

CORRUPTION

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**5TH INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL MOBILE AND COMPUTER
FORENSICS CONFERENCE & TRAINING EXPO**

**(DIGIFOR2016) LAGOS,
NIGERIA**

INTRODUCTION

- Corruption is ambiguous which can mean many things to many people. In a simple dialogue corruption is an infectious menace eating into every sector of Nigeria. If not curbed will destroy all good work.
- Corruption = Monopoly + Discretion – Transparency – Morality

CORRUPTION

- Definition
- Scale of corruption
- Forms
- Causes
- Types
- Consequences

DEFINITION

- Corruption is essentially the use of public power for private gain.
- Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit.
- Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries.
- Government, or 'political', corruption occurs when an officeholder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.
- Stephen D. Morris, a professor of politics, writes that [political] corruption is the illegitimate use of public power to benefit a private interest.

DEFINITION (CONT)

- Economist Ian Senior defines corruption as an action to (a) secretly provide (b) a good or a service to a third party (c) so that he or she can influence certain actions which (d) benefit the corrupt, a third party, or both (e) in which the corrupt agent has authority.
- Daniel Kaufmann from the World Bank, extends the concept to include 'legal corruption' in which power is abused within the confines of the law — as those with power often have the ability to make laws for their protection.

SCALE OF CORRUPTION

Corruption can occur on different scales. There is corruption that occurs as small favors between a small number of people (petty corruption), corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the symptoms of organized crime (systemic corruption).

SCALE OF CORRUPTION (CONT)

- Petty corruption occurs at a smaller scale and takes place at the implementation end of public services when public officials meet the public. for example in many small places such as registration offices, police stations and many other private and government sectors
- Grand corruption is defined as corruption occurring at the highest levels of government in a way that requires significant subversion of the political, legal and economic systems.
- The government system in many countries is divided into the legislative, executive and judiciary branches in an attempt to provide independent services that are less subject to grand corruption due to their independence from one another.

SCALE OF CORRUPTION (CONT)

- Systemic corruption (or endemic corruption) is corruption which is primarily due to the weaknesses of an organization or process. It can be contrasted with individual officials or agents who act corruptly within the system.
- Factors which encourage systemic corruption include conflicting incentives , discretionary powers ; monopolistic powers ; lack of transparency; low pay; and a culture of impunity .
- Specific acts of corruption include "bribery, extortion, and embezzlement" in a system where "corruption becomes the rule rather than the exception."

FORMS OF CORRUPTION

- **Bribery** is arguably the most common form of corruption. It entails beneficiaries using extralegal means of payment to acquire government favours and resource allocations.
- **Theft and fraud**
- Some officials steal state assets under their jurisdiction or made accessible to them as a function of their positions in government. Acquiring publicly owned assets through illegal transactions and fraud constitutes the most extensive form of such corruption.
- **Institutional corruption** is often - perhaps most commonly - associated with cases where processes of decision-making are misused by those who have the power to waive rules.

TYPES OF CORRUPTION

- **Grand corruption:** This type of corruption is defined as corruption that involves heads of state, ministers, or other senior government officials and serves the interests of a narrow group of business people.
- **Political corruption:** Political corruption involves lawmakers, such as monarchs, dictators, and legislators.
- **Corporate corruption:** This occurs in relationships between private business corporations and the suppliers or clients.
- **Administrative corruption:** Administrative corruption includes the use of bribery and favouritism to allow certain individual businesses to lower their taxes, escape regulations.
- **Petty corruption:** This type of corruption involves the payment of comparatively small amounts of money to facilitate official transactions, such as customs clearance etc.
- **Systemic corruption:** This type of corruption is that type of corruption that is prevalent throughout all levels of society.

CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

- The causes of corruption are varied and would have to be understood in specific contexts. Corruption is closely, but not solely linked to officials' discretion over rents and the degree of accountability in executing such discretion.
- **Ambiguous laws and regulations:** A lack of clear rules governing the public sector and its procedures creates loopholes for persons or firms to receive a government benefit to which they might not be entitled.
- **Poor enforcement of property rights and the rule of law**
- **Weak enforcement of law**
- **The overall culture of governance** also plays an important role in corruption

CONSEQUENCES

- Corruption undermines economic development
- Corruption undermines political stability and government legitimacy
- Corruption undermines the fabric itself
- Corruption jeopardizes the allocation of resources to sectors crucial for development
- Corruption encourages and perpetuates other illegal opportunities

DEDUCTIONS

For a farmer to kill a big tree in the midst of his farm, he needs to think wisely, before embarking on a journey he cannot get to its destination

PREVENTION

- Degree of corruption = Monopoly + Discretion – Transparency – Morality
- According to C Stephan, the moral dimension has an intrinsic and an extrinsic component. The intrinsic component refers to a mentality problem, the extrinsic component to external circumstances like poverty, inadequate remuneration, inappropriate work conditions and inoperable or overcomplicated procedures which demoralize people and let them search for "alternative" solutions.

PREVENTION (CONT)

According to the amended Klitgaard equation, limitation of monopoly and regulator discretion of individuals and a high degree of transparency through independent oversight by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the media plus public access to reliable information could reduce the problem. Any extrinsic aspects that might reduce morality should be eliminated. Additionally, a country should establish a culture of ethical conduct in society with the government setting the good example in order to enhance the intrinsic morality.

CONCLUSION

"Just say no to corruption".