

Corruption is derived from a Latin verb *rumpere*, to break. According to this approach, corruption is where the law is clearly broken (Elaine Byrne). The Transparency International defined corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. The World Bank International Affairs Director Dr. Vinay Bhargava in the article 'The Cancer of Corruption' presented during the World Bank Global Issue Seminar Series defined corruption as the abuse of public or cooperative office for private gain. Dishonest or illegal behaviour especially by powerful people such as government officials or police officers and was first used in the 14th century according to Merriam Webster dictionary. But generally and more broadly, corruption can be defined as violation or irregular alteration or debasement or subversion of a generally or an officially accepted standard or procedure or method for carrying out a duty or maintaining social, political administrative, legal and or religious order according to the article on economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) operational definition of corruption and the implications.

Due to their differences in perspective and areas of concentration, scholars have identified various types of corruption. Therefore we will concentrate on those types that are more rampant in Nigeria and they include political, systemic, grand, petty, moral and individual corruption among others. Hence, the essay will concentrate more on political corruption among others.

Technology is one of the rapidly growing sectors in the world, therefore the need for technological development to fight corruption becomes inevitable. For instance, the use of automated tax administration was adopted in Afghanistan and yielded successfully, it has reduced corruption opportunities and built public trust in their tax system simultaneously. Obviously, it increased their revenue collection from \$250m to almost \$2bn since 2004. This technological approach in tax administration adopted by Afghanistan can equally be harnessed in Nigeria and even do more better because of the presence of technological bodies such as National Information and Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) within the country whose can develop a software that can carry the work out or provide a means of carrying out the task in an easy way. Also a large number of Nigerians has access to electronic devices which could ease the work of these bodies and contribute significantly to fight against corruption in Nigeria. Although transparency and measure steps must be ensured.

Furthermore, digitalisation of public service can help largely to curb corruption especially in recruitment where what you know does not matter but who you know matters, here total online recruitment can reduce corruption specifically that of nepotism and bribery in admission, excise, promotion and others.

Traditional and religious leaders can be fused into campaign against corruption. They are the most respected and closest element to the people, thereby providing an enabling environment for the leaders to understand and negotiate with them. This cordial relationship can be utilised to fight corruption within the society. The *Area Head* (*Mai Anguwa*) is the least traditional ruler within a given society in the northern Nigeria, yet he can play an important role especially in a police station where he can bail someone free of charge as enshrined by constitution but violated by most police divisions. Also he can question a given division of police to retard any case where justice is not observed. He can also receive reports on those officers that ask for bribe and any other forms of corruption and make them to face the law.

Traditional and religious leaders together with civil society can be harmonised to fight corruption through advocacy and monitoring government projects and join forces to call for accountability and transparency in government activities.

The high class traditional and religious leaders should be inserted in government committee, like the present administration presidential committee on fight against corruption to help tackle the problem.

Zero tolerance towards any corrupt official should be highly mesmerized within the public and private sector of the entire community such as total segregation from participating in politics and other stifled laws should be encouraged.

More so, encouraging more civil society and journalism participation can rapidly curb corruption, the civil society can raise and make awareness in the society while journalists can propagate anti corruption through media. Nevertheless the fight against corruption would not be complete without mentioning the anti corruption bodies, here there is need for independent anti corruption bodies free from any influence by government or its ministry for example the EFCC and other related agencies should be given autonomy to choose their chairman without any influence by government as we have been witnessing in Nigeria.

In addition the capital punishment should be adopted in our law once one is proved guilty of corruption such as death penalty or arm amputation as observed in China and Saudi Arabia respectively.

Finally good governance, empowering people, employment opportunities should be provided.

