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**CORRUPTION AND CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL SECURITY
IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA: AN APPRAISAL**

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CORRUPTION AND CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA: AN APPRAISAL

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to find out the major reasons for the existence of corruption in contemporary Nigeria, the existing relationship between corruption and Nigeria's national security and whether corruption has effects on Nigeria's national security.

Methodology: The methodology adopted was descriptive survey carried out in North Central States region of Nigeria using primary method of data collection via random sampling technique and data was analyzed with the aid of SPSS software which percentages, mean and standard deviation were computed using one-way ANOVA to test the hypothesis in order to determine the relationship between variables.

Results: The study found out that corruption significantly affects Nigerians national security and further revealed that lack of effective institutional checks was one of the major factors that gave rise to corruption, while corruption has impeded development in Nigeria by promoting poverty, inequality, unemployment, rising wave of crime and other social vices. The findings recommended strong institutional checks in the fight against corruption at all levels, depoliticization of anti-graft agencies, election of citizens with proven integrity into positions of authority and aggressive move

by government at all levels to improve the welfare of citizens by poverty reduction, education and promoting equal opportunities to social and economic survival.

Unique Contribution to Theory and Practice: The study has contributed in adding value to the existing pool of knowledge and policy makers in efforts to win the fight against corruption and insecurity in Nigeria particularly in North Central States which have been badly hit by corruption and insecurity as well as underdeveloped.

Keywords: *Corruption, National Security, North Central Nigeria*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a serious vice in Nigeria with its several consequences. It has spread across all spheres of the society and like a healthy child, it grows daily. The enormous and abundant human resources in Nigeria is yet to translate into significant improvement in the socioeconomic life of Nigerian masses due to unmitigated corruption which seems to at the moment have defiled solution even though Nigeria has witnessed several anti-corruption schemes put in place by successive governments (Daudu, 2012). Corruption in no small way tarnishes the image of a country, Nigeria inclusive. Nigeria's image has been battered outside the country due to corruption.

The global perception of Nigeria is that the phenomenon of corruption is pervasive and endemic and it has eaten so deep into the fabric of the nation to the extent that Transparency International has persistently rated Nigeria as one of the most corrupt nations in the world (Akanbi, 2004). Corruption portends evil which include but are not limited to political instability, undermining the legitimacy of the state making fiscal planning almost impossible and lead to uneven distribution of the amenities and perquisites to life (Akanbi, 2004).

Some of the obvious manifestation of corruption includes lack of growth in all sectors, diversion of public funds for private ends, non-payment or delay of pensions, salaries of workers and troops on assignment. It further frustrates the execution of developmental projects like roads, water supply, electricity and general public welfare thereby affecting Nigeria's national security and promoting instability in the country (Genyi, 2015). Furthermore, corruption promotes unemployment, illiteracy and thereby encouraging poverty.

National security on the other hand has been a subject of discussion in globally. National Security refers to the safety of the territory and the population of a state and the policies adapted for its preservation (Mejida, 2018). However, in Africa and Nigeria in particular there are obviously numerous challenges facing national security which include but not limited to corruption, growing insurgency and other violent crimes.

It is against this backdrop, that this research tries to find what has led to corruption in North Central Nigeria, weather there is an existing relationship between corruption and Nigeria's national security and how corruption has affected Nigeria's national security. The major objectives of this paper are:

1.1 Research Objectives

- (i) To determine the major causes of corruption in North Central Nigeria.
- (ii) To establish the linkage between corruption and Nigeria's national security.
- (iii) To find out whether corruption has affected Nigeria's national security.

1.2 Research Hypothesis

H₀₁: Corruption has no significant effects on Nigeria's National Security.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Corruption

Corruption is any act that negates the principles of accountability, transparency, ethical and moral standards in the course of responsibility discharge or social interaction in both public and private sectors of the economy (Orngu, 2006). The World Bank (1997) views corruption as the abuse of public office for private gains. To Lipset and Lenz (2000) corruption is the effort to secure wealth, or power through illegal means, private gain at public expense or misuse of public power for private benefit. Brinherhoff (2000) views corruption from a broad perspective. Hesees corruption as subsuming variety of illegal and irregular activities and behaviors. From this view, corruption is importantly a moral, political and legal issue. Therefore, corruption is multidimensional and has legal, social, political economic and ethical connotations since it comes in several forms and perspectives. Corruptions begin from the top, the bourgeoisie, down to the ordinary citizens. Due to the extreme and pervasive nature that corruption is institutionalized by those at the top cutting across all spheres those at the bottom also follow suite (Ndoma, 2019). Lawal, (2007) in his assertion notes that, once corruption becomes entrenched, its negative effects, multiply. It induces cynicismsince people begin to regard it as a norm. It undermines social values since people find it easier and more lucrative to engage in corruption. Ndoma (2019) observes that the effects of corruption on the Nigerian society since independence are grave, enormous and multifaceted. Corruption therefore, are acts and practice unacceptable as stipulated by any society's moral and criminal law which include using wrong and unauthorized means against the standard norms and operational procedure of such society that amount to selfish benefits detrimental to the growth and development of the society in general.

