

**Addressing the Challenge of Corruption in Maximising African Diaspora Potentials for Economic Development: Nigeria in Focus**

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**Abstract**

**T**here is a continuous exodus of Africans from Africa to other continents and within Africa. The World Bank report indicates that over 39 million Africans live in North America, 113 million in Latin America, 13.6 million in the Caribbean and 3.5 million in Europe. This movement of Africans has led to on-going debate on ‘brain drain’ and ‘brain gain’ in Africa. Many scholars and researchers have identified unemployment, underdevelopment, injustice and insecurity as major factors for the migration of Africans from Africa with little or no attention on establishing corruption as a major factor. The current trend, beyond the debate over who benefits as between the receiving state and African states (origin state) from the intra and extra-Africa migration, is the need for policy guidance and strategy on how African States can harness potentials of Africa-diaspora for transformative and sustainable economic growth by eliminating existing challenges in this regard. This paper argues that African migration can play a key role in the transformation and development of the continent. This paper, using doctrinal and content analysis approaches and Nigeria as a case study exposes how corruption is a major challenge to harnessing diaspora potential for economic development in Africa and argues that addressing the challenge of corruption will help African States maximize potentials of African diaspora in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 in the continent. In this regard, the paper offers strategies needed to address the challenge of corruption in order to maximize African diaspora potentials for the economic growth and development of the continent.

*Keywords: Corruption, African-Diaspora, Economic Development, Nigeria, Potentials*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

There is a continuous exodus of Africans from Africa to other continents and within Africa (World Bank 2008). Over 39 million Africans live in North America, 113 million in Latin America, 13.6

million in the Caribbean and 3.5 million in Europe (Firsting, 2016). African migrants have doubled between 1980 and 2010 reaching 30.6 million, representing around 3% of the continent's total population (World Bank, 2014). Nigeria has over 15 million Nigerians in various parts of the world (Dabiri-Erewa, 2017).

This trend has been described as a threat to Africa continent (Firsting, 2016). Africa is estimated to have lost 20,000 academics, 10% of highly skilled information technology and finance professionals, and that more African scientists and engineers live and work in the US and the UK than anywhere else in the world (Firsting, 2016).

Initially, the emigration of skilled citizens was largely seen as a loss of trained citizens by the origin States know as brain drain. However, this view is rapidly dissipating for a more pragmatic and progressive line of thinking which sees skilled migration as an opportunity to get remittances, trade, investment projects, and new knowledge. The diaspora of developing and States in Africa can be a potent force for development for their States of origin, through remittances, promotion of trade, investments, research, innovation, and knowledge and technology transfers know as brain gain (SDGs, 2015; Dansab, 2017). The attainment by African States of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 7 aspirations set out in African Union Agenda 2063 will largely depend on their abilities to harness the potentials of African Diaspora.

It is pertinent to point out that both the developed and the developing States are confronted today with the challenge of linking with, harnessing and maximising the potentials of their diaspora. The success recorded by some States in this regard disproves the findings of early studies and research on 'immigration policy that assumed that migrants leave their country, settle in a new country, start integrating in their new society, and abandon their ties with their country of origin' (Plaza and Ratha, 2011). The reality today with the aid of globalization is that the assertion of loss of identity and total separation from the States of origin by immigrants is fallacious. Most immigrants remain connected with and give back to their native States while residing abroad. However, their efforts are being hindered by challenges such as corruption in the Origin State. Therefore, the present research effort is geared towards finding out how to maximise the potentials of African-Diaspora by addressing the existing challenges such as corruption facing the African States in this regard.

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Against this backdrop, this paper, using Nigeria as a case study addresses five key areas, namely the clarification of key concepts, African diaspora potentials, the challenge of corruption in harnessing African diaspora potentials for Africa economic development, the challenge faced in combating corruption in Nigeria and strategies needed to address the challenge of corruption in maximizing African-Diaspora potentials for the economic growth of the continent. Although the research uses Nigeria as a case study, the findings and strategies can be used in dealing with the challenge of corruption in maximizing diaspora potentials for the development of Africa.

## **2.0 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

There are two key concepts that require clarification to aid the reader better understand the discussion in this paper. These are corruption and African diaspora.

