

## CORRUPTION UNDER A MICROSCOPE, A GHANA PERSPECTIVE

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### Abstract

Corruption is a global issue and a challenge in Ghana, however in the last few years, it has taken over aspects of the Ghanaian society, from government, public and private sectors, and creating a negative impact on all governance arrangement and performance in Ghana. The prevalence of corruption points to a humongous dishonesty in the Ghanaian society. Some causes of corruption in Ghana are political monetization, low level of literacy, non-enforcement of relevant laws, bureaucracy, and fusing of duties among the arms of governance. Corruption retards economic development and growth, moral degeneration, reduces confidence in government Institutions, Product and poor execution of government projects and contracts. “Perceived” corruption by religious leaders has adversely affected people’s faith in God. Progressively, successive governments have tried to tackle corruption by the introduction of legislation; attempted selective prosecution of persons culpable of corruption; digitizing services, to reduce the interface of humans in service delivery mechanism, but all these have had limited success due to political interferences and selectivity of application. The watchful eyes of Civil and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and world bodies such as the World Bank, United Nations, and Transparency International have all helped in minimizing the impact of corruption to various degrees. The decision to fight corruption is an exceptional one justified by exceptional circumstances. Ghanaians need to make disciplined efforts to produce fundamental decisions that shape and guide how and what they do to fight corruption. Reports from government, NGOs and international bodies were searched and selected according to their relevance to the subject under study and analysed to write this paper. The objective of this paper is therefore to make an exhaustive analysis of corruption in Ghana.

**Key Words:** Bureaucracy, Illiteracy, Compliance

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### Introduction

Corruption has established itself in the fabric of every aspect of human life which has been widely discussed in the national and international arena. The perception of ‘corruption’ has been prominent in political discourse, work by historians as well as social analysis. Historical work on the phenomena of corruption is less developed than in social science literature (Washbrook, 1981; Tanzi, 1998 & Sumah, 2018). Recently, historians began to explore how corruption can be analysed and put into proper historical context (Sylla, 2014; Pierce, 2016 & Beke, 1988). Also, in

recent times, the major aim of governments is to reduce corruption by making sure the economy is healthy to induce foreign investments. The topic has invited and ignited continuous public discourse as it is relevant in modern history and has permeated the socio-economic, political, and religious life. It is a misdemeanour and dishonesty which includes but is not limited to bribery, and any inducement to influence a decision.

A proper diagnosis of the problem embodies systematically finding the root causes of the problem, a good starting point in identifying solutions. Any improper diagnosis of the problem has a high propensity to misleading prescriptions. The need to adopt a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption is primarily for the Government to secure requirements for a healthy and robust domestic economy, a prerequisite to attracting and retaining, especially foreign investors (Mauro, 1997).

It is erroneous to link corruption to only politicians but, politicians by their actions impact negatively on the governance institutions in the country. They appoint political supporters to institutions thus weakening those institutions' governance structures as all decisions are taken based on politics and nothing more. In Ghana, the Auditor General's reports show misappropriation and financial malfeasance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) and Metropolitans, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDA) Ghs13.9 billion was lost to financial malpractices between the periods of 2015 to 2020 (IMANI Ghana, 2022 & Transparency International 2023), a global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption defines it as "The abuse of entrusted power for private gains". Corruption comes in different forms such as Bribery, theft, distortion, forgery, falsehood, misuse of discretion, and extortion (Khan, 2006). In developing countries, the most destructive form of corruption is predatory corruption. He explains predatory corruption as a situation where public workers use their political influences to manipulate and extort money and property from the citizens. It is a fraudulent behaviour that has the potential to weaken any well-organised governmental structures and cause disequilibrium in the economy (Dearden, 2003; Rose-Ackerman, 1999 & Nye Jr., 2002).

Theologians analyse corruption in terms of the inherent dishonest nature of mankind; the original sin of Adam (Buchan, 2012). In Africa, religion and cultural practices have made it virtually impossible to distinguish gifts and acts of corruption (Larmour, 2012). In Ghana, we often hear statements like "thy shall not refuse a gift" and "God loves a cheerful giver and a cheerful receive". Misinterpretation of the religious calling can distort and invite disequilibrium in the corruption discourse. The view of theologians is that parents have a vital role in the moral upbringing of a child where certain values are impacted him at a young age.

