

## Pervasive Corruption in Nigeria: A Holistic Approach

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**Abstract.** “Our strange romance with corruption began with the enthronement of a kleptomaniac leadership at the exits of the military from our polity. The biggest mistake of the electorates is the sale of its franchise to greedy ruling elites who captured power and cornered our resources to the extent that it is now adept at the tricks of self-perpetuation---We now have corruption sharing the spotlight with terrorism as our biggest and most common problem. They are like Siamese twins who have an embryonic relationship”. Going by international rating as regard corrupt practices, Nigeria has consistently been rated as either the most corrupt or one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

The foregoing submissions gives an insight as to the root cause of this endemic problem called “corruption” in Nigeria, the extent of its germination, survival and development in our society such that it has totally permeated all aspects of our national life and has therefore eaten deep into our national fabric from socio-economic, political, academic, industrial, religious, diplomatic and even commercial fabric and in addition its attendant consequences on the generality of the Nigerians masses. It is therefore in view of the increasing and alarming rate of this menace that informed the idea to write on this topical issue of corruption more importantly when anti-corruption crusade

constitutes the major political agenda of President Mohammadu Buhari led Federal Government of Nigeria as manifested in his on-going fight against the malaise. To this end, this paper therefore sets out to examine the varying avalanches of corrupt practices by political and public office holders in Nigeria coupled with its attendant negative consequences with a view to proffer workable and viable remedies to this clog in wheel of the Nigeria progress. Emphasis will be placed on the on-going crusade, activities /actions of the Buhari led Federal Government of Nigeria in the fight against the menace.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Pervasive Corruption, Corrupt Practices, Democracy and Nigeria.

### 1. Introduction

When Chief Olusegun Obasanjo was president, his body language was the thermostat that regulated the various agencies that prosecuted corruption. When he left, things fell apart partly because his successor, Umaru Yar’Adua, had a different moral temperature. As for Jonathan, for the most part, he simply left the goats with yams. This corroborate the earlier assertion that the root cause of the problem of corruption in Nigeria is the corrupt attitude of our political leaders particularly the stance and the political

agenda of the man at the center. Thus, unfolding his political agenda during the inauguration of President Mohammad Buhari on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, the president poised to fight the menace and therefore posited thus:

*“If we don’t kill corruption, corruption will kill us, because the survival and continued existence of the nation-state is hinged on the decapitation of hydra-headed monsters like this, and its sister anomaly-insurgency”*

Over three decades when President Mohammad Buhari left office as military head of state, his return as civilian President has continued to send jitters down the spines of corrupt public officers, owing to his well known zero tolerance for corruption, hence among his political agendas is his on-going crusade against this political monster. Just as we have resistance to the battle against insurgency and militancy in North East and South South parts of Nigeria, it is the Buhari insistence on curbing corruption during his tenure as military head of state that led to his dethronement in 1985, after about eighteen months in office and also because of his resolve to put an end to this problem that further resulted to the on-going criticism by political opponents against him for fighting this endemic problem. But the corruption vice has eaten deeply into the fabric of the nation. That is why, with the benefit of hindsight and his appreciation of the limitations of powers as a civilian president, Buhari’s second opportunity to wrestle the monster must be complete and unencumbered by the political subterfuge of opposing forces.

Although there is no gainsaying the fact that preceding governments in the past have also taken steps to combat this endemic problem of corruption in form of probes, using of task forces to recover government property in which case some people were caught, tried, indicted and thrown into jails, but notwithstanding these actions, the menace not only that it persisted but actually thrived amidst legal machineries put in place by the government, hence solving this ugly trend should not be a rocket science but rather looking for a handle on the causes of the problem will pave way for solving the problem easily. It is therefore in view of disturbing trend of corruption in Nigeria that the inauguration of President Mohammed Buhari as the

democratically elected President of Federal Republic of Nigeria on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 was greeted with many suggestions by opinion writers in Nigerian dailies, most of the suggestions also border on probe and recovery of what past government officials have stolen, and ensuring persons of proven integrity are put at the helm of affairs in the new government. In tandem with the latter suggestion, President Mohammad Buhari said public officers will be required to declare their assets.

