

An Assessment of the Institutional Mechanism for Fighting Corruption in Nigeria from 1999 till 2009

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INTRODUCTION

It is the activities of human that signals the attitude, perception and ones view on issues and from that others can understand individuals following closer interactions. As a matter of necessity, there is always a driving desire for man to pursue good virtues. Corruption is a negative phenomenon, seen in all parts of the globe. Every where people exists one can successfully trace corruption there. But it's clear that its manifestation varies in different socio political system.

As an issue of global concern, the Nigerian government has always been worried about it. In order to authenticate this fact, one of Nigerian newspapers, the vanguard news paper of Thursday April 8th, 2014 reporting on Dec. 05, 2013 news at 12:02pm said; civil society group known as transparency international has describe Nigeria fight against corruption as mere words than action. The body in 2013 rated Nigeria at 144 most corrupt among 177 countries, in 2012 Nigeria ranked 124th most corrupt nation among the less than 170 countries studied. This index provides some indicators as to the reality in the country not minding the pain. This has been positively encouraged by virtually all regimes in the leadership of this country.

The Ethnic Revolution initiated by Alhaji Shehu Shagari administration was another attempt against corruption. The war against indiscipline launched by Buhari and Idiagbon regime is yet another. The decree of 1994, the failed bank decree and Tribunal and advanced free fraud (419) and other related offences decree of 1994. From 1999 the government under a democratic setting with the

leadership president Olusegun Obasanjo in his determination to fight corruption ensured the following laws; Advanced fee fraud and other Related offences Act, 2006, corrupt practices and the money laundering Act 2004, the economic and financial crime commission (established) Act 2004 and, the procurement act, 2007. However, in order to encourage institutionalization of the mechanisms for fighting corruption in Nigeria, these agencies were established alongside these laws, these anti-corruption agencies includes;

- The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).
- The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission.
- The Bureau for public procurement etc

The money laundering (prohibition) Act 2004 and The Fiscal responsibility Act 2007 which is aimed at improving budgeting and, in turn reducing opportunities for corruption, according to Transparency International Global corruption Report 2013. The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), which focuses on achieving transparency in payments by extractive industries companies to government and government – linked entities.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives of the Nigerian Government:

Many researchers have done works on this issue. Also inclusive are our past leaders who have in no small measures commented on these resolve on the corrupt nature of this country. Groups have also deduced meaning and way forward, for instance probe panel, panel of enquires etc. During Obasanjo's second coming (as a ruler) he promised to fight corruption and has signed into law the anti-corruption bill, the Oputa panel also appears to focus on rebuilding the bashed image of Nigeria. He was reported during the official signing of the bill into law as saying:

Every coup since independence has been in the name of stamping out the disease called corruption. Unfortunately, the cure often turned out to be worse than the disease.

This explains that the efforts made in creating the code of conduct bureau and Tribunal Act 1999 including the corrupt practices and other related offences Act

2000, the laws made before these ones and even after 2000, have not been able to combat corruption adequately. What then is the problem? It is clear from this stand point that we have not done what we are supposed to have done. The problem of corruption is as old as the Nigerian state, and will possibly be solved only when the nation question is addressed and there is a change in our values.

Additionally, the approach to the fight against corruption had generated many thoughts as what may be the cause of it and how best to check at this vice. In this line, the crises of the Nigerian state made Esko Toyo to bane capitalism as the fundamental bane of corruption in Nigeria, with its inherent characteristics of exploitation of the consumers and making money, making more money. This he said facilitate the spoils systems of corruption, which capitalism has left in its wake of unbridled philistinism. In most cases people use tribalism to confuse others in their corrupt tendencies. Judging from the above statement, Nwabueze Umeze, (2000;23) looked at the above as a misplacement of blames, but argues that corruption is a calculation out of our personal value system.

DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION

Outside being a calculation out of our personal value system, corruption has been defined in the case of BIOBAKU VIS NPF as the receiving or offering of some benefits as reward or inducement to sway or deflect the receiver from the honest and impartial discharge of his duties. Thus, the offence of corruption extends. Beyond mere financial considerations, to cover such areas as sexual favour, conferment of titles or appointment to offices, promotions, admissions into clubs, societies or institutions etc. We want to understand the fact and the main element of the offences includes the offering of or acceptance of money either in kind or cash to refuse to do, or do an act for the benefit of the giver.

According to committee on prevention of corruption appointed by Indian Government in 1962;

“Corruption is the improper or selfish exercise of power and influences attached to a public office or to the position one occupies in the public life”.