2.2 National Security

A nation state is said to have national security if it's stable and free from any danger as well as threat to its territorial integrity. It could also mean reduction in crime and criminal activities, freedom from war, crisis, poverty, hunger and any external threats. To Mejida (2018) National Security refers to the safety of the territory and the population of a state and the policies adapted for its preservation. It refers to a whole range of measures affecting the economy and social welfare of a population as well as provision of protection against aggression from within or outside the state (Mejida, 2018). On the other hand Hellandendu (2008) observes that national security is not merely the absence of external threats and aggression but the contentment and safety of the citizens in all ramifications, insured by both individuals who apply themselves to work and their respective governments which enforce social services, good governance, protection from and provision of relief in period of man-made and natural disasters.

National security is a combination of abundant and suitable political, military, human resources, social and economic structures, technology science and natural resources at its optimal level in a nation state, it further includes ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory and protect it from undesirable internal and external control (Ani, 2010). Furthermore, Booth in Nwolise (2008) and Ali (2006) both observe that; threats to national security can manifest in economic, political and social forms. They emphasized that military force alone cannot guarantee national security especially where there is unaccountable and bad governance. Ani and Onyebukwa (2016) further buttress this when they note that it is obvious that national security encompasses more than just military security but other important security interest which need to be integrated to harness a perfect national security structure. Jooji (2003) concurs when he asserts that even with the best of military hardware; Nigeria Security is threatened more by poverty, deprivation and economic inequality as well as rising wave in bandit's criminality (emphasis authors).

2.3 Corruption in Nigeria: A Brief Overview 1960---Date

The phenomenological content of corruption transverses culture, politics, social and moral dynamics. The permeation of these boundaries undermines its intellectual force in questioning its savage effect on the entire society (Genyi, 2015). Corruption in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial era when the British colonialists put in place their organs for looting Nigeria's resources

to their country (Waapela, 2013). Since then, Nigeria has been ranked as one of the most corrupt countries for quite a long time now even to this contemporary era. Funds meant for development of public amenities in Nigeria at times are being diverted for individual or private ends thereby frustrating the needed development quest and other welfare intentions such as payment of pensions to retirees, and salaries to civil servants and troops on assignment and execution of projects meant for infrastructural development. Corruption has indeed weakened government institutions thereby robbing them of legitimacy and capacity of retaining public trust and development in all spheres (Genyi, 2015). Suffice to look at the efforts of successive administration in the fight against corruption in Nigeria from 1960 to date briefly to enable us understand the dynamics of the problem and possible solution.

i. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (1960 – 1966)

Under the period Alhaji Tafawa Balewa was prime minister and Nnamdi Azikiwe was President, at the time Nigeria was divided into regions as regions survived on ethnic loyalty instead of national loyalty and patriotism. There was struggle to share from the pool of the national treasury. This struggle led to corrupt practices and eventually disintegration of the central government (Ganiyu, Rasak and Taiwo, 2014).

ii. General Aguyi Iornsi (1966)

This administration though short-lived came with the intention of cleaning the political atmosphere. The administration came with the intention of correcting the ills of the former government in the area of those who sought bribe, political profiteers. Several commissions of inquiry were set up. The government also turned out to be corrupt politically and could not have the enthusiasm of punishing those found guilty (Akinola, 2012).

iii. General Yakubu Gowon (1966 – 1975)

Under the Gowon administration those in administration embarked on white elephant projects as a means of having access to public funds for looting. This era of the military was a clear pointer to the fact that military leaders were not different from their civilian counter-parts in Nigeria in terms of indulging in corrupt acts (Ogbedi, 2012). The military administration of Gowon mismanaged funds gotten from the oil boom of the 1970 as the administration was found guilty of several corruption charges against officials. The administration that came in with the view of fighting

corruption could not as it was also found in deep corruption and was later over thrown (Adejwon, 2016).