In accomplishing his political manifesto, President Mohammad Buhari acceded to the forgoing suggestions, hence the on-going probe and trial of public office holders for various offences such as money laundering, misappropriation of public funds and false declaration of assets being handles by Economic and Financial Crime Commission, some of whom are currently standing criminal charges before different courts in Nigeria. Corruption has become a cankerworm affecting the economic life of the Nigerian masses, hence it is associated with dire social, economic and political implications on the survival of the citizenry. Some of such negative effects include the act or attitude of the politicians and leaders systematically eroding the economic strength of the masses, making them indigent, the impoverished masses seize any opportunity to grab the crumbs they offer, because survival and subsistence under economic hardship has dulled their resistance among others negative effects of corruption.

It is against this backdrop that President Mohammad Buhari Civilian led administrations is poised at weeding and rid off of the Nigerian society of this disturbing political monster as manifested in his actions, activities and public utterances since the inauguration of his presidency. Substantiating this stance, the President while hosting members of the Diplomatic Corps to a cocktail at the Presidential Villa, Abuja on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 said as follows:

*“We are resolved to build a stable and prosperous Nigeria, a country that is inclusive of all its diverse peoples and a country that is at ease with itself. Building such a country will*

*not be possible where corruption is pervasive. I will leave no stone unturned in the efforts to rid Nigeria of corruption. I must, however, add that in doing this, we shall operate within the ambit of the law. In a similar fight in the past and armed with the might of military muscle, I led a government that required persons presumed to be corrupt to prove their innocence. Today, as committed democrats and in a culture of deepening democracy, we respect the law that presumes all persons innocent until they are proven to be guilty”.*

In accomplishing this laudable objective, the President set up a Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-corruption chaired by Professor Itse Sagay. The committee recommended that there should be in existence special court to try only corruption cases for speedy administration of justice considering the fact that justice is not only being delayed in the regular courts but also that same is not even being achieved by that courts, hence rendering the legal machineries in place to toothless bulldogs. The reason is not far-fetched being predicated also on same monster by members of the Bench. Underscoring the dismal level of corruption in Nigeria in particular in the judicial arm of government, the learned author submitted that it is the politicians that corrupted the judiciary especially after the 2015 general election. The learned writer made this submission while reacting to the allegations by two Supreme Court Justices, who are under probe, that the Minister of Transport, Mr Rotimi Amaechi, attempted to comprise their judgments on election petitions. The Judges, Justice Sylvester Ngwuta and Justice Iyang Okoro who were arrested by the officials of DSS for allegedly been in possession of huge sums of money and incriminating documents having been found in their houses. Weeks after their arrest, the two judges accused Amaechi of being behind their predicament. Be that as it may, Sagay responded saying that the allegations of the judges are afterthought. Describing the level at which corruption has place this institution in the country, Sagay said corruption has brought this great institution, the judiciary to its knees after the 2015 elections. Thus, to avoid the pitfall of the existing system, it is recommended that Benchers that will preside on such court

shall be persons of proven integrity and of unimpeachable character without blemish.

## **2. The Definition and Meaning of Corruption**

Corrupt practices are manifested in various forms and therefore multi-faceted in character involving all stakeholders in governance and private sector inclusive having negative and multiplier effects on our socio-economic and political life, hence the three organs of government, the private sector as well as the civil society in general are involved in the act of corruption. It is therefore as a result of this multidimensional manifestations of this monster that informed writers on this subject to assert that corruption like any other terms, legal, social, political or otherwise has no universally acceptable and all embracing definition, hence definition ascribable to the term depends largely on the perspective and understanding of individual scholar on the subject. For this purpose therefore, a view of such definitions will be offered in this paper from the available literatures on the issue. Thus, Richard Amaechi Onuigbo & Or quoting Nye Neidenheimer, 1970 defined the term as behavior, which deviates from the normal duties of a public role because of private relationship. This according to this scholar includes such behavior as bribery, i.e., use of reward to prevent the judgment of a person in a position of trust; nepotism, meaning bestowal of patronage by reason of inscriptive relationship rather than merit; and misappropriation i.e., illegal appropriation of public fund for private-regarding uses.