Anthropologists on the other hand have viewed corruption as a form of disturbance of the whole social and economic foundation of the country, and a thorough discussion is needed to identify its effects on everyday life. In many societies, there exists a strong force of cohesion between family members, friends, and neighbours of the community at large. They are expected to conform to certain practices. This is called a concept of network where there is the need for every member of the society to be accepted (Gupta, 2018). The desire to belong to the society

therefore makes it difficult to report vices like corruption. Ledeneva (1998), argues that members of such social settings are morally bound together and the use of social networking to solve problems as quickly as possible using unofficial channels is common. The reason we do some of the things we do is to ensure a good relationship and acceptance by others in society.

Ghana's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) as indicated by Transparency International (2022) has been stagnant at a score of 43/100 and ranked 72/180 since 2020. Dell, (2022) indicated that though the annual snapshot of corruption has marginally and progressively improved since 2017, (40/180 in 2017), much still needs to be done to improve the country's position on the index. Many African Countries continue to grapple with the menace of corruption. In Nigeria the (CPI) was 27/100 in 2018 but has continued to fall to 21/100 in 2021 only to rise to 24/100 in 2022. The CPI in many African countries hovers around 17/100 to 25/100 unlike the average of 70 to 80/100 in the developed countries. Successive governments have made conscious and progressive efforts in fighting corruption through the introduction of legislation and amendment of Acts. Notable among them are the Amended Public Procurement Act, Public Finance Management Act and Regulation, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012, the income Tax (Amendment) Act 2020 and Ghana Customs (Amendment Act 2020). The question that lingers on is why with all these legislation not much has been achieved yet. Broadly the main objective of this paper is to make an exhaustive analysis of corruption in Ghana.

Objectives of this paper are:

1. To contribute to the public discourse of causes of corruption
2. To draw the attention of policymakers and NGOs to the menaces of corruption
3. Postulate or proffer solutions to the problem of corruption

### **Study Area**

Geographically, Ghana is located in the western part of Africa. It is sandwiched between Ivory Coast and Togo. To the Northern part of Ghana is the country Burkina Faso and to the south is the Gulf of Guinea. Ghana is divided into sixteen administrative regions and each region is divided into 260 MMDAs. It has 275 constituencies, and each constituency has a representative in Parliament (Ghana Statistical Service -GSS), 2021 and Local Government Service (LGS), 2021). The land has a total area of 238,540 km<sup>2</sup> (92,101 mi<sup>2</sup>) and a total coastline of 539 km (334.9 mi). Ghana is thus the 26th smallest country in Africa and ranked 82nd in the world (WorldData, 2023). More than half of residents in Ghana (58%) live within cities, mainly Accra and Kumasi. The population of Ghana as of December 2022 is 33,475,870 (GSS, 2021). The Economic growth of Ghana in 2018 was 6.2% but reduced to 3.6% in 2022. The outbreak of Covid 19 and the Russia-Ukraine war are blamed for the gloomy global economic outlook. The Economic growth figures for the United States of America were 2.9% in 2018 and 1.6% in 2022 (Government of Ghana (GoG), 2022). Ghana is known for its lush forest, diverse animal life and miles of sandy beaches along a picturesque coast. It has a rich history with a fascinating repository of cultural heritage. Ghana is endowed with natural resources such as gold, diamond, timber, and sea life.

## **Methodology**

To identify, understand and make an in-depth analysis of the problem of corruption, the study applied a systematic review of the literature on managing corruption. The study examined literature, from Governmental organizations and bodies set up by act of Parliament such as the Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Audit Service and Ghana Narcotic Board.

The study is further based on a structured review of academic literature, published, and conference papers on corruption were selected and reviewed. The contents of these published papers were analysed to provide a structured and intellectual input in identifying the root causes, and the challenges and propose solutions to curbing corruption. Journal articles, newspaper articles and write ups, and Books were reviewed, as technical reports from statutory bodies such as the Narcotic board, Serious Fraud Office, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), 2019), Office of the Special Prosecutor and Economic and Organized Crime Office (ECOCO) were also studied.

Extracts from Non-Governmental Organization which have prioritized fighting corruption were also analysed. The related and relevant documents were analysed to help identify the objective, description, and prescription to eliminate the cancer of corruption. Websites and reports of Transparency International, Occupy Ghana, Ghana anti-Corruption Coalition and IMANI Ghana have been very useful. Reports were analysed from organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Bank. The study uses secondary data.

