

Research Article

Appraisal of the Activities of Anti-Graft Agencies towards Curbing Corruption and Financial Crimes in Nigeria

I. P. Ojiakor¹ (Ph.D), C. A. Anisiuba² (Ph.D), I. J. Nnam³ (Ph.D)

Department of Accountancy, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus^{1,2,3}

ABSTRACT: Government regime prior to the Obasanjo Administration established anti-corruption agencies to help curb corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria. However, their efforts did not yield much positive results. Nevertheless, the Obasanjo Administration contributed much in controlling corruption by establishing anti-graft agencies such as Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). Yet the effect of the menace is felt by all the economic sectors. This situation has attracted the attention of the government, public and private organisations and researchers. This resulted to this study. To carry out this study, the researchers used survey design. Data were collected using questionnaires distributed to the practising lawyers and accountants in Enugu state. Personal interviews were conducted to check consistency in response. Data were analysed using percentage frequency, while Chi-Square-test statistic was used to test the hypotheses. Results of the analysis revealed that greed and poverty have significant relationship with corruption, pervasiveness of corruption in Nigeria is as a result of poor governance, favouritism, tribalism, and poor remuneration; and the activities of the anti-graft agencies are not effective in curbing corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria. The study therefore, recommended that ideal remuneration and motivation measures should be applied at every level of the workforce. Also, the anti-graft agencies should be allowed to operate on a neutral ground based on uprightness, total commitment, and a sense of responsibility, if the desired expectation is to be achieved.

Keywords: Anti-Graft Agencies, Corruption, EFCC, Financial Crimes, ICPC.

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption and fraud are key issues at hand in Nigeria. This is undoubtedly because of the series of investigative activities on the past and present government officials in relation to corruption. Unfortunately, this issue affects almost all the sectors of the economy. This study aims at appraising the activities of the anti-graft agencies in trying to curb corruption in the nation. According to [1], world incidences of corruption and fraudulent practices have

brought about collapse of public/government institutions and multi businesses. They went further to say that fighting fraudulent practices requires a dedicated investigation, detection and prevention of corruption. In other to accomplish this, Federal Government of Nigeria established various anti-corruption agencies so as to nip corruption in the bud [2]. These agencies include Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, [3], Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, [4], Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, [5], National Drug Law Enforcement Agency,[6], The [7] and [8]. They are established with specific aims and objectives, all targeting towards total eradication of this great monster called corruption. [3].However, this study has contributed by drawing the attention of the government to other lucrative means of curbing corruption other than just establishing ant-graft agencies which are not actually effective and efficient.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The devastating impact of corruption globally cannot in any way be overemphasized. In the Nigerian economy, the negative impact of corruption seems to be more, mainly because it seems that those in authority who are expected to curb the abnormally are rather deep-necked into the menace. As a matter of fact, Nigeria is already very badly deep-necked in corrupt practices [9]. Consequently, there seems to be considerable worry about the deplorable state of the national economy, poor economic growth and poor development in all the sectors of the economy as a result of the menace cursed corruption. [10]as in [11]. There seems to be great set-back in the development of the National economy as a result of the terrible corrupt practices being perpetrated by the general public in both the public and private parastatals. These nefarious activities have led to poor governance, deplorable economic performance and devastating financial management resulting from diversion of public funds and undermining of ethical values [12].There seems to be great marginalization of poor communities in the Nation which has resulted from corruption. This marginalization resulted to undermining of international efforts to reduce poverty. This in effect has led to hindrance on access to key public services such as education, health, water, electricity, and equitable distribution of goods and services through markets, nationwide [13]. The great question still remains: to what extent has the problem of corruption been solved by the previous administration? And how far has the problem of corruption been solved by the nation through the activities of such anti-graft bodies like the civil defence, police, customs, code of conduct bureau before the establishment of the Obasanjo Administration's anti-graft agencies from the year 2000 and onwards? [13]

1.3.Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to critically appraise the activities of the anti-corruption agencies towards curbing corruption and financial crimes in the Nigerian Economy. Specifically, the objectives are to:

1. determine the main causes of corruption in the Nigerian economy.
2. ascertain the main reasons for the pervasiveness of corruption in the Nigerian Economy.
3. determine the extent of effectiveness of the activities of anti-corruption agencies in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