This also embraces those in public service, additionally, corruption in:

“Any person who being employed in the public service, and being charged with the performance of any duty by virtue of such employment, not being a duty touching the administration of justice corruptly asks, receives, or obtains or agrees or attempts to receive or obtain, any property or benefit of any kind for himself or any other person on account of anything already done or omitted to be done, or to be after word done by him in the discharge of the duties of his office”.

In this sense any activity that falls outside the centre of general interest is corrupt especially when it concerns formal organisations.

Anti-Corruption Fight and Nigeria’s Situation

Corruption is as old as humanity. It has existed even before the attainment of independence by Nigeria in 1960. Today it has become a major issue and an embarrassing menace. Government efforts at curbing this ugly trend are known as government strategy in the fight against corruption. This includes war against indiscipline of 1986 renewed in 1996, the mass mobilization for social justice of 1987, corrupt practices and other related offences Act giving birth to ICPC, EFCC, and CCB. Etc

Inspite of all these efforts made by the government in different regimes the fight appears not to be very fruitful throughout decades. This also could be the reason why the Daily sun of Monday, December 4, 2006 reported an Ex-minister, Silas Ilo as saying;

“Corruption has continued to flourish despite efforts made in the past to contain it, he says Nigerians has watched in helplessness as kickback graduated from 10 percent of many years ago to 20 percent and then 30 percent up to a stage where people collect money for contracts without executing it.”

The founding fathers most have a share of their own blame, as nationalist, they ascended the throne of leadership and saw themselves as colonial district

officers who lived in Government Research Areas (GRA), they automatically without tracing our circumstances and history turned themselves into ethnic messiahs who have come to undo their fellow nationalists. The national wealth was seen as concern for selfish accomplishments. From 1999 through 2009, scandals involving billions of dollars dominated newspaper headlines.

This include the illicit auction of the \$2.3 million annual allocation of import licenses and the recent cry from the central Bank Governor, Mr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi over the contemplated 10.8billion, 12 billion, 19 billion or 21 billion, all we know is that they has been diversion going on for a long time and could have a devastating effect on the entire economy if not checked. Also Mr. Sanusi's removal according to another watch dog group in Nigeria known as the policy and legal advocacy centre said that this has exposed the wider ramifications and impunity of corruption currently bedeviling the fiscal responsibility and accountability of the government. A situation where over \$50 billion (about 8.4 trillion) had not been turned over to the government by the Nigerian National Petroleum Cooperation (NNPC) for over 18 months, (from January 2012 to July 2013), one can imagine the rate of corruption going on in this country – Nigeria. This period under consideration represented a period of military and democratic dispensation.

This also was characterized by the arrest of several officials of the federal Capital Development Authority in Abuja over an alleged hundred of US dollar fraud; punch news reported Ezekwesili as saying that Nigeria wasted over \$600 billion revenue in five decades. In February 2014, the Nigerian extractive industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) uncovered a fresh \$22.8 billion. Within this period under our focus, Nigeria has lost over \$150 million a month to ghost and other forms of payroll fraud. Having understood the pervasiveness of corruption in the social, economic and political development of Nigeria, some well known steps have been taken by government to get rid of it in the country.

The quest for total eradication of this ugly cankerworm has been on the increase both within and outside the country. Symposium and seminars have been organized and sponsored by international bodies like the Transparency International (TI) and other specialist agencies to address this problem. On the

other hand, most western countries have eagerly shown their commitment in helping Nigeria recover her stolen funds which are dumped in foreign accounts. Political leaders of these countries, having seen Nigeria from the standpoint of the 10th largest oil producer in the world accounting for more than 2.2 million barrels a day in 2011 oil revenue totaled \$50.3 billion in same year and generated 70 percent of government revenues.

Although within the period of its controversial administration of fuel subsidy payments resulted in an estimated \$13 billion in losses between 2006 and 2011. The western countries do not see the wealth of this country slightly used in the development and enhancement of opportunities; hence they zealously help in the recovery and in fighting corruption. Nigerian governments on their own have not rested on their efforts in seeing to it that corruption is totally eradicated. Several anticorruption programmes have been introduced.

In 1966, Decree known as the Public officers (Investigation of assets) decree No 5 was one of the nine-point programme of General Gowon's regime. It was under the corrupt practices Decree of 1975 that public office holders was tried for abuse of office by a 3-man panel headed by Dr. Alegbite. This was initiated by the Murtala/Obasanjo regime. There is also the code of conduct Bureau which enforces some prescribed behaviour for public officers through a code of conduct tribunal. The Ethical Revolution initiated by Shagari's administration and the war against indiscipline launched by Buhari and Idiagbon regime is yet another attempt to fight corruption.