## **Discussions**

### **Causes of Corruption**

Major causes of corruption in developing countries are political monetization and monopolization. Ghana has practised democracy since the coming into force of the 1992 constitution, so no political party has monopolized the political landscape. The pendulum of power swings between the two main political parties; the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Party (NDC). However, the monetization of political campaigns raises its ugly head most of the time. In the 2020 general election, about 10% of the adult population reported they were offered money to influence their vote (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2022).

In political campaigns, both legal and illegal funds are solicited. Individuals and firms that make such donations eventually obtain corrupt contracts or licenses to supply public goods and services. It is therefore not surprising that corruption is usually associated with people who are politically connected or exposed. Political corruption is blamed for a breakdown in formal and informal systems and structures, making accountability and transparency a challenge (UNDP, 2004)

Corruption associated with politics also relates to the appointment of officials under Article 190 of the 1992 constitution. The appointments of the Auditor General, Controller and Accountant General, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission are gradually becoming partisan (Agyeman, 2015).

The number of educated people in the country can influence the extent of corruption. With a low literate population, people do not understand how to contribute meaningfully to the system of governance, a bedrock to fighting corruption (Rose-Ackerman, 1999). This has been confirmed by Svensson (2005), that countries with relatively low levels of education have high rates of corruption because, people are not able to distinguish between gifts as a gratitude and what should be described as corrupt practice. Again, Pasuk and Sungsidh (1994), indicated that people with little education are marginalised, disempowered, and usually disproportionately affected by acts of corruption.

Cultural and religious practices allow some traditional, religious and opinion leaders to intercede on behalf of individuals caught up in the corruption web. Punishments do not serve perpetrators as a deterrent. When people are arrested or accused of corruption, opinion leaders can go as far as to top government officials and ask for mercy. Leaders find it difficult to fight corruption especially when it involves a family member or a member of his team.

For some religious thinkers, man is inherently corrupt because of the original sin of Adam (Buchan, 2012). In Africa, culture makes it difficult to discern the concept of corruption (Larmour, 2012). Research has shown that tradition and culture may cause corruption (Kun, Togomae, and Kun, 2004) by allowing perpetrators to go scout-free (James & Tufui, 2004 & Newton Cain & Jowitt, 2004). Taafaki (2004) observed that in some countries cultures blind people's appreciation and understanding of corruption which makes corruption an acceptable practice and the parochial interest of people clouding their judgment (Buchan, 2012).

High levels of bureaucracy, tight regulations and inefficient administrative structures are some of the drivers of corruption. In bureaucratic administrative governance, decisions are taken by a few top Government officials with monopoly powers, involving complex administrative procedures with a structured chain of command and adherence to rules with a hierarchy of authority. Tanzi (1998) explains that officials with such monopoly powers may refuse to take a decision or sweep it under their carpet until they are bribed. Communication must go through several layers and once a decision is made, it has to go through the same layers back. People who need public service use unapproved roots to bypass the numerous layers to secure them (Sumah, 2018 & UNODC, 2022). Where there are trade and business restrictions, people use unorthodox means to outwit the restrictions (Mauro, 1997). Non-Ghanaians can manoeuvre to trade in the retail sector which is preserved for only Ghanaians. In Ghana, it is common to use middlemen to procure driver's licenses and passports.

According to Hindriks, Keen and Muthoo (1999), the shadow economy, known in Ghana as the "Black Market", is a fertile breeding ground for corruption. There are numerous reports of alleged collusion between the taxpayer and tax inspectors especially at the ports in Ghana. Furthermore, Kaufmann, Kraay and Zoido-Lobation, (1999) indicate that there is a positive correlation between

the Shadow economy and corruption. Activities of the shadow economy circumvent Government regulations and other established administrative procedures. In a shadow economy or 'black market' stolen goods and drugs are sold, and prostitution and illegal foreign currency also come into play. Leaders of a shadow economy are so powerful and well-connected that it is easy to bribe public officials.

The lack of prosecution of corrupt public officials sends rather wrong signals that one can get away with corruption. The prolonged legal tussle in prosecuting alleged corrupt public officials is a worry in Ghana. There are numerous cases of alleged corruption in Ghana, from illegal sales and over-inflation of the cost of government contracts, scandals in the judicial services and Football Governing Body of Ghana (GFA) and procurement breaches where prosecution has not commenced. A typical case in point that shook the nation to its foundation is the arson at the Ghana Tema Medical stores in 2015. Drugs with an estimated value of GHS263 Million for chronic diseases were burnt down. Some officials have been interdicted because they were found to be perpetrators and culpable but have not been prosecuted (Bokpe, 2017).

