

Corruption and Insecurity on Nigerian Economy: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract

This study looked at corruption and insecurity on the Nigerian Economy. The study made use of the qualitative method and this involved the use of interviews of senior staff members from EFCC, the ICPC, the Nigerian Bureau of statistics and the transparency international. The findings displayed that corruption and insecurity have actually affected the growth of the Nigerian Economy as information obtained from the interviewees were shown in a narrative manner for easy comprehension. This study recommends that the security arrangements of the nation should be overhauled and the local vigilantes should be incorporated into the security architecture of the country, total action should be taken by the people and Government of Nigeria by making anti-corruption laws to help tackle this evil menace in the country.

Keywords: Economy, Corruption, Insecurity, Government, Nigeria

JEL Classification: F41, G18

1. Introduction

The world Bank carried out a research and through their monthly report of June 2022, Nigeria ranked 152th out of 157th countries of the world on the list of global economies in terms of human capital development and poverty level. Also in the year 2018, the World Bank made another research on the list of countries with the best ease of doing business and Nigeria ranked 161st out of 189 nations as they were ranked categorically. The country ranks 161st on the list of 189 countries in terms of the ease of doing business reports according to the World Bank report of the year 2018. The problem of corruption has eaten deep into the country, as the rate of corruption is astronomically alarming in this nation, because findings unfolded that there are many problems facing the country but that the issue of corruption is higher than the other problems facing the nation (Aluko, 2009). Ogundiya (2010) discovered that the struggle for what is called the national cake of Nigeria is even promoting corruption the more. This piece of work is concerned that the nation's economy can be revived for the betterment of the citizens. The Transparency international made a research on Nigeria's corruption level and through their findings of June 2021, discovered that Nigeria ranked at 154 out of 180 nations categorically on the corruption perception index. It was unveiled that the level of corruption is becoming worse every day in Nigeria.

Insecurity problems is another menace that have affected the economy of Nigeria. The issues of banditry, kidnapping, militancy and armed robbery has negatively affected the

nation. Insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fears and uncertainty in the society. Every region in the country is battling with various challenges of insecurity (Ishola, 2019).

Infrastructural deficits due to corruption have crippled the nation's growth. Most of the current infrastructural facilities in Nigeria were developed during the second national development plan between 1970 -1974 (Olaleye *et al.*, 2013). But a recent release from a special agency of the African Union known as the African Peer Review Mechanism brought up a finding from their research work of February 18th 2022 and from their discovery, Nigeria has made progress in terms of infrastructural development but that corruption and insecurity has badly dealt a major blow on the growth of this nation.

The main objective of this study is to obtain opinion on corruption and insecurity on Nigerian Economy. Through the qualitative mechanism adopted, this paper is on a fact finding mission to ascertain the level of the injuries which corruption and insecurity have done to this nation. It involves the analysis of the problems facing the Economic growth of this nation.

2. Literature Review

Mathew (2018) carried out a decent research work on the Nigerian Economy and findings disclosed that corruption is one single issue limiting the Nation from going forward. The product of corruption limits the other available good options, such that nation finds it difficult to grow once it is embedded in corruption (Osakede, 2015). A situation whereby almost everybody is involved in corrupt acts and unethical practices, it spells doom for such nation. The struggle over resources otherwise known as the national cake in the Nigerian society has taken a deliberating dimension permitting all forms of corruption (Ilufoye, 2009). The nation's economic growth has witnessed great downturn due to corruption. In Nigeria today, there are many unresolved problems but the issue of corruption is alarming, the damages it had done to the polity is astronomical (Yetunde, 2009). Corruption is life across the country's economic sections: Petroleum, trade, industries, agricultural, infrastructures, power sector, banking and environmental. Together these forms of corruption erase billions of dollars from Nigeria's bottom line and prevent it from realizing its great human and economic potential (Mathew, 2018).

Poor infrastructural issues has affected the growth of the nation. Nigeria rates lower than countries like South Africa and even some low income countries in areas of power, road and telecommunications, water, health and disposable infrastructures (Umar, 2019). Infrastructures play a key role in the growth of any nation, thereby making the situations to be ease for people, as well as movement of goods and services. Olaleye *et al.* (2013) posited that if Nigeria should develop her infrastructure by reducing the rate of corruption, it will attract other developments from other neighboring nations. The study further reveal that a total of 30 billion naira annually is spent by private individuals, the Federal Government and the 36 states of the Federation on foreign medical services. This amount of money if properly utilized at home is enough to fix some dilapidated infrastructures in Nigeria as well as building new ones. Corruption has failed to bring about effective infrastructures. It is instructive to note that the Nigerian Government and citizens have not totally committed themselves to the implementations and measures that can prevent or drastically reduce the extent and consequence of

corruption in the country (Osakede *et al.*, 2015). Some other African nations such as Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria to mention but a few ranks ahead of Nigeria in infrastructural developments. Despite her large population of more than 200 million people, Nigeria is still struggling with inadequate infrastructural facilities. The development of infrastructural facilities is one of the determinants of foreign direct investments inflow into any country (Olaleye *et al.*, 2013).