1.4. Research Questions

1. What are the main causes of corruption in the Nigerian Economy?
2. What are the reasons for the pervasiveness of corruption in the Nigerian economy?
3. To what extent have the activities of the anti-graft agencies gone in curbing corruption in the Nigerian economy?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

1. Corruption in the Nigerian economy does not have significant relationship with greed and poverty.
2. Pervasiveness of corruption in the Nigerian Economy is not as a result of poor governance.
3. The activities of the anti-graft agencies are not effective in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

1.6. The Scope of the Study

The study carried out research on the perceived activities of the anti-graft agencies in curbing corruption and financial crimes in the Nigerian Economy. The research covers mostly the academia using the perception of accountants and lawyers in Enugu Metropolis.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Fraud and corruption

Fraud means the deliberate, wrongful or criminal deception which is intended towards securing unfair or unlawful financial or personal gain, in order to deprive a victim of a legal right. Fraud can also be defined as any intentional or purposeful act or omissions which are intended to deceive some innocent people, which will eventually result in the victim suffering an unexpected loss, thereby resulting to the perpetrator achieving an unfair or unlawful gain, which is most often in monetary terms. Fraud can be most commonly classified into three, namely: corruption, asset misappropriation and financial statement fraud. [14]. On the other hand, corruption can be referred to as such schemes in which a fraudster intentionally uses his influence in some business transaction in such a way that he violates his duty to his employer so as to gain for himself or some other person, some unlawful benefit. A typical instance is a situation where an employee or some employees collude with other third parties to receive or even offer bribes, extort funds or even get involved in conflicts of interest of payroll fraud.[15] In the concept of fraud and fraudulent acts, the persons mostly involved are the management cadre, other employers, organised employee syndicates, clients and even suppliers. Men are more involved in corruption than women. The middle aged and highly educated are the mostly involved persons. Unfortunately, non-government officials who are mainly caught in corrupt practices are first offenders who have also stayed long in the service of the organizations.

III. THEORETICAL REVIEW

3.1 Sociological Theory

The sociological theory is popular globally. Nigeria, like other developing nations has built her anti- corruption agencies on the sociological theory [16] Examples of sociological theories are opportunity theory and defiance theory. Sociological theories are defined as statement of how and why particular facts about the social world are related. (<https://em.unikipedia.or/wiki>) viewed and retrieved 21/01/17 by 10.02am opportunity theory on the other hand is defined as simply the idea that people look for opportunity. Whether through legitimate means or otherwise to gain what they desire. [17] viewed and retrieved 21/01/17 by 10.05am.

3.2 Defiance Theory

The defiance theory is based on the axiom that different people will respond to sanitation or sanction experiences in a variety of ways [18]. This study is anchored on the above named theories.

3.3 Causes of corruption in Nigeria

1. Weak Government institutions
2. Poor payment of staff remuneration and other incentives
3. Lack of openness and transparency in public service
4. Absence of key anti-corruption tools
5. Ineffective political processes
6. Culture and Acceptance of corruption by the populace
7. Absence of effective political financing and poverty
8. Ethnic and religious difference resources scramble. [19].

3.4 Reasons for lack of success in fighting corruption in Nigeria

1. Insincerity of government
2. Pre-bargaining and negotiation, highly placed officials caught of corrupt practices are made are made to part with some of their looted funds and are thereafter set free.
3. Low deterrent punitive measures for corrupt practices need to be strengthened.
4. Lack of virile political and social movements to tackle corruption. The mass of the people are to yet to be mobilized in the fight against corruption.
5. Lack of success to public information. A lot of secrecy still pervades government documents, and this underlines the need for the passage of the freedom of information bill presently before Nigeria's national Assembly.
6. Insecurity of informants. There is a need to enact laws to protect informant. There is as well as reward them.
7. Low public participation in governance
8. Corrupt electoral system
9. Nepotism
10. Systemic disorder [20]