### **2.1. Concept of Corruption**

There is no single, comprehensive and universally accepted definition of corruption. This is because an attempt to precisely define the concept of corruption comes with the danger of excluding some conducts that may fall within corrupt practices (Arnone and Borlini, 2014). Thus, definitions of corruption vary from State to State in relation to prevailing factors like acceptable social, cultural and legal considerations that determine the problem as it appears in each State (Langseth, 2002:2). Also, its definitions vary, depending on the background and perspective of the definer, theoretical assumption, emphasis chosen and the purpose for which the definition was constructed (ibid). The economic or commercial models usually define corruption to mean any illegal harm to economic stability (OECD, 2004:22). Legal models tend to focus on criminal areas such as breach of trust, code of practice and anti-corruption laws (Langseth, 2002:2). Political models usually focus on the allocation and abuses of power or influence (Langseth, 2002:8). These perspectives only describe aspects of the problem of corruption.

This article adopts ‘descriptive approach’ in defining corruption. This approach describes specific acts, practices, omissions or offences that can be legally called corrupt practices. This approach is the best approach in defining an act that is so insidious. Also, the approach helps to avoid the danger of excluding acts or omissions that would have been a corrupt behaviour if restrictive definition approach was to be used. This criticism on this approach is that it is not a satisfactory approach as seeking a precise definition of a word is helpful (Hatchard, 2014). However, Justice

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Potter Stewart's statement perfectly addresses this concern. Potter Stewart of the United States Supreme Court (*Jacobellis v Ohio, 1964*; Johnston, 1996) stated that:

I shall not today attempt further to define the kind of material I understand to be embraced within the shorthand description; perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it.

The above underscores the futility of attempting to offer a specific definition of an evasive concept such as corruption (Shehu, 2006: 75). It is not surprising to find in the recent anti-corruption legal frameworks adopting the descriptive approach in their definition of corruption. Both the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) adopt this approach. Section 2 of the Nigerian Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Act defines corruption to include bribery, fraud and other related offences. Therefore, corruption can be defined using descriptive approach as meaning an act or practice by a person in a position for his or her personal gain which the law prescribed as corruption offence.

Corruption manifests in the different ways. These are the forms of corruption and they are nepotism, misuse of public property and fund, influence peddling, patronage, bribery, improper political party donation, embezzlement, state or regulatory capture, abuse of discretion: abuse of discretionary power for personal gain and extortion. These forms of corruption are categorised broadly into two: petty and grand corruption. The effects of these various forms of corruption are far-reaching and damaging to any society. Corruption has national and transnational effects.

## 2.2. African Diaspora

There are different definitions of African Diaspora. Some defined it as consisting of a diverse, multifaceted and multigenerational demographic spanning every continent and socioeconomic status (Araia, 2012). This implies that African diaspora is not monolithic but rather it includes persons who left home or were raised abroad for a variety of reasons, including war, conflict, insecurity or the lack of economic opportunity and search of better life. This class of persons maintained a relationship with the continent by any means, either through regular visits, community language school or establishing transnational business ties (ibid). According to the

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African Union (AU) the ‘African Diaspora consists of people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union’ (Executive Council of African Union, 2005). This definition of AU is more encompassing as it embraces persons of Africa origin, their nationalities notwithstanding. Therefore, an American of African origin is an African diaspora.

### **3.0 AFRICAN-DIASPORA POTENTIALS FOR AFRICA GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The reality now is that the continuous migration of African from Africa may not abate any time soon. This realization has shifted the focus and attention to seeking ways of maximising the potentials of African Diaspora. Identification of these potentials is critical to maximising the potentials of the African diaspora. In fact, a discussion on African-Diaspora potentials for Africa economic development is to answer the question: What roles can African diaspora play and should play in supporting Africa’s growth and development? There has been attempt to limit the potentials of African-Diaspora potentials to three areas: remittances, tourism and brain gain (Fatunla, 2012). This view has since been disproved by other reports and studies (Araia, 2012). The following are the identifiable potentials of African Diaspora.

a. **Promotion of Development:** The African Diaspora possesses potentials for Africa development. They offer innovation, broad based networks, and outreaches. This networks and outreaches offer Diaspora entrepreneurs and organizations spaces in the continent for African-led development and growth. The initiatives include villages in Action, Shea Yeleen, Sierra Visions, Face Africa, and Akili Dada. The aim of these initiatives is to link with local communities to promote development in such communities.

b. **Assisting during Humanitarian Crisis and the Internally Displaced Person (IDPs):** The Nigerian diaspora have demonstrated their undying love for Nigeria and are constantly in touch with their communities, relatives and friends across the State. They remain a huge resource in time of needs and emergency. The IDPs arising from Boko Haram insurgencies and the farmers/herders crisis receive supports from Nigerian Diaspora. Different diaspora groups are sending helps to this group of persons. Also, the drought ravaging East Africa and Somalia’s

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famine have spurred Africans on the continent and abroad into action. Kenyans, South Africans, Nigerians, Somalis abroad and various diaspora groups have responded with so much help and have raise millions of dollars for relief. The Global Somali Response is one of these groups.