However, through the military regimes, these bills or decrees appeared to have emanated from forceful leaders that led to the partial acceptability of these laws. As the democratic dispensation set in, there became a need for this legislations on anti-corruption to be refocused, re-strengthened for greater result, hence Nigeria ratified the united nations Convention against corruption and African Union Convention on Preventing and combating corruption. More attention was given to the Nigerian constitution 1999 which specifies requirements for asset disclosure, regulations governing the offering and receiving of gifts for members of the executive, parliament and legislature. We can also see these issues detailed in various codes of conduct for public officials, including the code of conduct for ministers and special advisers and backed by

the code of conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act 1999. Also in place is the corrupt practices and other related offences Act 2000 applies to all public officials and criminalizes active and passive bribery, as well as attempted corruption, abuse of office, fraud, extortion, and money laundering. The money laundering (prohibition) Act 2004 criminalizes individuals making or accepting cash payment in excess of NGN 500, 000 and corporate bodies making or accepting cash payment in excess of NGN 2 million without going through a financial institution. The national assembly also passed the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006, this is to combat the persistently large body of fraudulent activities spread everywhere in the country Nigeria that have negatively affected Nigeria's business reputation. Others include the Fiscal responsibility Act 2007 which is aimed at improving budgeting and, in turn, reducing opportunities for corruption, according to Transparency Internationals Global Corruption Report 2013.

In May 2011, President Goodluck Jonathan signed the information Bill into law, which allows citizens access to public records and information. Additionally, the punch, October, 2013 news article reports that a new policy aimed at reducing money laundering and other financial crimes took effect in 2012. The Independent Corrupt practices and other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Code of Conduct Bureau was to experience merger by former president Yar'adua, that proposal was to co-ordinate their work. The public complaints commission (PCC) is like an Ombudsman, is empowered to investigate citizen complaints against any governmental or private body. The Auditor General: Established under section 85 of the constitution 1999, the Auditor General of the Federation (AG) heads the Supreme Audit Institute (SAI) is a legally and independent in practice.

Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)

The NEITI is the Nigerian subject of the global initiative, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) its focus is to achieve Transparency in payments by extractive industries companies to governments and government – linked entities. The Nigerian Investment Protection Commission (NIPC) it provides information on business registration procedures and links to relevant

authorities. The federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) that provides relevant information on how and where to pay cooperate and individual Taxes.

The public procurement Act 2007, (PPA), the PPA saw the creation of the Bureau of public procurement (BPP) provides the procedure by which the BPP can debar companies guilty of major violation in the procurement process from participating in future government contracts.

Democratic Values and Anti-Corruption Laws

The word democracy is derived from the work (Demos), meaning “people”. This fundamentally means that democracy stands as the rule by the people. Democratic society should pursue the good derivable from ideal society in order to preserve public order which may involve the prohibition of acts if unchecked and unrestrained, may lead to disorder, even though those acts would not themselves do so directly.

In the same line of thought Davidson (2001:26-9) opined that:

“Another advantage of ideal civil society is ideal moral values. Moral values are individual or group preferences that influence and determine individual or group choice of action on a particular issue. It rules the conduct and behaviour of members of the society. Thus value system guides character, attitude, actions, inactions, reactions and conduct of people in a particular geographical entity”.

In support to this Nigeria has made several laws aimed at orderliness and prosperity of people of the land, Nigeria. Since the basic guide-line and principles to control and refocuses the intentions of people is the law. Therefore the administration of all anti-corruption laws is to ensure stability, conduct control, and check etc so that the attitudes of people will be fair and reasonable for fast advancement. It is because of the above, that the Supreme Court held further that it was the legislature that has the duty to determine what is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society. Consequently, some sections of the 1979 constitution, like 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 invalidates any law that is reasonably justified in a democratic society; in the interest of defense, public

morality, on public safety, public order, public health, or for the purpose of protecting the right and freedom of the persons.

Notably; the level of accountability of leadership much depends on the nature of a political system, if a party that is in power provides for only the party members having the political and economic monopoly, this will irritate the people and may lead to chaos.