Lack of professionalism, deficiency in the implementation of procedures, regulatory breaches, and contraventions of Acts of parliament are prevalent in Ghana. Contraventions include for example delays in collections of gas and surface revenue from the upstream and non-payment of tax into the Petroleum Holding Fund (PHF) (Ghana Audit Service, 2020). If the laws were enforced and officers identified, prosecuted, and sanctioned the delays and breaches would cease. The Ghana National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was established in 2015. At the time of reporting, December 2015, 85 Institutions reported on general roles. One hundred and forty-six (146) corruption-related cases were reported of which 59 (40.41%) were investigated and necessary action against perpetrators was taken (CHRAJ, 2019).

Many Ghanaians are familiar with the word protocol. In appointments, recruitments and even school placement some spaces are reserved for protocol, to appreciate individuals who have dedicated their time and resources to the interest of the organization. Unfortunately, the spaces reserved for the protocol can sometimes consume the entire list of opportunities available. It creates a window for the sale of opportunities such as enlistment, recruitment, employment, and school placements.

The amalgamation of the governance bodies or structures which should have been working independently is a cause for concern. The Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive were established, expected to be independent and serve as checks and balances on one another. Practically, however, these independent bodies have all somehow been merged under the control of the executive (Agyeman, 2015).

### **The Economic, Social and Political Consequences of Corruption**

Ethically, corruption leads to moral decay. Moral standards like honesty truthfulness, and integrity are sacrificed and prejudice, and lack of objectivity become the acceptable norm. Citizens with good upbringing and moral values are influenced by the lifestyle of corrupt individuals who live luxurious lives. Extravagant and wanton displays of flamboyance by the families of corrupt and

invariably virtuous people begin to emulate. Acts of corruption then spread like a contagious disease or wild bushfire with uncontrollable momentum and difficult to eradicate. Unfortunately, greed which breeds, disregarding acceptable conventions and established practices becomes the order of the day. This affects people with low moral values yielding to all kinds of pleasure that knock at their doors. The prodigals as in the prodigal son in the bible, have a permanent and continuous appetite to be successful regardless of the source of their wealth. Without any shame or conscience, they take money or resources from any available source.

Corruption causes distortion in the structure of democracy as politicians with little experience or no demonstrable expertise, but wealthy are given the baton of governance. In political campaigns, money and other gifts are used to induce or persuade voters. Politicians who are endowed with resources, who may not have what it takes to lead the nation, are voted into power. They are able to induce the electorate and virtues such as integrity, righteousness, objectivity, and gentleness are jettisoned. Money, gifts, and other forms of political donations are used to sway political opinions or choices. Governments are inadequately fighting corruption because they are constrained to implement policies to curb corruption. The desire to clinch power in perpetuity fuels the greed of politicians (Rose-Ackerman, 1999).

Corruption is the main pillar of legal distortion and injustices in society. An investigative journalist, Anas Arimeyaw Anas showed a documentary to over 6500 audience in which judicial corruption was exposed to the whole world. Over ten (10) high court judges were implicated and suspended. (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), 2015). At all times corruption which is a danger to the society can be curbed if people practice the habits of virtue and the right controls put in place (Nederman, 1988). The judiciary is yet to recover from the huge loss of public confidence.

The World Bank's description is that "corruption distorts the rule of law, weakens a nation's institutional foundation, and severely affects the poor who are already the most disadvantaged in our society." The prevalence of corruption draws back economic and social development, widens the already yawning gap between the rich and the vulnerable poor and weakens the government's ability to strategize and implement human rights laws and other financial commitments (Bacio-Terracino, 2010 & Jain, 2008). Population growth is overshadowing development, and the prevalence of corruption is an encumbrance to developing countries to achieving Sustainable Development goals.

The quality of executed public projects is reduced and the cost or final price is bloated. Contracts for government projects are usually awarded to politically connected individuals or firms that are prepared and ever willing to make a payoff. According to Kaufmann and Gray (1998), corruption increases the cost of doing business, breeds waste and creates insecurity in the economy. Tanzi and Davoodi (1997) reported that in some countries it is very possible to buy jobs. Taking insights from Kaufmann and Gray (1998), one can conclude that Ghana loses productive hours as a result of bad roads and congestion in urban areas. Contractors do as they please because persons who are charged with the responsibility of supervision are compromised. Procurement breaches, for example, sole sourcing, are a form of political favouritism that increases the cost of the final product and the cost of doing business. Breaches in the procurement process

have led to over-inflation of goods, services and projects and have caused major scandals for past governments. Johnston (1997) observed that Political parties, politicians, and influential top government officials lost their grip on the governing machines because they have been accused of corruption. Whether proven or not it becomes a dent in their political career.