iv. Murtala /Obasanjo (1975-1979)

In 1975 the administration of General Murtala brought about reformist changes. The administration sacked a large number of government officials and civil servants criticized for misuse of power and wealth they got illegally (Odekunle, 1999). Unfortunately, with the assassination of General Murtala who had the vision of restoring integrity and accountability in governance was noticed by his antecedents. Second in command General Olusegun Obasanjo became the Head of State. He drifted and could not keep up with the tempo. He was caught in the web of allegations of corrupt practices (Adesola, 2012).

v. Alhaji Shehu Shagari (1979 – 1983)

Elected into office democratically October 1979, the administration did not escape the corruption spree. The administration did nothing to stop existing corruption as corruption took a new dimension and was not only prebendal but also predatory (Omotola, 2007). This administration promoted corruption through the award and inflation of contracts. This was made possible through high revenues gotten from oil. Under the Shagari government, officials introduced an advanced type of corruption known as money laundering, under this administration corruption escalated with no effort made to curb it (Ayegboyin, 2001).

vi. Buhari/Idiagbon (1983 – 1985)

This administration made efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth. Corruption cases were established against erring government officials as they were sentenced to jail. Probe panels were set up but this administration did not last long (Ayegboyin, 2001).

vii. Babangida Regime (1985 – 1994)

Under this administration corruption was not only condoned but was encouraged as during this period corruption was raised to a high level and was institutionalized as efforts made by the Buhari regime to curb corruption was thrown to the mind (Ogundiya, 2009). Under this regime corruption was allowed the enabling environment to grow, there was a lot of money known as wind fall from the gulf war. Babangida's regime did not only threaten the existence of Nigeria but also entrenched the culture of corruption which allowed the continued existence of the powerful elite (Aleyomi,

2013). General Babangida annulled the only successful election in the history of Nigeria June 12, 1993 (Enojo, 2012). **viii. The Abacha's Regime (1994 – 1998)**

The regime of General Abacha governed and instituted machinery for prudence in government. This didn't stop them from deep seated corrupt practices, which was characterized by its predecessor. Corruption under Abacha regime was blatant and systematic as his family and associates looted Nigeria with reckless abandon (Adejuwon, 2016).

ix. Abdulsalam Abubakar (1998 – 1999)

Under this regime corruption was eminent as the administration was riddled with several allegations of corruption. The nation's foreign reserve dropped within this short period of nine months of the administration to 4 billion from 7 billion dollars leading to a depleted foreign reserve (Adejumon, 2016)

x. Obasanjo Administration (1999 – 2007)

Obasanjo laid the foundation of his administration with the focus of tackling corruption. He followed up his plan by signing the anti-corruption bill into law. He established the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (E.F.C.C). Unfortunately, some cabinet members were found guilty of corruption (Mohammed, 2013).

xi. Yar'Adua Administration (2007 – 2010)

Yar'Adua gave indications that his administration intended to continue with the war on corruption and to also introduce major reforms in the anti-corruption war with the intention of correcting perceived lapses. The president promised a zero-level tolerance on corruption. He also admitted that Nigeria's underdevelopment was as a result of failure of the appropriate use of Nigeria abundant resources. He made the fight against corruption one of the seven-point agenda of his administration but the cold hand of death dashed his hope (Adejuwon, 2016).

xii. Goodluck Jonathan Administration (2010 – 2015)

Goodluck Jonathan succeeded Yar'adua being his vice and took over the war against corruption as the administration priority. However, his administration did not do anything tangible in the fight against corruption as several corruption cases were reported against serving officials of the administration such as fuel subsidy scam and pension scam among several others (Adejwon,

2016). With the prebendal nature of the Nigerian state and its neo-patrimonialism, patron-clientelism networks corruption has continued unabated (Adejuwon, 2016).

xiii. Mohammed Buhari (2015 – Date)

Buhari administration came into power with a three-point agenda. Economy, Security and the Fight against Corruption. The corruption crusade of the administration was taken seriously. The administration has worked very closely with the governments of the United States, United Kingdom and several Middle East countries to seize and repatriate assets of public officials suspected to have been purchased with illicit funds (ADD, 2018). Despite the efforts made by the administration to fight corruption, the corruption perception index CPI for 2018 released by Transparency International (TI) indicates that the corruption perception for Nigeria has worsened despite all the Buhari government anti-corruption struggles as the integrity issue in Nigeria's corruption fight and its issues have blighted most of its efforts (Oluabuwa, 2018). Nigeria as a nation state has continued to suffer the effects of seriously from the effects of corruption which are manifested in all spheres of the society.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