3.5 Activities of Anti-Graft Agencies in Nigeria

The activities of the Anti-graft agencies are to fight corruption to a standstill thereby stamping out corruption totally from the Nigerian Economy.[4, 21, 3].The anti-graft agencies should work to the extent that there should be zero

tolerance for corruption in such public sectors of the nation as the police, Customs, code of conduct bureau, Civil Defence, Federal institutions and even the Federal Health sector. The anti-graft agencies are mandated to receive and investigate reports of corruption. Appropriate cases with identified offenders are to be prosecuted. The anti-graft agencies are also expected to examine, review and enforce the correction of corruption prone systems and procedures of public bodies, as well as the private bodies. The activities of the anti-graft agencies include the investigation of financial crimes such as Advance Fee Fraud (419 Fraud) and money laundering. It is important to observe that the ICPC targets corruption in the public sector such as bribery, gratification, graft and abuse or misuse of office. Nevertheless, EFCC investigates people in all the sectors who appear to be living above their means. Therefore, EFCC is empowered to investigate money laundering and other financial crimes Furthermore, EFCC is empowered to track illicit wealth accruing from abuse of office; especially where there are attempts to integrate such wealth into the financial system [13]. In the activities of the anti-graft agencies, [22] identified that there is the fear of duplication of the functions of ICPC by EFCC. This is particular in the area of overlap between ICPC Anti-corruption and Transparency monitoring units and the EFCC Anti-corruption and Transparency Committees. [22] ICPC, EFCC clash over anti-corruption committee). Furthermore, the anti-graft agency particularly responsible for accountability and transparency in the oil and gas industry popularly known as the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) 2003 established in 2003 was basically established to encourage and promote transparency, accountability, sustainable development and eradication of poverty through prudent management of revenue from the nations natural resources, most importantly gas, oil and mining. The NEITI was established to open up the oil and gas industry for public scrutiny and investigation as it is deemed necessary [23] It is important to note here that the NEITI Act 2007 reveals the specific functions of the agency. The rest of the anti-graft agencies have some specific functions to perform despite the general ones discussed above. See also [24] for the specific function of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA) see also [25] For the function and specific activities of money laundering Prohibition Act 2004).MLPA (2003, 2004, 2011).

3.6 Live cases of corruption in Nigeria handled by anti-graft agencies from 2010-2017

S/N	DATE	ACCUSED GOVERNOR	CRIME	BY BODY	RESULT	REMARKS
1.	22/2/2017	Peter Odili (former River's State Governor)	N100Bn (Fund Diversion)	EFCC	Stalled	To be reopened
2.	July 2008	Alhaji Adamu Mu'Azu (former PDP Chairman) Former Gov. of Bauchi State	N19.8bn(fund Mismanagement)	EFCC	Disappeared on pretence	Still to answer case
3.	13/7/07	Joshua Dariye (Former Gov. of	N1.2bn N204m (Fund	EFCC	Denial of Accusation,	Currently facing trial

		Plateau State)	Diversions and Money Laundering		request to quash charges, appealed	
4.	26.06/15	Stella Odua (Former Minister of Aviation) under President Jonathan Goodluck	N255m for 2 BMW cars	EFCC	Prosecution stopped by Justice Mohammed Yunusa	Prosecution stopped
5.	12/12/2012	Adebayo Alao-Akala (Former Gov. of Oyo State)	N11.5bn (Partner in fraud)	EFCC	Requested for quashing of charges	EFCC lack evidence & proof of case
6.	12/12/2012	Chief Hosea Agbola (Commissioner of Oyo state Chieftaincy matters)	N11.5bn (Partner in Fraud)	EFCC	Requested that case be quashed	EFCC lack evidence & proof of case
7.	12/12/2012	Mr. Femi Babalola (Businessman) in Oyo State	N11.5bn (Partner in Fraud)	EFCC	Requested that case be quashed	EFCC lack evidence & proof of case
8.	22/11/2012	Ayo Fayose (Former Gov. of Ekiti State)	N1.2bn (Fund mismanagement), N416m scam	EFCC	Requested that cash be quashed	Case suspended & re-elected as Gov. in 2014
9.	July 2007	Chief Orji UzoKalu (Former Gov. of Abia State)	N5.6bn (fund Diversion) & Official corruption	EFCC	Requested that case be quashed for lack of evidence	Yet to face EFCC trial.
10.	15/12/2012	Boni Haruna (Former Gov. of Adamawa State)	N10m N16.125m Fraud & Embezzlement of fund)	EFCC	Dragged & written cases adopted which never held again	Matter adjourned sine - die
11.	15/12/2012	Mohammed Inuwa Bassi (Minority leader in Adamawa state House of Assembly)	N10m. N16.125m (Fraud & Fund embezzlement)	EFCC	Dragged & written cases adopted	Matter adjourned sine -die.
12.	15/12/2012	John BabaniEha (Aide to Ex. Gov. of Adamawa state)	N10m. N16.125m (Fraud & Fund embezzlement)	EFCC	Dragged & written cases adopted	Matter adjourned sine -die.
13.	2011	Gbenga Daniel (Former Gov. of Ogun State)	N211.3m (stealing & fraudulent conversion of	EFCC	"Forgotten cases" not acceptable by	Accused yet to face trial by EFCC