According to Egbo Steve (2001:155) military interventions in Nigeria and in order part of the world had been as a result of high level of democratic corruption among other vices committed by these leaders with outright disregard to due process, best practice and democratic constitutionalism. Woodrow Wilson (1941) was correct when he observed that for the most part, the concern of public administration was far removed from the training and arranging the constitution, but he upheld that the constitution might be considered more important than routine administrative functions because it is connected to the moral principle that a public office is a "public trust".

Therefore any administrative action that violets well desired policies provided by the constitution is considered a breach of the oath and can constitute perjury, which may be punishable by criminal or civil penalties.

According to Gregory Nwizu (2002:3) Administration consists of getting things done through organizations. He also emphasized that it is defined as the activities of groups co-operating to accomplish common goals. That is, government or people's objectives, goals and purpose. Administration is the organization and use of men and materials to accomplish a purpose.

In E. N. Gladden's pompous Word, but humble meaning of administration, it is;

"The management of affairs by public bodies: the art of policy-making, of legislation and adjudication belong to the wider sphere of politics and government, of which public administration is but one sector. Thus, he adds, public administration' is concerned with the administrative activities of government.

Thus administration becomes the strong mechanism for the real implementation of varied anti-corruption laws put in place by the government to ensure strict guide on peoples activities more especially those which can check corrupt tendencies. Man by nature is inclined to deviation from stated rules, principles, orders, directions, ethics, so laws becomes a structural reminder for orderliness and economic, social, political etc growth of many nation.

It is on this positive note, that in May 2011; President Jonathan signed the freedom of information bill into law, which allows citizens access to public records and information. The new law was to uncover facts, fight-corruption, and hold officials and institutions accountable. Also a new policy aimed at reducing money laundering and other financial crimes took effect in 2012. According to 2013 news article by the punch, a new daily cash withdrawal allowance for individuals and corporate customers will be NGN 500,000 and NGN 3 million, respectively.

There exist other laws to fight corruption in the areas of politics, religion, environment, foreign affairs, academics, just to mention but a few with the commitment on the side of law implementers, state affairs according to Prof. L. D. White (1954) is applied or the fulfillment or enforcement of public policy. However, if laws especially anticorruption laws are made by the government and not properly administered or implemented such laws can not achieve the desired goals for development.

A. E. C. Ogunna (2004:19) contends that administration is a process which involves the utilization of finance, material and personal in order to achieve its set goals. The goals of public administration are in the form of services which are provided with the inputs of public administration.

Mccurdy (1977:13) talking of Democracy as an institutionalization of citizens participation, he said that citizens accept institutional participation but this does not prevent them from standing outside system and snipping at it. In general, citizens want to participate when government hurt, not when the bureaucrats tell them to. By implication, citizens try to gain access to

government on their own terms and desire the public official to deal with them on a routine basis.

In an attempt to analyse the practice of democracy in Nigeria, termed Nigeria Democracy; undemocratic in all ramifications by creating a slippery terrain for democracy and its orthodox features that have seen many nations to greatness. It has undermined human rights and other virtues of a healthy political life, Akindele (1994:76)

Granted, Democratic participation in Nigeria is constrained by many factors; among them are official corruption, centralized executive power and weak parliaments, weak media, executive military influence in politics and Judiciary that is not independent. Maintaining the same focus, the U.S. Ambassador for Nigeria, Ambassador Twadwell, when submitting his letter of credence in Abuja, described Democracy as a genuine undertaking that is calculated to address the needs and accomplishing noble goals. He also admitted the challenging processes for attaining of a true democracy is a route with difficulties.

In his remark:

“Indeed it is a delicate and often a contentious and sometimes a raucous process”. A true democracy is the process of individual citizen’s involvement in his and country and fate”.

Democracy encourages the rule of law, it is expected that all laws can be effectively implemented under the democratic principle of constitutionalism, Nigeria had recorded slight improvement since 1999 till 2009 although the military also corrupt, but powers are concentrated in the few hands of those that occupy the leadership positions, but democratic rule has more persons in leadership positions, consequently, more persons are involve in issues thus the administration of such laws thrive more in Democratic dispensation.

Nigerian Government and Institutional Mechanism for Fighting Corruption

The concept “Federalism” is a doctrine/philosophy denoting a state of affairs in a country in which there are two or more levels of government each of which has its own areas/spheres of government legislative jurisdiction. In other words,

the concept "Federalism" refers to a state of affairs in a country whereby the exercise of governmental legislative powers is shared through constitutional legal provisions among different levels of co-ordinate governments, Hearts Ofoeze (1999:2-3) Kenneth Wheare (1963:10) puts it as "the method of dividing 3 governmental legislative powers so that general (central) and regional (component) governments are each within a sphere, coordinate and independent". However, the objective for accepting centrality of government powers with component units by the nationalists was to ensure equity and fair share in the resources of the nation. Also to encourage balance and discourage selfishness amongst Nigerians in their contributions to nation's building.