The study was carried out in the North Central states of Nigeria. Nigeria has 6 geo-political zones and the North Central is one of them. The North-Central is made up of six (6) states which include Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau along with The Federal Capital Territory, F.C.T. The zone is strategically situated in the middle of the country between the north and south which earned it the name Middle Belt by others and also has a large concentration of minority ethnic groups in the country (Institute for peace and Conflict Resolution, IPCR, 2007). The North Central Zone given its plurality has numerous security challenges including conflicts (intra and inter-ethnic), herdsman-farmers crisis, political, militia crimes, bandits and cult related crimes associated with corruption and bad governance that have become intractable.

3.2 Data Collection

Primary data was used to collect data for the study. Random sampling technique was used to select specific states within the North-Central which include Benue, Plateau, Kwara and the FCT Abuja. Research questionnaires were administered, the questionnaire comprised of open and close ended

questions. The number of questionnaire administered for the study were 400 in number making random selection of 100 respondents per selected state including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, out of the number 374 were returned filled. A success rate on return of the questionnaires in percentage was 93.5%. Data was analyzed with the aid of SPSS software which percentages mean and standard deviations were computed using one-way ANOVA to test the hypothesis in order to determine the relationship between variables and presented in tables.

4.0 RESULTS

The results were presented using percentages and frequency tables. Mean and standard deviation was used for decision making.

4.1 Demographic variables of Respondents

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percentages %
Male	256	68.4
Female	118	31.6
Total	374	100

Table 1 shows that 256 representing (68.4%) of the respondents are male while 118 representing (31.6%) of the respondents are female. Therefore, most of the respondents are male.

Table 2: Age Range of Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percentages %
15 – 30	143	38.2
31 – 45	141	37.7
45 and above	90	24.1
Total	374	100

Table 2 shows that 143 representing (38.2%) of the respondents are from an age range of 15 – 30 representing 141 (37.7%) of the respondents are from an age range of 31 – 45, 90 representing (24.1%) of the respondents are from an age range of 46 and above. This shows that most of the respondents are between ages 15-30.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percent
Single	219	58.6
Married	103	27.5
Widowed	52	13.9
Total	374	100

Table 3: shows that 219 representing (58.6%) of the respondents are single, 103 representing (27.7%) of the respondents are married, while 52 representing (13.9%) of the respondents are widowed. Therefore, most of the respondents are single.

Table 4: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percentages %
Non-formal	17	4.5
Primary Education	29	7.8
Secondary Education	98	26.2
Tertiary Education	144	38.5
Post Graduate	86	23.0
Total	374	100

Table 4 shows that 17 representing (4.5%) of the respondents have non-formal education, 29 representing (7.8%) of the respondents have primary education, 98 representing (26.2%) of the respondents have primary education, 98 representing (26.2%) of the respondents have secondary education, 144 representing (38.5%) of the respondents have tertiary education, while 86 representing (23.8%) of the respondents have post graduate education. This means that most of the respondents have tertiary education.

Table 5: Occupation of the Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percentages %
Students	117	31.3
Civil Servants	42	11.2
Farmers	60	16.0
Politicians	43	11.5
Business persons	57	15.2
Others	55	14.7
Total	374	100

Table 5 shows 117 representing (31.3%) of the respondents are students, 42 representing (11.2%) of the respondents are civil servants, 60 representing (16.0%) of the respondents are farmers, 43 representing 11.5% are politicians 57 representing 15.2 percentage are business people while 55 representing 14.7 percentage do not have a defined occupation. This means majority of the respondents were students.

4.2 Discussion

Answering Research Questions

Research question one: What are the major causes of corruption in North Central Nigeria?

Table 6: Mean and Standard Deviation on Major causes of Corruption in Nigeria

SN	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Prevalence of soft and unaccountable leadership	2.97	1.13	Accepted
2.	Incursion of politics into government administration	2.69	1.008	Accepted
3.	Weak institutions of government and informal structure	2.89	1.167	Accepted
4.	Perception of political office as the primary means of getting access to wealth	2.79	1.027	Accepted
5.	Conflict between changing values and moral codes	2.89	1.167	Accepted
6.	Weakness of social and governmental enforcement mechanism	2.71	1.051	Accepted
7.	Absence of strong sense of national commitment and national focus	2.89	1.167	Accepted
8.	Dysfunctional legal system	2.52	1.143	Accepted
9.	Ineffective government with slow budget procedures	2.63	1.284	Accepted
10.	Lack of transparency, responsibility and accountability	3.33	9.601	Accepted
11.	Great inequality in wealth distribution	2.94	1.088	Accepted
12.	Poor salaries, poor working conditions and few incentives	2.75	1.087	Accepted