			public property).		Wilson Uwujaren of Daily Trust.	
14.	Sept.15 ,2015	Ibrahim Ahmed Mazangari	N1.2bn conspiracy and fraud of pension	EFCC	Remanded in prison custody pending the fulfilment of bail conditions	Still standing trial cases still going on
15.	15/9/15	Mohammed SaniSuleman	N1.2bn conspiracy pension fraud	EFCC	Remanded in prison custody pending the fulfilment of bail conditions	
16.	15/9/15	Hajia Fatima Mazangari	N1.2bn conspiracy pension fraud		Remanded in prison custody pending the fulfilment of bail conditions	
17.	15/9/15	SalehYorimaTsojon	N1.2bn conspiracy perused	EFCC	Remanded in prison custody pending the fulfilment of bail conditions	
18.	23/11/2015	Esai Dangabar (Former Director of the police person board + 5 others)	N20.8bn Pension fraud, stealing, criminal breach of trust.	EFCC	Case still going on	Case still going on
19.	Dec. 2013 15/7/2015	Steve Oronsanya (former Head of Service) + other top directors of civil service	N6.2bn Conspiracy and Pension fraud	EFCC	Sent for reassessment based on the allegation of bias	Case still going on
20.	26/7/2012	Mr.AbdulahiAlao &Axenergy Ltd.	N2.6bn oil subsidy fraud purported importation of 33.3m litres of premier motor spirit	EFCC	Investigations till going on	Case still pending in court
21.	2/6/2016	Patience Okoro Eye (CBN staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud.	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing
22.	2/6/15	Afolabi Olufemi Johnson (former CBN staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing

23.	2/6/15	Ilon Akkuwle Former CBN staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing
24.	2/6/15	Sunday Kola irrlle Babalola (former CBN Staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing
25.	2/6/15	Olaniran Mumim Adeola (Former CBN staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing
26.	2/6/15	Fatai Adedokun Yusuf (Former CBN staff)	N8bn mutilated currency recycling fraud	EFCC	Bail application dismissed	Ordered for accelerated hearing
27.	22/9/15	Sule Lamido (Former Gov. of Jigawa state & his two sons Aminu Sulelamido & Mustapha Sule Lamido then, Aminm Wada Abubakar, Batholemew Darlington Agaoha	N124,640,915 (Corruption & money laundering)	EFCC	They all pleaded not guilty to the charges.	Case adjourned for trial in the near future.
28.	9/7/2015	MurtalaNyako (former Gov. of Adamawa state 8 his son Abdulaziz and 2 aides Zulkifkke Abba &AbubakarAliyu	Embezzlement of State funds	EFCC		
29	28/9/2015	Ikedi Ohakim (former Gov. of Imo state)	Conspiracy & money laundering	EFCC		
30.	25/6/15	Timipre Silver (former Gov. of Bayelsa State)	Conspiracy, Abuse of Office & money laundering	EFCC		
31.	25/6/15	Saidu Dakingari (Former Gov. of Kebbi State	Corruption and money laundering	EFCC	Ran away to abroad on pretence of visiting sick wife	
32.	18/3/ 2013	Prince Abubakar Audu (former Gov. of Kogi state) and	N10,965,837,040 criminal breach of trust and misappropriation	EFCC	Fear of escape of criminal due to slow pace of handling case.	A top official of EFCC decided the slow pace of