**c. Promotion of Relationship between Africans and Non-Africans:** African: African Diasporas are the main bridges between other Africa and the other continents. They foster relationship with persons from other continents and States via marriages, business partnership and friendship. Through this, people from other States are able to witness the rich cultural heritage, diversity and histories of African from African Diaspora thereby ‘Myths are dispelled. Messages are conveyed. And stereotypes are broken’ (Araia, 2012).

**d. Opportunities for African to tell their Stories and Add to African Narrative:** Although, stories of Africa’s development and its needs must be told by African living on the continent, the African diaspora can help facilitate those stories. This can be achieved via various diaspora groups, diaspora owned businesses, faith based groups, community organizations, youth associations and private enterprises.

**e. Technology and Skills Transfer:** Another vital potential of African Diaspora is the transfer of knowledge and skills. The establishment of an annual African Diaspora Summer School (ADSS) by the African Development Bank in partnership with relevant international and regional stakeholders was primarily for this purpose. This has strengthened the role of the Diaspora in Africa’s economic development (Gnimassoun and Anyanwu, 2018: 231). These potentials are transferable through: (i). Planed, structured and repeat visits (ii.) Use of Virtual/tele-work. The use of Information and Communications Technologies has significantly reduced costs of transferring skills by eliminating physical face to face meeting. (iii.) Permanent relocation: voluntarily returning permanently to the State of origin. One major opportunity that African diaspora present is the transfer of gained knowledge, skills and expertise (World Bank, 2007).

**f. Remittance and Financial Transfers:** Remittance is one of the major potentials of African diaspora. The remittances of developing countries were estimated at \$404 billion in 2013, up 3.5 percent compared with 2012. Growth in remittance flows to developing countries was expected to accelerate to an annual average of 8.4 percent over the next three years, raising flows to \$436 billion in 2014 and estimated \$516 billion in 2016 (World Bank, 2014). There was a rebound in

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all regions in 2017: in Europe and Central Asia by 20.9 percent, in Sub-Saharan Africa by 11.4 percent, in the Middle East and North Africa by 9.3 percent, in Latin America and the Caribbean by 8.7 percent, in East Asia and the Pacific by 5.8 percent, and in South Asia by 5.8 percent. In 2017, Nigeria received \$22 billion in remittance and more than \$24.3 billion in official remittances in 2018 (World Bank Press Release, 2018 and 2019). The amount received by many developing countries, through the diaspora and migrant remittances are greater than both foreign direct investment and Official Development Assistance.

**g. Investment:** One major reason for the underdevelopment of African States is inadequate investment and industrialization. African Diaspora has the potential to change the narrative in this regard by attracting investment and personally investing in their State of origin (Kapur and McHale, 2006). Nigerian Diasporas can provide investors in their host States with a signal of the work ethic, labor quality, and business culture that exists in Nigeria. These signals enhance the quality of information available to investors in the host State. Also, African Diaspora members are more likely to invest in their State or community of origin for two reasons. The first is of out of their personal affiliation to their home country, and secondly due to their lower sensitivity to investment risks compared to international investors (Mohapatra and Plaza, 2008). National experts living abroad are considered more trustworthy investors by government in Africa and can pave the way for international investors (Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2008). The foreign direct investment has potential to stimulate economic growth, facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology, and generate employment in Africa. International Monetary Fund indicates that, although households typically spend a large proportion of their remittances on consumption, their propensity to save can be as high as 40 percent (International Monetary Fund, 2007). The focus of government and banks should aim at encouraging savings and channeling these savings into productive uses. This is one of the reasons many governments aim to mobilize the remittance flows received from abroad for investment purposes.

**h. Driving Force of Private Sector Initiatives:** African Diaspora provides driving force for private sector development via various initiatives. These initiatives promote diaspora engagement in the private sector in order to tackle developmental challenges in their State of Origin (United Nations Development Programme, 2004). One of them targets entrepreneurs of Sub-Saharan

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African origin who live in Europe and are willing to support the development efforts of their home countries (World Bank, 2009).