Another consequence of corruption is that it facilitates the undervaluation and wrong estimation of the Gross Domestic product (GDP). In a shadow economy or “black market” as it is referred to in Ghana, not all goods and services are captured in computing the official estimates of the GDP of the country (Smith, 1994). Underestimating the GDP means the size and health of the economy will be wrongly interpreted. IMANI Ghana, (2022) indicates that from 2015 to 2020, financial malfeasance, cumulatively, was around 3.64% of the 2020 GDP, which does not help with explaining the signals of corruption (Treisman, 2000 & Paldam, 2000). Thus, donors may reduce the level of donations to countries classified as corrupt and make poor countries worst.

Corruption redistributes scarce resources from vital infrastructure projects to high-profile projects. High-profile projects may not necessarily be the prudent way of allocating resources, but they are executed often for political expediency. They are also awarded because the cost of executing such projects is high, so it is easy to be over-inflated to get a good kickback. The kickback starts from the junior officers to the top. If the lower-level officers fail to play the corrupt game, they can be shown a red card by a transfer (Wade, 1982).

The nation loses a lot of revenue, resources, and talents to corruption. The Ghana Integrity of Public Service Survey (GIPSS) disclosed that Ghana lost approximately GHS5B due to the corrupt practices of public officials (Ghanaweb, 2022). A report between 2017 to 2019 by the Auditor General showed a gargantuan amount of GHS20 Billion either stolen or misappropriated by various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (Ghana Netherlands Business and Culture Council (GNBCC), 2021).

A top government official hinted that Ghana loses US \$100 Million annually at the ports due to deception, under declaration, wrongful description of imported items and collusion between importers and officials at the port and called on stakeholders to collaborate to solve the problem (Ghanaweb, 2023).

If corruption becomes a norm, honest professionals who are unwilling to play along to the menace migrate, compounding the associated problem of brain drain in the country. The most expensive line item in the cost of corruption is what it does to talent. In a corrupt system the least deserving get the opportunity to receive benefits which they do not deserve or are not entitled to. Those who consider themselves deserving see a distortion in the link between efforts and reward. They migrate to jurisdictions where their talents are more needed, recognized, appreciated, and rewarded honestly and appropriately.

## **Solutions and Way Forward**

The concept of the “paradox of stability” explains what happens in a tenure of Governance. Thus, the stability of tenure or insecurity of tenure can corrupt a bureaucratic arrangement. As such, the

legislative processes, structures, organization, and political campaigns financing need an overhaul. Corruption scandals are frequently associated with individuals or firms involved in political campaign financing. Those who finance political campaigns do so because they are interested in certain legislative outcomes and government policies and so are willing to foot the campaign bill. Ghana must therefore find better ways to finance political campaigns from central government resources instead of permitting the sale of political campaign to the highest bidder of businessmen and women (Ackerman, 1999). Again, setting legal limits for political contribution may have its own challenges but it is better than a free-for-all donation. For example, Japan has banned corporate contributions to political campaigns since 2000 (Misawa, 2008). There is also the need to ban corporate gifts in order not to blur the difference between bribes and gifts. Currently, in Ghana, hampers that have been ‘banned’ are seen as a form of bribe in disguise (GoG, 2023).

The enforcement of laws, regulations and administrative procedures are relevant in the successful fight against corruption. There are rules governing campaign financing and the submission or publication of financial statements of political parties. These legislative requirements need to be robust, monitored and the disclosure requirements enforced. Ghanaians must be encouraged or educated on free speech, human rights, and the protections available to whistle-blowers. Individuals and NGOs should complement the efforts of the Government in fighting corruption. Occupy Ghana secured a Supreme Court ruling in 2017 in their favour for the Auditor General to disallow and surcharge public officers who have embezzled public funds. In furtherance to this, Occupy Ghana wrote to the Auditor General demanding that he issue disallowances and surcharges (Occupy Ghana, 2021).

According to Bacio-Terracino (2010), some human rights principles are particularly important in preventing and fighting corruption. One quality of guaranteeing human rights is to ensure people are protected when they provide confidential information. The information they provide to all stakeholders has to be anonymized and aggregated into statistics that will provide valuable information to guide decision-making in fighting corruption. People’s lives should not be threatened because they are exposed to corrupt practices.