		former Director General of the Directorate of Rural Development-Alfa Ibn Mustapha	of public fund.		A top official of EFCC decided the slow pace of the case	the case
33.	2012	Iorwaseltembe (Former Member Of House Of Reps from Vandekya/Konshish a Fed. Constituency, Former Benue State Chairman Capital Market committee)	N39m, N5m demanding of bribes Refusal to return unused duty Tour Allowance (DTA) – Bribery and Fraud.	EFCC	Suspended by House	Yet to be cleared of the charges
34.	2012	Mr.IfeanyiAzubuogu (former member of Nnewi North /South Constituency (former Deputy Chairman of capital market committee)	N39m & N5m Bribery and Fraud.	EFCC	Suspended by House	Yet to be cleared of charges
35.	March 2014 and July 2013	Bukola Saraki (former Senate President) APC Kwara Central), former Gov. of Kwara state	100s of millions of naira (Fraud and money laundering)	EFCC	Recommended to be prosecuted for offences relating to money laundering	Failed to charge the criminal to court. Ordered to stop further harassment of the senator (unclear the extent of investigating)
36.	July 2013 & march 2014	Abbul Adama (Personal Assistant of senator Saraki	100s of millions of naira (partner in Fraud and Money laundering)	EFCC	Recommend to be prosecuted for offences relating to money laundering	Failed to charge the criminal to court. Ordered to stop further harassment of the senator unclear the extent of investing
37.		Theodore Orji (Former Senator representing Abia Central)	N5.6m	EFCC	Arrested and detained	Yet to be cleared of the changes of fraud. Yet, won

						gubernatorial election while in detention
38.	20/10/2011	DanjumaGoje (former Gov. of Gombe State & Rep. Comber Central Senatorial District)	N52.bn Theft of state funds	EFCC	Denied accusation claiming to have carried out a lot of outstanding projects for the state	Case is still going on
39.	2007-date 2007 – date	Andy Uba (former Senator Representing Anambra South senatorial District for special Assistant domestic affairs to former president Olusegun Obsanajo)	S15M bribery saga with former EFCC chairman NuhuRabadu and Former Delta state Gov. James Ibori	EFCC	Offered Bribe to Stop Investigation Of Former Gov.	Mr.Uba is yet to be cleared of the involvement in the bribery saga
40.	July 2001 – date	GoodhopeUzodinma (Former PDP Senator Representing Imo West Senatorial District, Imo State)	N250m (fund transfer Award of Fraudulent contracts)	EFCC	Forced to make refunds due to pressure from EFCC Arrested and detained by EFC	Yet to be cleared of these allegations
41.	Dec. 2006 Feb. 2007 Aug 2007 – Date`	Adamu Aliero (former Gov. of Kebbi State)	N10.2bn Theft of state fund	EFCC /ICPC	Forced to make refunds due to pressure from EFCC. Arrested and detained by EFCC.	Yet to be cleared of these allegations
42.	2007 – 2011 to Date	Abdulszeez Murtala Nyako (Son of Former Gov. of Adamawa State, Murtala Nyako)	N15bn (Stealing, Abuse of Office, Money Laundering)	EFCC	Yet to be cleared of the criminal charges, he has been elected to senate to make laws for Nigerians	Nigerians laws are made by criminals yet to be cleared of criminal charges
43.	Nov. 2011	Ali Ndume (Senator & Member elect representing Borno)	Boko Haram Leader (has links with insurgent)	SSS & SIP Special	A Betrayer, yet Nigerian senate member	Yet to be cleared of charges

		south senatorial district, Borno state	group Boko Haram. Betraying top Nigerians Officials to Boko Haram	investigation Panel)	elect	
44.		Stella Oduah (Senator Representing Anambra North & Former Minister of Aviation)	Certificate forgery MBA Ph.D N255m for 2 BMW cars	EFCC	While under criminal investigation, won election as senator elect in Anambra state	Yet to be cleared of charges
45.	2007-Date	Sam Egwu (former Gov. of Ebonyi State Senator representing Ebnyi North Senatorial District, Ebonyi State).	False Declaration of Assets, Stealing of state funds billions of Niara	EFCC	Arrested and detained the former accountant General of State Zinus Nwakwo whereas the Gov. was untouched	Remained untouched.
46.	1998 to Date	Buruji Kashamu (Representing Ogun State) + 14 others	Heroin smuggling into US.	NDLEA (Nigerian Drug law Enforcement Agency	Claimed allegation was a case of mistaken identity.	Matter still before court
47.	23/2/2010	Abdullahi Adamu (former Gov. of Nasarawa State and Senator Representing Nasarawa West	N71.7m N34m, N15bn fraudulent award of contracts and fraudulent stealing of public funds) Award of N1.1bn contracts without due process	EFCC	Currently standing trail	Shamelessly partaking in making laws for Nigeria since 2011.
48.	6/9/2011	Christain Adab (senator-Elect representing Ado/Okpokwu/Ogb adigbo) of Benue State.	Certificate forpenny and OND perfury	Inspect general of police (.19)	His see was declared winner of the primary election	Arrested and prosecuted
49.	April 2012	Mr Erastus Akinghola (Former	N364bn stealing	EFCC	Case dismissed by	Demonstrated agency's

		Managing Director of Intercontinental Bank Plc			court.	incompetence and shoddy methods of prosecution of very serious and offending cases
50.		Halliburton's Bribery scandal, 3 persons mentioned	S180m	EFCC	Mishandled by EFCC	Demonstrates EFCC's clumsiness in prosecuting high profile cases of global dimension.