**i. Trade Promotion:** African Diaspora when compared to foreigners, the African Diaspora has access to information on the investment climate, overall conditions and opportunities in their country of origin. Their network of business contacts and knowledge of the market place them in a better position to develop trade relations between their States of origin and the receiving States (International Dialogue on Migration, 2005). Also, by the concept of “nostalgia trade”, African Diaspora has the potentials to increase typical products of the home country that were not available beforehand or whose sales volume might increase with the number of diaspora members buying them for patriotic reasons.

**j. Access to Capital by Government:** One of the ways to raise capital by government of Africa State is through issuance of Diaspora bonds. A diaspora bond is a debt instrument issued by a State potentially or private corporation in a State to raise financing from its overseas diaspora (Ketkar and Ratha, 1999: 130). Israel adopted this annually since 1951. Also, India, used this on three occasions since 1991 and have raised nearly US\$44 billion using these bonds. Two factors that have worked favourably for the diaspora bonds are patriotism and low risk of repayment.

#### **4.0 THE CHALLENGE OF CORRUPTION IN MAXIMIZING AFRICAN DIASPORA POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

There is a general consensus that the level of corruption in Nigeria and most African States is high (TI Report, 2018). Corruption is an obstacle to Nigeria’s economic social development and a big clog in the wheel of social growth and development. It is a single most critical impediment to maximising the African Diaspora potentials in achieving the SDGs and attaining the 7 aspirations of AU Agenda 2063. The manifestations of the challenge of corruption in maximising African Diaspora potentials are discussed below.

(a) Corruption discourages investments: one of the identified potentials of African Diaspora is investment. But, the high level of corruption in Nigeria discourages investment by African Diaspora. The prevailing corruption in Nigeria creates mistrust, fraudulent activities and lack of conducive investment environment in the State. Kickbacks by the police, the civil servants and artisans in Nigeria make the cost of doing business exorbitant. Also, the epileptic power supply

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means that an investor must provide for alternative power supply. There is high cost of transporting goods and services due to poor state of the roads and rails largely because monies meant for them were embezzled. Had the resources of Nigeria been judicially utilized without embezzlement, these challenges would not be there. The report by SERAP reveals that from 1999 to 2017, Nigeria lost over N11 trillion to corruption in the power sector (Abdulah, 2017).

(b) Corruption hinders partnership between Nigerian Diasporas and foreign investors: This is due to the battered image corruption has created of Nigerians in the global community. Nigeria is rated high in the corruption perception index by the TI and other rating agencies. This creates general presumption and perception that all Nigerians are corrupt and erodes the confidence of business partners. Business partners are skeptical of entering into business deals with Nigerian Diaspora and this reduces the resources available for investment in Nigeria.

(c) Corruption creates uncertainty and high cost of doing business in Nigeria. This makes Nigeria, with its high corruption level, unattractive to Nigerian Diaspora and other investors, as it reduces profit for investors and traders.

(d) Discourages transfer of skills and expertise. The security situation in Nigeria is partly caused by corruption in the sector. The insecurity makes the visit to Nigeria and other States in Africa difficult by African Diaspora. At the root of the high rate of social vices is corruption. Most of the person engages in the vices like kidnapping in Nigeria are unemployed graduates that would have been employed if the Nigerian resources were not mismanaged by political exposed persons.

(f). Hinders permanent relocation of African Diaspora: The high level corruption in Nigeria contributes to the pull factor. These are factors making other states a preferred destination. Nigeria hope of Nigeria is blurred by the prevailing corruption. It takes usually patriotism for a Nigerian to relocate to Nigeria because of the hardship is meant to face upon return. This affects the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology that such person would have returned with. The use of ICT cannot match what the Continent and Nigeria would stand to gain if such an expert relocates to State of origin.

(g) Economically, corruption leads to depletion of national wealth, funnelling of scarce public resources to uneconomic high-profile projects and hinders development of fair market economy that could attract healthy competition and investment.

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(h) All aspects of development such as social, economic, environmental, security, human right, legal and political are negatively impacted by corruption in Africa. The effects of corruption in Africa pushed African Diaspora out of Africa and same are preventing them from contributing to the development of the continent.