Nigeria needs to invest about 350 billion naira in its infrastructural sector in 10 years to be at par with her peers African Development Bank (2013). Education is highly underdeveloped in Nigeria. The nation has a total of 87,941 primary schools with a population of 24,422,918 pupils in all the primary schools and about 7,129 public junior secondary schools but they are poorly funded due to corruption (Umar *et al.*, 2019). The decaying infrastructures should be re-built massively. The roads, rails and the airports should be updated to standards. The schools should also be adequately equipped for better learning. The hospitals should be revamped for efficient service delivery. Lack of Economic diversification has also affected the economy of this nation, the human capital development index is very low compared to other neighbouring African countries. Based on the United Nations development programme release in 2016, Nigeria's human development index (HDI) value for 2016 positions at 152 out of 188 countries and this puts the country on the low human development (LHD).

Security challenges have actually hampered the growth of the economy. Almost all parts of the nation is insecure and makes the citizens to live in fear. Insecurity can be traced to early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after the civil war Boko Haram insurgents in the north, militants in the Niger Delta (South South Nigeria), kidnapers and armed robbers every where across the nation poses a great risks to lives and safety of the people. Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large (Ndubuisi-Okolo & Anigbuogu, 2019). According to Ishola (2019), insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fears and uncertainty in the society. Every region in the country is battling with various challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, the issues of kidnapping, armed robbery, militancy and insurgency has affected meaningful development in this Nigeria. The country which is considered as the giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram insurgencies, armed robbery attacks, kidnapping, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants have hampered the economic development of Nigeria (Ndubuisi-Okolo & Anigbuogu, 2019).

3. Methodology

This work activity was carried out successfully by the qualitative means of research study. About four senior staff members of four different organizations and each interviewee representing each of those organizations namely: The Economic and financial crimes commission, the Independent Corrupt Practices of Nigeria, the transparency international and the Nigerian Bureau of statistics. The participants were selected through the use of the purposive means of sampling. This method of sampling was used due to the level of importance of the topic under study. All these firms are

based at the federal capital Abuja, Nigeria. Interviews were done on the basis of questions and answers between the interviewer and the interviewees on insecurity and corruption ravaging Nigeria. The main reason for adopting the interview method also is to enable the interviewer to obtain firsthand raw information to help shape up this research work. Each of those persons selected were interviewed for a time duration of 10 minutes each only. The questions which were asked the interviewees were dependent on the objectives of this study. The questions and answers were actually done in English language. Data gotten were shown in a narrative way for clear understanding of the issue on board and this was proceeded with the analysis of data obtained. The analysis gave rise to the findings and results in conformity with the objectives of this noble study.

4. Findings

This particular section unveils and explains the data which was gotten from those four senior staff members of those aforementioned organizations in Nigeria. The information obtained were displayed in a narrative form for clear comprehension of the hazards posed by corruption and insecurity on Nigerian Economy. Thus:

Interviewer: Good day Mr. Henry James, please as a senior staff of the EFCC in Abuja, what do you think of the issue of corruption ravaging our dear country Nigeria and what do you think should be the best way out of his problem ?

Interviewee: It is quite unfortunate that on weekly basis we arrest hundreds of people with corruption cases ranging from top politicians, business men and women with one issue of stolen funds and the other. Many citizens of this nation especially the political leaders are corrupt. I think the best way out of this issue is to enact an anti-corruption law with death penalty as this will put fear on anyone involved in this act.

This response given by mr James Henry of EFCC is in line with the findings of Ogundiya (2010) in which he pointed out in his findings that anti-corruption laws should be established to try corrupt leaders and individuals in Nigeria .

A 63 years old Isichei Okafor, a senior staff of the Independent corrupt practices commission interviewee said in his response:

I feel so bad seeing our dear country Nigeria bleeding as a result of corruption and insecurity. More than 70 percent of Nigerians are corrupt and the nation is going down the drains daily due to this.

This answer given by Mr Isichei Okafor is in conformity with the findings of Ishola (2019) where he pointed out that insecurity and corruption is the two major issues ravaging Nigeria Economic growth. The study of Ishola (2019) discovered that the issue of insecurity and corruption are two major issues facing this nation and that the solutions to those two problems are a quick intervention third force from the Government and the people of Nigeria.

Interestingly the same answer obtained from the above two mentioned staff member of EFCC and ICPC are what I also got from the other two senior staff members of Transparency international and the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics. The two interviewees further explained that insecurity and corruption has deeply affected the growth of this nation, adding that the solution to that problem is complete overhauling of the nation system of doing things. They opined that there should be a national campaign against corruption and insecurity. This response is in line with the findings carried out by Umar (2019) as it discovered that a lot needs to be done concerning the insecurity and corruption issues facing this nation.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Given the aim, this study conclude that corruption and insecurity serve as impediment to natital development, such as the infrastructural development. This study recommends that corruption should be taken seriously thereby strengthening the strategy adopted by the EFCC and ICPC. National awareness on self-satisfaction and self-contentment. Across the nation, there should be a national awareness on self-satisfaction and contentment. On insecurity issues, local vigilantes should be legally drafted to work with the Nigeria police as well as Nigeria army for the purpose achieving peaceful environment.

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