Source: Research Work 2017(see viewed and retrieved 29/04/2017) etc.

<https://tell.ng/high-profile-corruption-cases-being-prosecuted-by-the-efcc-2003-till-date/>

3.7 Some Defective EFCC Probes Results

EFCC probes are noted to be defective according to some source of divergent views. In the first place, method of EFCC's probe committee set-up is selective in constitution. The processes of probing the accused are also defective. The source also revealed that the probes are not only ineffective, but they do not yield advantageous/beneficial results that are to reckon with. The source also revealed that even though the cases of Tafa Balogun and Bode George were conclusive, that they were not extensive in that not all the guilty persons were exposed and rightly handled by EFCC. Conclusively, the source made it known that the two famous fraud cases – Pension Fraud and Subsidy Fraud should have revealed so many fraudulent criminals, rather they have become secret cases which have been forgotten as at present[26].

3.8 Negativities of the Anti-Graft Agencies

Activities of the Anti-graft agencies which are being queried in recent times include the Forensic Audit on the activities of NNPC which reported a missing (unremitted) sum of N1.48b as in [27] according to no serious measures were taken by the anti-graft agencies to bring the fraudsters to book, thereby sanitising the nation of corruption and fraudulent practices. This is just one case among many other cases of frauds in the Nigerian economy which the anti-grafts have not handled effectively which make us to have double minds as to the effectiveness of the activities of the anti-graft agencies. The increased wave of fraud permeating the Nigerian Economy in spite of the establishment of the anti-graft agencies according to [28] as in [27] also leaves a spell of

doubts in our minds as to the effectiveness of the activities of the anti-graft agencies. Furthermore, the activities of the anti-graft agencies have been badly queried with the situation where the hunter becomes the hunted. In this case, the EFCC chairman as at that time was charged with the allegation of corruption. According to him, the chairman of the EFCC, was petitioned to have diverted money recovered by the commission from the politicians who looted the nations resources. In his work, he identified the fact that the petitioner wrote to the senate alleging that the sum of N1 trillion recovered from the plunderers was craftily pocketed by the EFCC chairman. How then can one stand to affirm the effectiveness of the activities of the anti-graft agencies where one of their chair persons is being suspected? Of course suspicion and consequently allegation would never have arisen if the suspect had not plied the line of corruption. These and more horrible cases have queried out-rightly the activities of anti-graft agencies and consequently rendered them ineffective.

3. 9.Review of Related Empirical Studies

Scholars have looked into the activities of the anti-corruption agencies in various dimensions. In the research work carried out by [29] on curbing financial crimes with anti-graft bureaus in Nigeria: The accountants' perception in which the opinions of 140 accountants in various capacities were sought on the efficacy of the anti-graft agencies in curbing financial crime. Survey research design was employed in carrying out the research while ANOVA was used in carrying out the statistical analysis. The study revealed that respondents perceived the anti-graft agencies as highly effective but could not establish that accountants in various walks of life differ significantly in their perception of the efficacy of the Nigerian Anti-graft bureaus. They recommended that Nigerian government should strengthen the Anti-financial crimes agencies given that the influence of highly placed offenders, the dignity, societal bondage and shame inherent in financial crimes may affect the potency of anti-financial crimes measures put in place [30] took a step further in the survey of adoption of forensic accounting in fraud detection process by anti-corruption agency: A conceptual framework in which he studied the use of forensic accounting in fraud detection process. The study shows that there is low adoption rate of forensic accounting by organisations including anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) in fraud detection process. The research findings also revealed that it is apparent that the growing trend and the discoveries of economic and financial crimes in Nigeria require a proactive measure on the part of the Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) especially the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). It further revealed that adopting forensic accounting in fraud detection process will enhance the effectiveness of the EFCC in the war against corruption practices in Nigeria. Also, in a study carried out on economic and financial crime in Nigeria: forensic accounting as antidote by [31] with the aim to evaluate forensic accounting as antidote to economic and financial crime in Nigeria, they studied government institutions such as