Generally recognizing our concern and practice a federal nation-state or simply a federation is one in which there are two or more levels of government with the:

Central government/authority representing and acting on behalf of the whole in external affairs and in such other internal affairs that are held to be of common interest while the component authorities exercise some governmental legislative, and administrative and other governmental powers on subjects either expressly and/or implicitly allotted to them by the constitution".

A.V. Dicey (1939:3) says that federal system of government is a political contrivance intended to reconcile national unity with the maintenance of states (components) right, or simply it is strategy of governmental and institutional structuring deliberately designed according to Professor Adele Jinadu (1979:15) by political architects to cope with the twin but difficult task of maintaining unity while also preserving diversity.

From the fore-going federalism as being practiced in Nigeria allow the federal government to make laws constitutionally that binds on every components yet the states can still make and enforce its laws having supportive nature to these laws made by the central government. Worthy of mention is the attitudinal change policies of different states in Nigeria which had gone a long way in line with the anti-corruption law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Corruption and Over-Politicization of Government Programmes and Political Offices for Selfish Interest in Nigeria

The enormous pains corruption has caused the nation accompanied by the level of institutionalization will demand full understanding of this issues and adequate measures put in place for a change or total reversal.

According to David West (1995:17)

“Central to the problem we are examining is the vital and all important consideration of self-respect, belief in personal worth and confidence in self, I would for convenience of discussion, like to group all these under personal pride.

He blamed pride as a motivator to bribery that means the individual values his pride or personal worth or name. In this case such a person will not accept bribe and so no corruption.

The second situation is the antithesis of the first situation, there the individual devalues and debases his personal worth and therefore corrodes his pride. He therefore values the content of bribe higher than his personal worth and his name; therefore he is bound to accept the bribe offered.

The following two factors were not considered by David West;

- ❖ The morality of the society
- ❖ An ideal system that can detect corruption.

Considering these factors, using the western liberal perspective, insisted that the popular approach to the explanation of corruption to moral laxity or decadence: lack of common standards of morality; growing cultural and religious decay. Although some argue that every citizen can be transformed into a religious and cultural fanatic in dismissing the approach, others like the Marxists argue that the underlying the moralist principle is a solid economic current-corruption is not simply a moral issue, it is essentially a structural problem which derives from and has its root in socio-political and economic organisation of society.

Corruption is really a structural problem, as human behaviour is moulded by social environment of a place at any given period. Morality becomes a thing of

the condition of the mind subject to influence. Thus corruption is a behaviour resulting in private or personal gain at the expense of the public/group of people or individuals.

According to Akani (2001:39) corruption is the deliberate and conscious pervasion of an official process to fulfill a personal advantage. It is obtaining material enrichment or opportunities for oneself and or for other through the use of public office or personal connection in ways other than those publicly acknowledged the rule and procedures of office. From a Marxist rhythm, Akani insists that every mode of production introduces its own super structural ethic. He maintains capitalism as a matter of necessity, is anchored on private ownership which focuses on maximization of profit at all cost whether from the weapon of war or corruption. For this reason, he argues that corruption accelerates the engine of capitalist mode of production because of economic and political benefits. Akani maintains that the more capitalism expands the more corruption expands and the more it becomes sophisticated depending on the level of socio-economic development.

Having noted that corruption increases as the economy of any state advances there is also need for the government to pursue it with enabling laws for easy curtailing of such practices with matching campaigns against it looking at capitalism as the most advanced mode of production of modern state of the 21st century. Corruption is seen as part of what may be called here the economic culture of the capitalist system. This is to say, that corruption is part of the values, attitudes, skills and orientation that are at play for the maintenance of the system so that when those who are not yet at the seat of power criticizes others, but when there are placed in same seat of power, they committee more atrocities or they will act more corruptly than ever experienced (Okoli 2004:88).

Viewing from capitalist mode of production, corruption is the only mechanism for capital accumulation, especially, in these countries where capitalism did not develop indigenouse enterprise. Corruption is not blamed so much on the mode of production alone but on the development of production forces, and the structure of distribution. The reason being that production develops to the level of surplus and the error in the distribution of this surplus.