Consequently, the political administrative scholars further defined corruption by acknowledging the definition offered by Car Friedrich Heidenheimer, 1970 as follows; corruption can be said to exist whenever a power-holder who is charged with doing certain things i.e., who is a responsible functionary or officeholder is, by monetary or other rewards not legally provided for, induced to take actions which favours whoever provides the reward and thereby does damage to the public and its interests. Still on the same vein, the concept was also defined as acts or transactions including bribery, fraud such as inflation of contract sums by public officers; unauthorized variation of

contracts; payment for jobs not executed; payment of ghost workers; overpayment of salaries and allowances to staff; diversion of government revenue by public officials; deliberate irregularities in the management of accounting procedure. It is also defined as an arrangement that involves an exchange between two parties i.e., the demander and supplier which (1) has an influence on the allocation of resources either immediately or in the future; and (2) involves the use or abuse of public or collective responsibility for private ends. Corruption is further described as an abuse of authority or trust for private benefit and also a temptation indulged in not only by public officials but also by those in positions of trust or authority in private enterprises or non-profit organizations. Corruption also involves behaviours on the part of the officials in the public sector, whether politicians or civil servants, in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves or those close to them, by the misuse of the public power entrusted to them. Finally, the concept is also defined as including bribery, fraud and other related offences.

Finally on the definition and meaning of corruption, it is thus submitted considering the examination of the various definitions as identified above that the scope of corruption is elastic and therefore there is no universally acceptable definition of the concept and it is on the basis of this that corruption can be classified in to three basic types namely:

- (a) Collusive corruption involving planned cooperation of the giver and receiver
- (b) Extraordinary corruption involving forced extraction of bribes and other favours from vulnerable victims by those in authority.
- (c) Anticipatory corruption which occurs when bribe or gift is offered in anticipation of favour from the recipient of the gift to the giver of the gift.

### **3. Catalogues of Corrupt Practices under President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan led Democratic Government**

Undoubtedly, the level at which political office holders as well as public servants in general

looted the nation's treasury during the administration of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan appeared highly unprecedented and worrisome. The development got to an ugly trend such that cases of misappropriation of public funds filled pages of Nigerian dailies almost on daily basis. In this paper therefore, recourse shall be heard to some of these corrupt practices perpetrated by overzealous political and public officers during the Goodluck Jonathan administration.

Chief among cases of corrupt practices during the regime of President Goodluck Jonathan was the arms deals case in which the former National Security Adviser (NSA) to the former President Jonathan, Sambo Dasuki was at the centre stage technically captioned "*Dasuki Gate*" alleged to have siphoned \$2.2 Billion by the award of unauthorized contracts from the money budgeted to purchase arms and ammunitions to fight insurgency in the North East Nigeria. Although, investigations by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission revealed the facts that others political and public office holders were also involved in the arms deals. Particularizing the manners by which the arms deals money was siphoned, it has been revealed by the investigations conducted by the Anti-graft Agency - the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) that Ex-Minister of State for Defence, Musiliu Obanikoro confessed to the agency that he collected the whopping sum of #4.745billion from the former National Security Adviser (NSA) to the former President, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Sambo Dasuki. During interrogation by the Agency, the Ex-Minister gave the details of how the sum was expended in the following manners:

--That the sum of #2.23billion was alledgely transferred to Governor Ayodele Fayose of Ekiti State out of #4.745billion;

--#60million was converted to \$5,377,000 to Governor Ayodele Fayose in cash and #1.3billion was received by the Governor's associate, Mr Abiodun Agbele;

--#1.3billion was flown to Akure Airport in two chartered flights for delivery to Agbele

--#759,384,300 changed into Dollars through Bureau-De-Change Firms

-#160million was used to purchase cars through Balmoral International Limited  
 #1,219,490,000 was ferried by Obanikoro in two flights to a branch of Zenith Bank at plot 13, Alagbaka Estate, Akure to evacuate the cash and received by Fayose's associate, Abiodun Agbele -#2billion allegedly withdrawn by Obanikoro and his two children in cash. The ex-minister was at the time of writing this paper still under the custody of the EFCC having been detained for the alleged misappropriation of arms deal money.