13. Influence or pressure of polygamous household and pressure to meet family obligations which exist more in less developed nations	2.77	1.279	Accepted
14. Culture of greed value of the Nigerian society	2.84	1.148	Accepted
15. Political office as a source and access to riches	2.66	1.027	Accepted
16. Increased institutionalized inequality and resource distribution	2.86	1.196	Accepted

Bench Mark: (2.50 and above: accepted < 2.50 below rejected)

The data in table 6 reveals that items from (1-16) respectively have a mean rating of above the cutoff point of 2.50. This indicates that the prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership, the incursion of politics into administration, weak institutions of government and informal structures, perception of political office as the primary means of gaining access to wealth, conflict between changing values and moral codes, the absence of a strong sense of national commitment and national focus, dysfunctional legal system, ineffective government works with slow budget procedures, lack of probity, transparency, responsibility and accountability, the great inequality in the distribution of wealth, poor salaries and poor working conditions, with few incentives and reward for effective and efficient performance, the influence of or pressure of household and family obligations which are more in less developed countries, the culture of greed value systems of the Nigerian society, politics as the source of access to public funds, increasing institutionalized inequality in resources distribution.

These findings go in line with Anazodo, Agbionu and Ezemile (2011) who observed that corruption in Nigeria is evident and takes place on a large scale due to the weakness or nonexistence of effective institutional checks and balances, even when they exist, they are not firm and act with bias. Also, Poopola (2011) noted that Nigeria has been saddled by poor leadership that encourages corruption. Agreeing, Waapela, (2013) observed that the Public confidence gained

by the organs set up by government to fight corruption has been eroded over the years and corruption has not only proved difficult to fight but has continued to soar higher.

Research Question Two: Is there any existing linkage or relationship between Corruption and Nigeria's National Security?

Table 7: Mean and Standard Deviation on Existing linkage or Relationship between Corruption and Nigeria's National Security

SN	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	There is lack of political will by government in the corruption fight promoting instability in the country	3.14	1.007	Accepted
2.	Officers responsible for handling corruption and more corrupt than other agencies and made worse by the corruption in the Judicial system	2.87	1.032	Accepted
3.	In Nigeria exists hypersensitivity on issues of ethnicity by elites to forestall the fight against corruption	3.06	1.145	Accepted
4.	Globalization has compounded the problem of corruption as large sums of money can easily be laundered through financial banking system which can be operated anywhere globally	2.94	1.183	Accepted
5.	In Nigeria constitutional and criminal law constraints exists inhibiting the prosecution of some political office holders such as the immunity clause in the constitution	3.09	1.082	Accepted

6. Those in charge of designing the anticorruption war are the ones involved in corruption and are not termed serious	2.87	1.003	Accepted
7. In Nigeria elites tolerate corruption since it gives them advantage of harnessing wealth.	3.02	1.115	Accepted

Bench Mark: (2.50 above: accepted, 2.50 below: rejected)

The data in table 7 reveals that all items in (1-7) respectively have a mean rating of above the cut-off point of 2.50. This indicates that there is lack of political will by government to fight corruption; officers responsible for fighting corruption are more corrupt than other agencies especially with the opaque judicial system. In Nigeria, there are wide range of sensitive issues such as ethnicity and religion used by elites to frustrate the fight against corruption. More so, globalization has also compounded the problem as large sums of money can easily be laundered through the modern financial banking systems especially in developing societies like Nigeria.

From the above results, it has shown empirically that there is an existing relationship between corruption and Nigerian national security. It is evident that when a nation suffers from poverty and other infrastructural deficits it is not secure. This is in line with the study of Smith (2007) that corruption is the greatest impediment that stifles development; it produces poverty and reinforces inequality in Nigeria. Also, in their submission (Nwosumba, Danladi, and Ngwube, 2018) observed that those in authority and government due to corruption have abandoned their constitutional responsibility towards the people and the result is increased insecurity, violence, unemployment, infrastructural delay, fallen standards of education and eventually terrorism. Furthermore, Nigeria, due to the high effects of corruption and disconnect between protection of lives, property and governance mostly to acts of corruption has been described as a failed state (Nwosumba, Danladi, and Ngwube, 2018). To further buttress this, (Amosu, 2015) noted that with the massive illegal accumulations of wealth by Nigerian politicians gotten through corruption, citizens are induced to take to criminality and violence at the slightest provocation as a means to survival especially when they perceive that the society they live in has no plan for them.