EFCC, ICPC, Lagos state ministry of finance, PHCN and FIRS. Chi-square and SPSS were applied as statistical analytical tools. They observed that economic and financial crimes are among the causes of hindrances to development efforts in Nigeria. That poor governance, ineffective and wrong judgment, as well as weak auditing activities are the outcome of inappropriate litigation support services in the court which constitutes set back to the Nigerian economy. They equally observed dent image of Nigeria in the global community as an additional harm on the country. The result of the study pointed out that forensic accounting is the financial strategy to be used to curb and resolve economic and financial crimes in Nigerian economy. They recommend amongst other things that federal government of Nigeria should make forensic accounting a practice in Nigeria by passing it into law so that economic and financial crimes will be eradicated. Furthermore, [30] (Studied combating economic and financial crimes by the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria. Implication on the national economic growth and development. The aim was to evaluate the relevance of the establishment of the three key anti-graft agencies (ICPC, EFCC and CCB) in Nigeria and the justification of the huge budgetary provision for their operation. The researchers adopted quasi-experimental design and used ordinary least square as analytical tool the study reveals that no significant relationship exists between each of the anti-graft agencies studied and the Nigerian economy development. This implies that the establishment of these anti-graft agencies has not contributed significantly in the economic growth and development of Nigeria and therefore has not justified the huge budgetary provision of the government for their operations. In the study carried out by [2] in relations to the causes of the ineffectiveness of selected statutory anti-corruption establishments in fraud prevention and control in the Nigerian public sector which aimed at identifying strategies and measures that will strength the effectiveness of the commission in their fight against corruption in the Nigerian public sector to ensure accountability and transparency. The researchers adopted content analytical method. The research outcome showed that inadequate financial record keeping, ineffective internal control system, unqualified account staff, negotiation and presidential mercy on fraudsters are responsible for ineffectiveness of the EFCC and ICPC. The implies that if these anomalies are not checked it will be difficult to succeed in the fight for corruption in Nigeria. It was recommended that all hands should be on deck and support EFCC and ICPC to get rid of corruption in Nigeria. Also, that government should ensure compliance with the public sector code of conduct on the part of government workers.

IV. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Participants

The participants for this study were selected from professionals like Lawyers and Accountants who are in the know of the activities of these anti-corruption agencies and the other corrupt activities in the country and the academia. A total of 200 copies of questionnaire were printed and distributed. 50copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the first group mentioned above. 150 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the second group. A response of 100copies of the questionnaire was received.

4.2 Questionnaire design and administration

The questionnaire of seven detailed questions was designed to capture the opinion of the respondents regarding the activities of the Anti-corruption agencies; it also tried to elicit information regarding the major causes of fraud in the economy. Responses from question 1-3 was used to test hypothesis 1, while question 4-5 was used to test hypothesis 2 and question 5-7 was used to test hypotheses 3.

The responses to some of the questions in the questionnaire are graduated into five Likert scale responses. Data were sourced primarily with the use of questionnaire.

V.TEST OF HYPOTHESES AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Hypothesis I

Using Chi-square Test

	Values	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	a-Level
Pearson Chi-square	9.961	0.041	0.05
Likelihood ratio	9.935	0.042	
Linear-by-linear association	1.872	0.171	
Symmetric measures			
Phi	0.316		
Cramer's v	0.316		
Pearson's R	0.138		
Spearman Correlation	0.205		

Interpretation of Result

Decision Rule: If Asymp.Sig.<a-level (005) reject Ho, otherwise accept Ho.

With the data under study,

Asymp.Sig = 0.041

a-level = 0.05

In the analysis Asymp. Sig.(0.041) <a(0.05), reject Ho, which shows that greed and poverty have significant relationship with corruption in Nigeria, and they are among the causes of corruption in Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2

Using Chi-square Test

	Values	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	a-Level
Pearson Chi-square	12.894	0.012	0.05
Likelihood ratio	16.947	0.002	
Linear-by-linear association	1.509	0.219	
Symmetric measures			
Phi	0.359		
Cramer's v	0.359		
Pearson's R	0.123		
Spearman Correlation	0.024		

Interpretation of Result

Decision Rule: If Asymp.Sig.<a-level (005) reject Ho, otherwise accept Ho.

