levels in the country would need to imbibe the tenets of accountability, probity and transparency if Nigeria is to rid herself of corruption.

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У НАПРЯМКУ ДО БОРОТЬБИ З ЛИХАМИ В СУЧАСНІЙ НІГЕРІЇ

Важке становище Нігерії є реальною причиною для занепокоєння. Найбільше занепокоєння викликає хабарництво й корупція. У 2013 р. Нігерію визнано однією з найбільш корумпованих країн світу. Корупція в Нігерії загрожує самим основам національного життя, безпеки й демократії. Існує кілька економічних і соціологічних причин, які справили значний вплив на зростання хабарництва й корупції в Нігерії. Ці форми корупції можна спостерігати майже скрізь, включаючи державні установи. Це вимагання, надання пільгових лікування, зловживанні посадовими повноваженнями, нецільовому витрачанні громадського фонду тощо. Корупція вважається головною причиною відсутності безпеки в Нігерії.

Поліція належить до урядових органів, що відповідає за підтримку правопорядку, а також за захист життя і майна громадян. Порушення прав людини може проявлятися у формі приниження, жорстокого поводження та залякування окремих осіб у громадських місцях. Сьогодні в Нігерії, як видається, можна робити все, що завгодно, і вийти на свободу, якщо тільки можна домовитися з поліцією. Поліцію можна купити в будь-який час, без страху збираються хабарі в громадських місцях. Нездатність нігерійської поліції пом'якшити кризу в галузі безпеки в Нігерії призвела до надмірних випадків викрадення людей, високого числа вбивств з політичних мотивів, неконтрольованого насильства, що веде до загибелі багатьох людей.

Не можна випускати з уваги те, як і яким чином проводяться вибори в Нігерії. Важко уявити, що буде з країною з населенням більше 140 мільйонів чоловік, якій не дозволяють обрати своїх лідерів демократичним шляхом. Зафіксовано багато випадків зловживань деяких політиків. Виборча система не заохочує чесних і патріотичних людей до участі у виборах або прагнення обійняти політичні пости. Необхідно вжити серйозних заходів щодо припинення зловживань на виборах в Нігерії. Уряд має забезпечити надання виборчим комісіям необхідних адміністративних матеріалів, які дозволили б їм ефективно виконувати свої обов'язки.

На жаль, і в національній системі освіти Нігерії існують серйозні проблеми. Екзаменаційна недбалість зустрічається в багатьох формах: написання з-за межами екзаменаційної зали, використання мобільних телефонів. Оцінку учнів слід проводити з усією щирістю, з тим щоб відновити імідж державного іспиту в Нігерії, так щоб тільки здібності учнів могли служити поясненням результатів.

Викликає занепокоєння стан безробіття в Нігерії. Викликає глибоке співчуття той факт, що великі вулиці і міста по всій країні заповнені молодими випускниками університетів і випускниками шкіл, які шукають роботу за освітою, якої не передбачається.

Нігерія продовжує боротися за політичну та економічну свободу. Федеральний уряд заявив про свою рішучість боротися з незаконними фінансовими потоками,

оскільки вони є серйозною перешкодою на шляху національного розвитку.

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