The Right to Freedom of expression will restrict and demystify any possible argument in favour of corruption. The right to information is also central to the prevention of corruption and thus an important aspect of the UN Convention against Corruption (Articles 10 and 13) (Bacio-Terracino, 2010). It is in furtherance of this that Ghana enacted the Right to Information ACT 2019 (ACT 989). It is therefore key to monitor and evaluate the bottlenecks associated with the smooth implementation of the Right to Information Act. There should be ubiquitous access to information without any hindrance.

Access to information guarantees the right of all citizens to request and obtain public information, without being required to justify that request. Such information could concern public finances, public procurement, or the employment of public officials, such as their conditions of hiring (Bacio-Terracino, 2010).

Without progress in public education, the fight against corruption can never be won. About 30% of children from age 6 years and older are not literate in any language and that does not augur well for democracy (GSS, 2021). Individuals sometimes trade off their civil and civic rights unknowingly by not obtaining a receipt for public services rendered to them. Even though some are conscious of their actions, others are oblivious that their actions and inaction enrich public officials and deprive the government of the needed revenue for development.

There have been publications, summits and conventions dedicated to fighting the consequences of corruption in modern society (IMF, 2016; World Bank, 2015; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), 2011; Lambsdorff, 2007; Rose-Ackerman & Soreide, 2011; Soreide, 2014 & Hope, 2016). Admittedly corruption is a humongous conundrum and the fight against it will take conscious and coordinated efforts. It may take time to successfully implement any policy or reforms on corruption, both at the national and international levels. There are many challenges the world is facing but until we identify, priorities, and confront corruption little can be achieved (Cameron, 2016).

International bodies and organizations such as the United Nations (UN), World Bank, African Development Bank and UNDP have introduced structures, peer review mechanisms, and platforms to report, Monitor, Evaluate and curb or tackle pervasive organized corruption networks. Such platforms include the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against corruption and the World Bank Sanction System. In the Fiscal year 2022, the World Bank sanctioned about 32 firms and individuals, and some became disqualified from bidding for World Bank-funded projects (World Bank, 2022).

The pronouncements and write-ups by world institutions may be seen only as political declarations or perlocution if not well implemented. Transparency International and other partners suggested to the General Assembly and have advanced arguments for experts to come together to provide expert input for the new framework to address the gaps in the UNCAC call. Corruption can better be tackled if there is increased coordination, consultation, and cooperation among the various and relevant UN treaties.

The digitation policy and drive of the current government is a major achievement in fighting corruption (GoG, 2022) if efficiently implemented, monitored, and reviewed. Digitization reduces the human interface, waste, and corruption, saves time, and speeds up activities. E-Census by the Ghana Statistical Services improved the efficiency and quality of real-time data as well as widened the coverage area. In the absence of digitization, Covid-19 would have been a major challenge to physically collect data. (GSS, 2021). The benefit of digitization is also felt at the revenue collection points at the ports, processing passport applications and Driver and Vehicle Licensing and the renewal of National Health insurance cards.

## **Conclusion**

Corruption is related to deficiencies in the political and poor administrative system. In this era of administrative ethnography, the frame of contemporary corruption has become extremely complex

and requires a multi-disciplinary approach. Prominent citizens such as former politicians, who have experience in governance but are not actively involved in politics, can be seen as the major contributors to Ghana's corruption challenges.

Corruption Inhibits economic growth, affects business operations, reduces foreign investments, and government tax revenue and leads to wrongful estimates of GDP. It is in the interest of every citizen in Ghana to contribute meaningfully to nip it in the bud. It is therefore inadequate to attribute the phenomenon of corruption to the deterioration of moral fibre because religious leaders, who advocate and preach morality are allegedly deeply involved in the canker. A strong and efficient legal and regulatory system protects people's rights and property. Ghana needs visionary leaders and strong Institutions to make responsible decisions and not decision to benefit political parties or family members.

It is adversarial and pedantic to blame politicians alone for corruption unfortunately they have a deep hand in governance systems. There have been reported cases where public and private sector workers have all been intrinsically entwined with corruption. Every Ghanaian needs to change his or her insouciant attitude and develop a new orientation, mindset and commitment toward fighting corruption. Legal framework and administrative procedures are solid enough to fight the snowballing corruption. The missing link is oversight and enforcement of the laws, both internally and those established by world bodies. Corruption is a pandemic that threatens to manacle the development of Ghana and cause moral degeneration and has to be tackled head-on.

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