Underscoring the dismal level at which corruption has permeated in to the fabric of our society, evidence was given before the Federal High Court, Abuja presided over by Justice Nnamdi Dimgba by Mr. Alade Sunday, a manager at Zenith Bank on how Obanikoro looted the nation's treasury having siphoned and delivered about #1.219Bn to Fayose's aid, Abiodun Agbele for onward transmission to his boss. The witness went further that it took the cashiers about 10 days to count the money.

Furthermore, Dasuki has been arraigned before the court and has been granted bail but still in prison custody due to the executive fiat amidst meeting the bail conditions. President Mohammad Buhari is poised not to free Dasuki based on his contention that he committed a serious offence. The alleged misappropriation of arms deal money by Dasuki has also been linked to the erstwhile President Goodluck Jonathan, through whose authority and approval he released the money in piece-meal and diverted same to the purpose for which the money was not meant for. On Dasuki Gate, Former President Goodluck Jonathan has therefore agreed to testify before the court in defence of the alleged offence against Dasuki. In defence of Dasuki, the former President avers as follows:

*"We bought warships, we bought aircraft, and we bought lots of weapons for the army. It is not possible that he stole \$2.1billion"*.

Furthermore, it was also revealed by the Nigerian dailies that the ex-Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to the former President Goodluck Jonathan, Colonel Ojogbane Adegbe had been alleged of the disbursing more than N10 billion oil proceeds to People Democratic Party (PDP)

nomination convention delegates. Col. Adegbe was detained by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which was at that time on the trail of another key aid to the former President, Waripamowei Dudafa, former Special Assistant on Domestic Affairs to the said former President. Going by the investigations conducted by the detectives of EFCC as reported in the pages of dailies, it was revealed that Adegbe and Dadufa collected the cash valued \$47m and some Euros from the office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Sambo Dasuki. The money was diverted by ONSA from a Signature Bonus Account in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

According to the EFCC's investigations, the N10billion is believed to have been diverted from oil receipts as follows: USD5.0M (November 14, 2014); \$47m(November 27, 2014); Euro 4.0M (December 3, 2014) and Euro 1.6M (December 24, 2014). The diverted money was used to bribe or settle PDP delegates to adopt ex-President Goodluck Jonathan for second term. The N10 billion was taken from the Signature Bonus Account (oil block account) with CBN. Particularizing the manners of withdrawal of the diverted sum, the CBN in response to the EFCC's letter referenced and dated as EFCC/EC/CBN/12/163 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria avers as follows:

*"The N10billion constitutes two tranches of N5.08billion, each debited to the CBN/OAGF SIGNATURE BONUS CCOUNT NO 400225220 vide OAGF memo Ref: FD/LP2015/1/28 DF to the office of the National Security Adviser A/C Number 20172241019 with the CBN, Abuja and the second one was for credit into the account of National Security Adviser Account Number 1014199287 with Zenith Bank Plc Wuse II Abuja.*

*The transactions were consummated on November 10, 2014. The mandate that authorized the withdrawal of USD 47.0M was from the office of National Security Adviser (ONSA) with Ref: NSA/366/S dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The mandate was processed for dollar cash payment to Mr. S.A. Saliu on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

*The USD 5.0M was via a memo from ONSA memo REF; ACCT/86/VOL.2/218 dated November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The National Security Adviser Account Number 20172241019 was debited and Dollar cash payment was made to Mr. Wambai Ibrahim on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in line with the mandate.*

*The Euro 4.0M and Euro 1.6M transactions were via mandate from ONSA memo REF: NASS/366/S dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The NSA's Account Number 20172241019 was debited and Euro cash payment effected as follows: Euro 4.0M on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 and Euro 1.6M was on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. These sums were released to Mr. S.A. Saliu as stipulated in the mandate. Attached are the copies of relevant documents please."*

Testifying to the scams deal, ex-NSA, Col. Sambo Dasuki said the over N10billion was given to the ADC and Dudafa. The accused testified further thus:

*"I am aware in November, I cannot remember the exact date. My office requested the CBN to exchange N10billion from the account of the office of National Security Adviser domiciled in CBN. The money was exchanged and \$47m and some Euros which I cannot remember the exact amount was delivered at my residence. The money was for delegates that attended the nomination convention. The money was paid and sent to Honourable Dadufa (SSAP Household) ADC (C-I-C) for distribution on the instruction of the President. ...."*

It was also learnt that former President Goodluck Jonathan's cousin (Mr Azibaola Roberts) was alleged to have been involved in Dasuki's arm deal having obtained the sum of \$40million (N12.7B) from the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA). The said President's cousin was arrested in connection with the purported payment of the sum of \$ 40million by ONSA for the purported contract which was tagged as *purchase of tactical equipment for Special Forces* but which was actually utilized to pacify militants in the Niger Delta. Finally on Dasukigate, investigations on the arms deal scam have it that 10 top Nigerians were involved in the deal.

Consequently, it was also reported that the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) investigators discovered that about N4billion was channeled through the account which former Finance Minister (Mrs Nenadi Usman) operated for campaign funds purposes. The account according to the newspaper report was titled "*Joint Trust Dimension Nigeria Limited*" in which the substantial part of the funds was disbursed to the People Democratic Party (PDP) chieftains ahead of the 2015 general election. The sum of \$400,000 collected by the said minister was meant to bribe electoral officers for the purpose of altering the results of the presidential election from Yobe, Borno, Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe and Kano States. Regrettably, the said minister diverted the sum into personal commitments instead of using same to allegedly bribe officials of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to falsify the results.

Particularizing the alleged bribery, it was further reported that the EFCC arrested the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Cross River State, Gesila Khan and four others over a N650.9million 2015 bribery scandal. The other suspects and the cash against their names are Fidelia Omoile (Electoral Officer in Isoko-South Local Government Area of Delta State) N112, 480, 000; Uluochi Obi Brown (INEC's Administrative Secretary in Delta State)-N111, 500, 000; a former Deputy Director of INEC in Cross River State, Edem Okon Effanga-N241, 127, 000 and the Head of Voter Education in INEC in Akwa Ibom, Immaculata Asuquo-N241, 127, 000. In addendum, many INEC staff and ad-hoc workers got enmeshed in the bribery scandal. Still on the same vein, over 100 electoral officials have also been penciled down by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to face criminal charge before the court for allegedly receiving part of the \$115m (#23bn) disbursed by a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, during the countdown to the 2015 presidential election.

Other notable corrupt practices perpetrated by overzealous Nigerians public office holders

during the regime of former President Goodluck Jonathan include #195 billion Maina Pension Scam for which no punishment was meted on him; kerosene subsidy scam, also the government then did nothing to those involved in the scam; \$6billion Fuel Subsidy Scam for which those involved were charged to court, though the cases on the deal have not been determined; 123billion naira-Stephen Oronsaye- no action was taken by the government in respect of the matter; police pension fund fraud- the accused was convicted and accordingly sentenced to two years imprisonment or #750,000 fine but paid #750,000 fine; stella oduah car purchase scandal- no punishment to that effect; NNPC missing \$20billion naira- the government of Jonathan instead of allowing the law to take its course against the perpetrators fired the then Governor of Central Bank, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi who disclosed the missing money to the government. Although, the Federal Government ordered an Audit of the NNPC and the audit report indicts NNPC and the corporation was directed to refund \$1.48billion.

#### **4. Conclusions**

It is apparent from the foregoing discussion that corruption does not only exist in Nigeria but has fertilized, reproduced, developed, germinated, survived, multiplied and indeed thriving prosperously having manifested and still manifesting itself in all spheres of the country's social, political, economic, religious, educational, military, business and otherwise. Additionally too, this paper has also x-rayed the attendant consequences of this monster in particular increasing the poverty level of the downtrodden masses and hindering the country's economic growth and development.

#### **5. Recommendations**

Although, a lot of suggestions have been offered on how to curb this problem especially since the inauguration of the President Mohammad Buhari led democratic government but none of these recommendations is deep enough as to completely uproot the ghost of corruption and the danger that corruption poses to our corporate existence. Thus, to be able to find viable and

lasting solutions to this problem, we therefore need to understand the nature or characteristics of corruption and what fertilizes it. On the basis of this premises and subscribing to Momoh's views, the following suggestions are hereby recommended.