## **5.0 CHALLENGES FACED IN COMBATTING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA**

Corruption was a major obstacle to the attainment of MDG in Nigeria. This is because of inability to turn resource wealth of Nigeria into sustainable prosperity for her population on account of wide-spread corruption that permeates the State. The former Vice President of the World Bank, Obey Ezekwesili noted that “the negative effects of corruption is starkly demonstrated by the fact that based on current track record, Nigeria will miss the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, target set in 2000 despite the richness of its natural and human resource endowments” (Ezekwesili, 2012). Until these challenges are addressed, the attainment of SDG and the Agenda 2063 remains a mirage. A major step in addressing these challenges is to first identify them. The paper identifies the following as the challenges faced in combating corruption in Nigeria.

**(a) Legal Constraints:** This relates to gaps in the anti-corruption laws including the constitution. The first is section 308 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria. This section confers immunity on the President, Vice President, Governor or Deputy Governor. The constraint in section 308 is that it prevents the prosecution of the beneficiaries of immunity while in office. This affects freezing of assets of this class of persons during investigation even where the assets are alleged to be the proceeds of corruption (*Fawehinmi v IGP, 2002*). This is because no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against any of these persons; they cannot be arrested, neither can a court process requiring or compelling their appearance in court be applied for or issued (s. 308 CFRN (amended)).

Secondly, section 36(11) of CFRN 1999 (as amended) provides that ‘no person who is charged for a criminal offence shall be compelled to give evidence at his trial’. This constitutional provision conflicts with and undermines the efficacy of the illicit enrichment provision under the EFCC Act (s. 7). Illicit enrichment shifts the burden of proving innocence to the alleged corrupt person.

Thirdly, section 14(3) of the CFRN requires the government to reflect the Federal Character in the composition and conduct of its affairs. The underlying intention for introducing the Federal

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Character principle was to accommodate Nigeria's diversities by ensuring that there is 'no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or in any of its agencies'. This provision has been abuse in practices engendering division along ethnic, religious and sectional lines leading to the recruitment of incompetent, unqualified and corrupt persons into the public service in Nigeria (Akingbala, 2017). It has furthered the concept of 'it is our time to eat' and relegated merit and competence.

**(b) Weak Institutional framework:**

There is weak institutional framework leading to weak law enforcement regime in Nigeria the anti-corruption agencies, the ICPC and EFCC are not totally independent. Two areas that require strengthening are financial autonomy and appointment of heads of ACAs to secure their independence. Section 171 of the Constitution empowers the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to appoint the head of ACAs in an acting capacity, without the requirement of confirmation by the Senate or any other body, for one year renewable for unlimited times. This provision totally erodes the independence of ACAs in Nigeria. The challenge is that the institutional framework for enforcement of anti-corruption laws and strategies is weak and allegedly compromised. There is also alleged selective prosecution resulting from external influence over ACAs. Many of the high profile cases only succeeded in news room but failed in the court room. Thus, weak institutional framework is a major challenge to the anti-corruption fight.

**(c) Leadership Challenge and Lack of Political will to Combat Corruption**

The failure of leadership is the inability to manage the available resources and to set a personal example. In this regard Achebe said that 'the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. .... The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example, which is the hallmarks of true leadership' (Achebe, 1984:39). Nigerian leaders have not demonstrated full capacity and will in this regard. The political will is demonstrated when the rule of law takes its course no matter how highly placed the corrupt persons are, and when every corrupt person or entity is exposed, investigated and prosecuted.

**d. Ignorance:** There is high level ignorance as to what corruption is, the far-reaching damaging effects of corruption, the anti-corruption efforts and the ACAs in Nigeria. Corruption has been

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consistently seen as a mainly behavioural problem and the result is that the law enforcement approach has been aimed at forcing change of behaviour without addressing the causes of that behaviour. According to Obomanu, this approach ‘is like whipping people into line without first defining the line’ (Obomanu, 2014: 209). This is one reason for the failure of the past and present enforcement approaches in Nigeria. Also, many Nigerians, including political and educated classes, are yet to agree on what corruption is, even though there is consensus that it is a major problem in Nigeria. Even among citizens. Hence many see grand corruption as taking from the national cake.

**e. Wrong value system:** The mindset has entrenched the wrong value system because of the decline of moral rectitude in Nigeria. According to Ali ‘Nigerian society institutes value system and attitudes, which dictates expectation from its citizens and employees without considering income differential’ (Ali, 2016). The source of affluence is immaterial, what matters is that as a graduate or an adult you are expected to own a car and live in a good accommodation irrespective of whether you have a job or not.