Ebow Mensah (1986:52-5) forwarded two basic approaches to understanding corruption: the psycho-sociological and the variable of structural development phenomenon, the former looks at corruption as any act intended to influence the behaviour of another in a direction at variance with proper normative course. These he calls power-dependency, the later according to him, is a function of the degree of socio-economic inequality, poverty, insecurity, development and efficiency of control in a society. Sociological relationship which is vested on economic structure.

Emphasizing on a distinction between what he called optimum and non-optimum condition of corruption. In the optimum condition the person enters into a relationship in order to preserve the already achieved status, such as person is in a position to reciprocate to the other in order to exist. While in the non-optimum condition the participant desires a certain life, without possessing the necessary condition.

Corruption being a situation whereby government officials and/or private economic agents allow personal and narrow interests to override consideration of the large public good. In this regards, corrupt acts include bribery, extortion, influence – peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money, embezzlement, over-invoicing “kick-back”, the “ghost-worker” syndrome, award of contracts to front companies belonging to public officials, payment for no-existing projects. This criteria is based on the level of authority and position of the perpetrators, as well as, the volume of resources involved.

Human being requires changing approaches in checking their actions that varies depending on their status. From the fact attached to history, those who have tried in one way or the other to solve the problem have been frustrated in one way or the other.

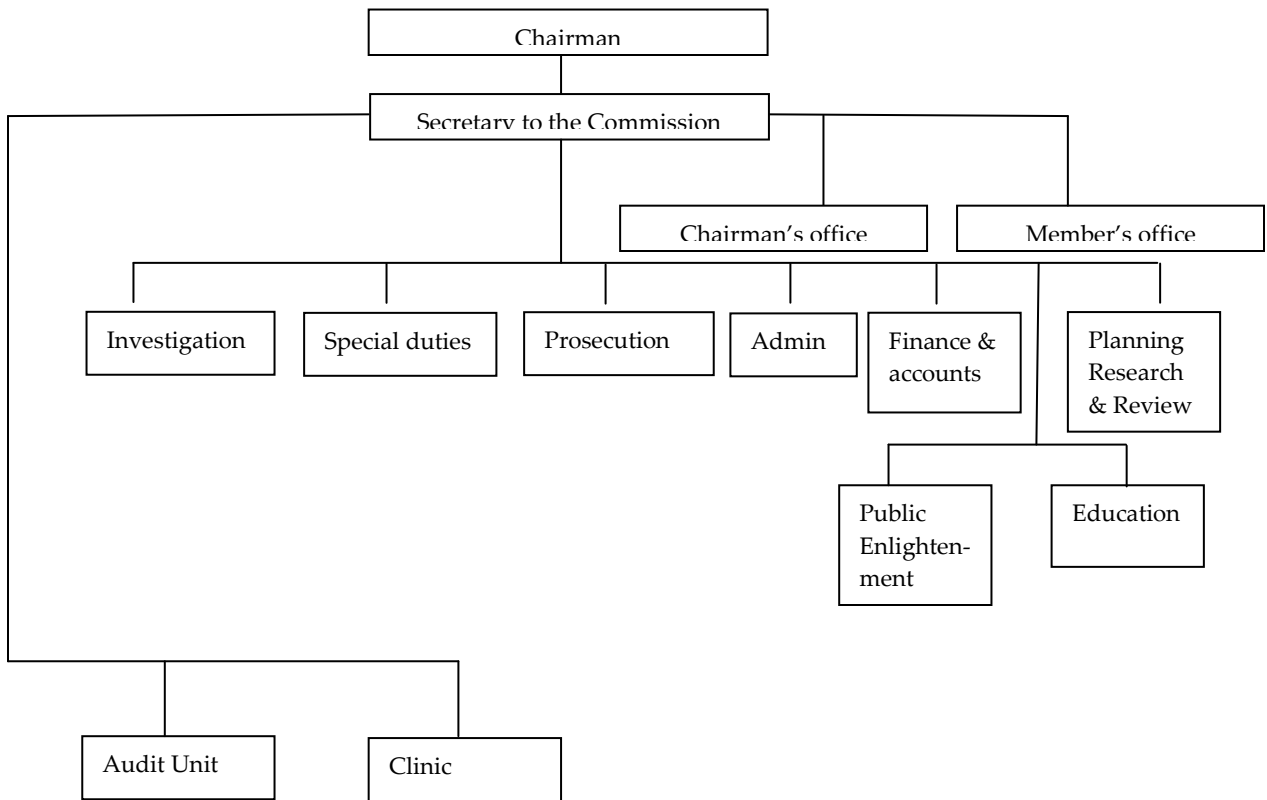
On Wednesday, June 16, 2004 marking the forth year anniversary of the establishment of independent corrupt practices and other related offenses commission (ICPC) under the leadership of its then chairman, retired justice Mustaphar Adesayo Akanbi. On the activities of the commission, the commission chairman admitted that his organisation in the last four years has

not accomplished much along the lines of its principal mission of ridding our nation of institutional corruption and related offenses.