Research Question Three: Has corruption affected Nigeria's National Security?
Table 8: Mean and Standard Deviation on how corruption has affected Nigeria's National Security

S/No	Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Systematic corruption is the major source of development failure (efforts) in North Central Nigeria	3.14	1.007	Accepted
2.	Corruption prevents fairness and justice and has played a pivotal role to deteriorate law and order in the country	2.87	1.032	Accepted
3.	Corruption induces mediocrity and has been responsible the poor public service delivery in the country causing negative vices	3.06	1.145	Accepted
4.	Corruption undermines and stifled developmental efforts in all ramifications since it increases the cost of doing business.	2.94	1.039	Accepted
5.	Nigeria has experienced brain drain because of lack of opportunities or poor conditions of service and low remunerations.	3.09	1.082	Accepted
6.	Corruption has increased political tension that is threatening the unity of the country.	3.02	1.150	Accepted

Bench Mark: (2.50 and above; accepted, <2.50 below: rejected)

The data in table 8 reveals that the items from (1-9) respectively have a mean rating of above the cut-off point of 2.50. This indicates that systematic corruption is a major reason for development failure in North Central States and Nigeria at large; corruption induces mediocrity and has been responsible for the poor public service delivery in the country, thereby increasing insecurity. Corruption undermines and stiffens developmental efforts since it increases the cost of doing

business, North Central states of Nigeria have also experienced brain drain because of lack of working opportunity, increasing unemployment and poor conditions of service and low remunerations thereby increasing poverty, corruption has increased political tension which threatens the unity and security of the nation.

From the above results it has shown empirically that corruption has affected Nigeria's national security. This result goes in line with (Obaden, 2001 and Omotola 2007) who observed that corruption has eaten deep into the Nigerian system which in turn has done a lot of damage to the system including security. They noted that Nigeria is well endowed with both human and natural resources but still remains one of the most underdeveloped countries of the world mainly due to the menace of corruption. Furthermore, Babatunde, (2013) is his view posited that corruption has given birth to many social vices such as insurgency, kidnapping and other-sharp practices. He further posited that corruption has led to multifarious social problems in Nigeria, a major one being terrorist activities perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group.

4.3 Proof of Research Hypothesis

H₀₁: Corruption has no significant effects on Nigeria's national security.

Table 9: One-way ANOVA on significant effect on Nigeria's National Security.

	Sum of squares of mean square, sig			
Between Group	10776.045	17	633.885	154.994.00
Within Groups	1455.944	356	4.090	
Total		373		

Hypothesis states that corruption has no significant effect on Nigerians national security. Using one-way ANOVA to test the hypothesis it was found that corruption significantly affects Nigerians national security. Mean Scores groups between groups 633.885, within groups= 4.090, DF= 356, F=154.994 and P value of 0.00. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected as shown by the P value of 0.00.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The paper specifically set out to find out the major reasons for corruption in North Central Nigeria, to find whether there is any existing relationship between corruption and Nigeria's national security and to find out whether corruption has affected Nigeria's national security. Findings from the paper reveal that majorly bad governance, social and economic defects, laxity, weakness of anti-graft agencies and selective justice among others are the major causes of corruption in North Central Nigeria. The study also reveals that, there is a strong existing negative relationship between corruption and Nigeria's National Security is has serious implications on sustainable development.

5.2 Recommendations

The study therefore puts forward the following recommendations:

1. Offenders should be persecuted irrespective of position, party affiliations or gender.
2. There should be an overhaul of anti-graft agencies such as the EFCC and ICPC by ensuring their total independence from the presidency as well as over bearing influence of the office of the Attorney- General of the Federation while citizens of good track records appointed to head agencies.
3. Enforcement of anti-graft agencies to cover grassroots and required training as well as remunerations in order to enable the officials shun the temptation of corruption deterring their efficient and effective operations.
4. There should be equal distribution of income, job opportunities, poverty reduction measures and better welfare packages as well as education across board to all citizens.
5. Honesty, hard work and dedication to duty should be openly and continuously recognized and adequately compensated by government at all levels, organizations and individuals.
6. The urgent need for collective and transparent pursuance of the fight against corruption by all relevant stakeholders at all levels and commitment to combat rising bandit crimes and other conflicts in North Central Nigerian States.

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