**f. Lack of social security:** The absence of social security to guarantee the welfare of citizens in line with the constitutional obligations and party manifestos. There is a dysfunctional mortgage system, poor living wages and poor service delivery by public services. There is no assurance of gainful employment after graduation. The low standard of living and high rate of poverty in Nigeria poses a challenge to the fight against corruption. It has been noted that ‘where there is extreme poverty, the citizens are less able to resist corruption’ (Bello-Imam, 2005: 27).

**g. Lack of Transparency**

This is the requirement for openness and adherence to the rules and regulations in making decisions. The informed the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) is to enhance openness and access to public information. The challenge is that the FOI Act is applicable to public institutions only and Nigerians are not utilising the FOI Act to access public information. Also, many government agencies are reluctant to open their activities to the public. This requires the applicant to approach the court and many Nigerians are ‘courtphobia’.

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#### **h. Lack of Political Accountability**

Political accountability relates to the ability of the people to participate in their governance and to be able to change or re-elect leaders into elective positions through transparent, free and fair electoral processes. The electoral process in Nigeria does not guarantee transparent and free fair election. Thus, political leaders are not accountable to the people.

### **6.0 STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF CORRUPTION IN MAXIMIZING AFRICAN DIASPORA POTENTIAL FOR AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

These will require addressing the challenges faced in combating corruption in Nigeria. The strategies required are discussed below

#### **(a) Legal Strategies**

The two strategies required here are enactment of the relevant laws and amendment of existing law to fill or correct the identified legal challenge.

(i) Section 308 should be amended to make corruption cases, or where the freezing order is targeted at alleged proceeds of corruption, an exception to the application of immunity to the President, Vice President, Governor and Deputy Governor.

(ii) Section 14(3) on Federal Character should be amended to have a proviso on the requirement to ensure and maintain merit and competence in its application.

(iii) Section 36(11), which provides that ‘no person who is charged for a criminal offence shall be compelled to give evidence at his trial’, should be amended to make the provision subject to corruption offences, particularly illicit enrichment offences to read: ‘Subject to corruption or illicit enrichment offence, no person who is charged for a criminal offence shall be compelled to give evidence at his trial’.

(iv) The enactment of the Whistleblower Protection Law will strengthen the Whistleblower Policy of the Ministry of Finance of Nigeria and give it legal backing.

#### **(b) Institutional Strategy**

The ACAs should be made more independent by granting them total autonomy. Section 171 should be amended to include the head of ACAs among appointments that require the confirmation of the

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Senate and a clear provision stating that appointment in an acting capacity made by the President should be for a maximum of one year and not renewable. ACA should be granted financial autonomy.

(c) Leadership Strategy: The leaders should practice leadership by living exemplary life, accepting and assuming responsibility and demonstrating political will in deed.

(d) Enlightenment Campaign Strategy

This strategy will solve the challenge of ignorance and the wrong value system. There should be anti-corruption education to correct the misconceptions about corruption, to educate citizens on the dangers associated with corruption and to embrace integrity, diligence and honesty. Corruption should be seen as both a behavioural and systemic problem and should be addressed first before law enforcement. This is the only way enforcement can be successful and sustainable.

(e) Social Security Strategy: Social security issue should be addressed. This will tackle the root cause of corruption. There should be a functional mortgage system, realistic living wages and effective service delivery by public services. There should be employment after graduation and an effective scheme to address the extreme poverty in the State.

(f) Accountability and Transparency Strategies: The government should institutionalise an effective reward system that enables citizens to demand accountability from their leaders. In this regard, the electoral system should be transparent, efficient and most effective. INEC and ACAs should be independent using the institutional strategy. The institutions should be capable of holding corrupt persons accountable, protecting reporters or whistle-blowers and guaranteeing access to information.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The paper examined ways of addressing the challenge of corruption in maximising African Diaspora potentials for African economic development. In this endeavour, the paper examined the concepts of corruption and African Diaspora, identified the African Diaspora potentials, the challenge of corruption in maximising the potentials of African Diaspora for economic

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development of Africa and the challenges faced in combating corruption in Nigeria. Thereafter, the paper developed strategies necessary to address the challenge of corruption in order to maximise the African diaspora potentials. Government should adopt the strategies above to curb the menace and challenge of corruption in order to fully harness the African diaspora potential for the development of Africa.

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