Firstly, there is the need to convene a National Conference in the form and format of a truth commission to bring together public officers of the ranks of President, Vice-President, Governors, Deputy-Governors, Ministers, Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries, Local-Government Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Directors of Local-Government, Heads of other Government Agencies and Parastatals, leadership of National and State Assemblies, the Judiciary, Government Contractors both local and foreign, private sectors collaborators including but not limited to their friends and families to come to say something before the commission with a view to finding lasting solutions to the problems of Nigeria including the menace of corruption.

Such truth and reconciliation commission is often held in situations where people fought bloody wars or where people have suffered persecution and oppression for a long time. These are not the situations in Nigeria but rather in the case of our country, there is an agonizing poverty, bleaking of the future of the Nigerian children, being leaders of tomorrow, who have been made to live without employment, the displaced people and victims of insecurity (insurgency, kidnapping, armed robbery, trafficking in persons, prostitution etc) are all consequences of corruption being worst than genocide. If the conference is sincerely, transparently and motive driving in character, will undoubtedly make us to tell the bitter truth to ourselves and it would serve as a strong signal that we are willing to unearth the stinking body of corruption for everybody to see. Also, it will be a strong signal that whatever you do now, you will be called to account someday. The outcome of the conference will be to give some people amnesty after they return part of their rip-off back to the state and if possible rehabilitated to join the building of a new Nigeria.

Consequently, our educational curriculum from the pre-tertiary institutions to the university level should include teaching of a course designed to educate, enlighten and purged off our children from the scourge of corruption. This teaching and training of anti-corruption course should not be limited to our educational institutions alone but should extend to religious organizations, ethno-social groups, trade associations among others. Among things to be taught in the anti-corruption course is that people should be able to explain the source of the money they have; they must also realize that income illegally acquired harm others and deprive people a vital resource to develop their lives, families and their communities.

Thirdly, this paper also recommends the proposal conceived, mooted and initiated by the Professor Itse Sagay- led Presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption proposing the establishment of special anti-corruption court to try serious crimes, including corruption cases. The proposed bill is titled "*An Act to provide for the establishment of a Special Crimes Court as a superior court of record to allow for speedy trials of certain offences, including economic and financial crimes, terrorism, money laundering and corruption offences and for related matters*".

The motive behind the proposed bill is to ensure speedy trials of the offences as indicated in its title as stated above. It is contended in this paper that it is not enough to have a special court to trial corruption cases as problems associated with regular courts will still affect the proposed court. Such pitfalls include among others the pervasive corruption in the judiciary and the slow pace of trial not been only attributed to the courts alone but also due the abuse of legal system by counsels seeking frivolous reliefs to pervert the course of justice. Thus to avoid the repeat of these inadequacies with the proposed court, it is therefore suggested that judges that will man such court should be people of probity and of high level of integrity who must have purged themselves from any act of corrupt practices. This paper further proposes collaborative efforts between the executive and the judiciary by decisively addressing the

structures in the current judicial system thereby coming up with more innovative ways to tackle the pervasive corruption in the country's polity.

The above suggestions made by Momoh are considered lofty and laudable, yet he did not advert his mind to the machineries and modus operandi for the execution and implementations of the recommendations, hence, this paper suggests the setting up of a body in the form of task force that will be responsible primarily for the implementation of the recommendations proffered above. This is partly because similar conferences had earlier been convened in the past where numerous issues militating against the progress of the Nigerian society were identified and extensively discussed and the way forward were offered to fill the gaps. Unfortunately, the communiqués issued at the end of the conferences did not see the light of the day. Thus, to avoid the pitfalls of the past, it is our considered position that the foregoing suggestions should not merely be on paper but rather should manifestly be seen to have been fully implemented to the letter.

Finally, taking proactive steps to accomplish the above recommendations will undoubtedly portray Nigeria before the international community as a serious nation striving hard to get rid of corruption to salvage the already battered image of the country to achieve a corrupt free nation.

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