Matching the meager accomplishments of the commission against the high expectations of most Nigerians and the international community, justice Akanbi lamented that the Obasanjo administration has shown “inadequate political will to help the commission achieve its mission”. The retired appellate court Judge saddled with the responsibility of fighting and winning battle against official corruption in Nigeria lamented both his personal and his organisations frustration over the way the Obasanjo administration has been treating the issue of anti-corruption campaign in the last four year. Vividly, his judgment came down to the simple fact: despite impressions and insinuations to the contrary, the present administration in Nigeria lacked the “political will” and perhaps interest to rid the nation of corruption.

From this stand point, it is clear that corruption can only be dealt with when all citizens embraces commitment to the service to the nation, and embracing the developmental principles so that we can sacrifice our comfort and opportunities for a better and economically stable future in line with Andare Gundre Frank (1967) stages of development.

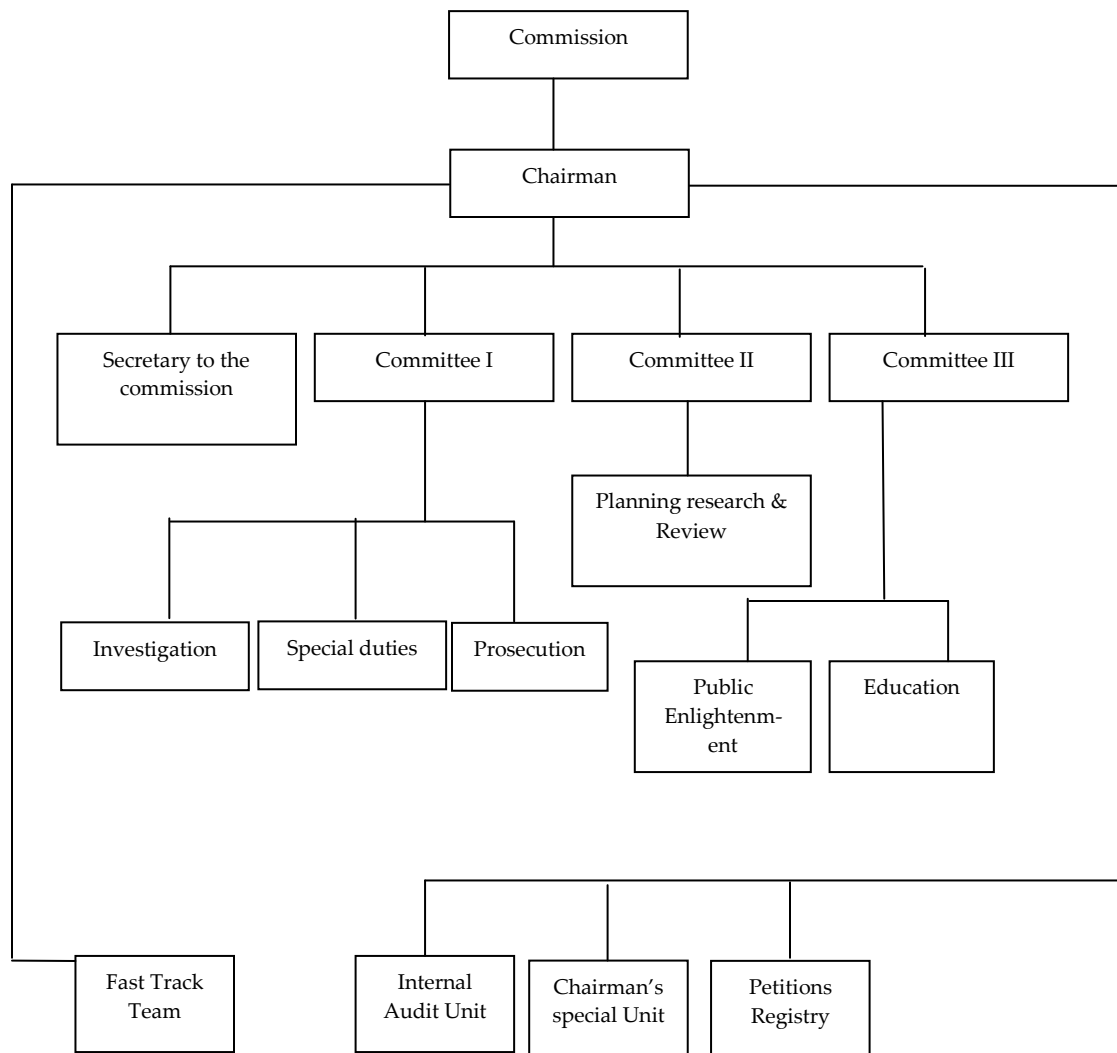
Figure 1: Organizational Structure of the ICPC



The chairman has powers to control, supervise, and give general direction for the efficient and effective functioning of the commission: in that regard, he issues “standing orders” as provided by section 7(1) of the ICPC Act. The Act also provides that the secretary to the commission under the general direction of the chairman is responsible for keeping the records of the commission and the general day to day administration and control of the staff. To facilitate execution of this function, there are two (2) support service departments, namely:

Administrative: financed and Accounts.

Figure 2: Administrative Structure of ICPC



For efficient coverage of the country the ICPC zonal offices are as follows:

| Name | Suburb | State | Country | Zone |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Head office | Wise II | Abuja | Nigeria | North-Central |
| Lagos Office | Ikoyi | Lagos | Nigeria | South-Western |
| Port Harcourt Office | Port Harcourt | Rivers State | Nigeria | South-South |
| Enugu Office | Independence Layout | Enugu | Nigeria | South-East |
| Kano Office | Kano | Kano | Nigeria | North-Western |
| Gombe Office | Gombe State | Gombe | Nigeria | North-Eastern |

Nigeria has 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas, and under the current arrangement both states and Local Governments receive monthly appropriations from the Federal Government. This system has led to the 'decentralization of corruption " a situation in which corruption has become rampant and an organized crime .Some LGAs (in Abia, Bauchi, Kaduna, Ondo, Rivers and Nasarawa states) have been accused of reckless spending and misappropriation of funds to the tune of N1.6 trillion between 1999 and 2007 (Ribadu 2007c).

Other agencies that have made significant records functioning in line with the Act establishing them in the fight against corruption via institutional mechanisms in Nigeria include the;

- The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)
- The Public Complaints Commission (PCC)
- The auditor General of the Federation etc.

The Public Complaint Commission (PCC) also called the Nigerian version of Ombudsman was inaugurated in 1999 with a Federal Commissioner as its Chief Executive. It has similar operation like the ICPC. The Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) is affiliated to the International Extractive Industries Transparency initiative (EITI). The institution is known throughout the world for investigating and insisting on transparency and due process in the operations of extractive industries, in relationship to payments to national government and other governmental agencies (Onah *et al.*, 2010:47-9).

All anti-corruption agencies have organizational structures that suit its operations. It must be made up of a political head for authority flow and administrative or bureaucratic structure to ensure the implementation and day to day record keeping bringing about permanence in the administration of anti-corruption law in Nigeria. Such bureaucratic aspects that seek to accomplish tasks according to V.S.P Rao quoted in Nwizu (2002:182-3). The word bureaucracy implies an organization characterized by rules, procedures, impersonal relations and an elaborate and fairly rigid hierarchy of authority-responsibility relationship. (Nwizu, 2002). This arrangement make directives and all initiatives to emanate and finally be employed and implemented to

achieve results, this characterizes all agencies involved in the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have discovered that the fight against corruption in Nigeria is confronted with a great imbibed value as people's custom (corruption) so high that it is generally accepted given the excuses like poverty, inequality, selfish interest, thinking of old age, tribalism, hunger, nepotism, greed etc. From the country's independence till now when evaluated, the governments had tried but there still exist lapses because humans are the main actors in corruption and in its erratic nature deserve different strategies, measures, tactics and approach for the battle against corruption to be very effective. One may blame the military rule which had no structures for the administration of anti-corruption laws for those within the supreme military group but executes justice against weak citizens. At this period, Nigerians need dividends of democracy which is only feasible if the administration of anti-corruption laws of the federal republic is bravely done. We have also seen that various anti-corruption agencies cannot achieve much due to some endogenous and exogenous factors exerting great influences on the operations of these agencies. And no doubt submit that the establishment of institutional mechanisms for fighting corruption in Nigeria has been able to clear to an extent the reproaches on the foreign (international) and local image of Nigeria.

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