With the data under study,

Asymp.Sig = 0.001

a-level = 0.05

In the analysis, Asymp. Sig.(0.012) <a(0.05), reject Ho, and conclude that pervasiveness of corruption in Nigeria is as a result of poor governance, favouritism, tribalism, and poor remuneration.

Hypothesis 3

Using Chi-square Test

	Values	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	a-Level
Pearson Chi-square	6.464	0.167	0.05
Likelihood ratio	7.430	0.115	
Linear-by-linear association	5.530	0.019	
Symmetric measures			
Phi	0.254		
Cramer's v	0.254		
Pearson's R	0.236		
Spearman Correlation	0.247		

Interpretation of Result

Decision Rule: If Asymp.Sig. < a-level (005) reject Ho, otherwise accept Ho.

With the data under study,

Asymp.Sig = 0.167

a-level = 0.05

In the analysis, Asymp. Sig.(0.012) < a(0.05), reject Ho, and conclude that the activities of the anti-graft agencies are not effective in curbing corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria.

VI. DISCUSSIONS/FINDINGS

The result of the Pearson's Chi- Square Test carried out on Hypothesis 1 shows that greed and poverty have significant relationship with corruption in Nigeria, and they are among the causes of corruption in Nigeria. The result of Pearson's Chi-Square Test carried out on Hypothesis 2 shows that pervasiveness of corruption in Nigeria is as a result of poor governance, favouritism, tribalism, and poor remuneration. This is in line with the findings of the study carried out on economic and financial crime in Nigeria: forensic accounting as antidote by [32] wherein they found that poor governance, ineffective and wrong judgment, as well as weak auditing activities are the outcome of inappropriate litigation support services in the court which constitutes set back to the Nigerian economy. The result of the Pearson's Chi- Square Test carried out on Hypothesis 3 shows that the activities of the anti-graft agencies are

not effective in curbing corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria. This is in line with the findings of [28] who (Studied combating economic and financial crimes by the anti-graft agencies in Nigeria: Implication on the national economic growth and development. Their finding implies that the establishment of these anti-graft agencies has not contributed significantly in the economic growth and development of Nigeria and therefore has not justified the huge budgetary provision of the government for their operations. Their non-contribution to economic growth of the nation is a direct indication that they have not aided curbing corruption in the Nigerian Economy.

VII. CONCLUSION

The pervasiveness of corruption in Nigeria as a result of poor governance, favouritism, tribalism, and poor remuneration can never be over-emphasized. The above mentioned live cases are just few of corruption and financial crimes cases in Nigeria which have not been handled successfully by the anti-graft agencies. This work is a good eye-opener to the main causes of corruption in the Nation and the inefficiency associated with the established anti-graft agencies. It has also given a lead way to other effective and efficient ways of near total eradication of this great monster called corruption.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this study:

1. Poverty alleviation programmes should be encouraged by the government in order to raise the standard of living of the citizens, thereby reducing corruption and financial crimes.
2. Marginalisation, favouritism, nepotism and tribalism should be greatly discouraged in this nation called Nigeria. All the citizens of this great country should be treated equally. No special treatment should be given to any set of people whatsoever.
3. Payment of remuneration to workers should be strictly based on output. Citizens of the nation should not be lured into corrupt practices by non-payment of salaries and incentives as at when due especially when they have worked very hard.
4. The anti-graft agencies should be encouraged to handle all cases of corruption on a neutral ground based on uprightness, total commitment, and a sense of responsibility without unnecessary government interventions.
5. It is recommended that the removal of immunity clause from government officials be enforced.
6. It is also recommended that accountability of the security vote be maintained without the slightest compromise.

REFERENCES

- [1] Umar Ibrahim, et al Adoption of Forensic Accounting in Fraud Act election Process by Anti-Corruption agency A conceptual Framework, *International Journal of Management Research and Review, IJMRR Feb 2016/Volume 6/Issue2/Article No. 5/135-148. 2016, ISSN:2249-7196.*
- [2] Iyang E.E., Peter, Z, and EJOR, N. O The causes of the Ineffectiveness of selected statutory Anti-Corruption Establishments in Fraud Prevention and Control in the Nigeria Public Sector. *Research Journal of Financial and Accounting, Vol. 5, No. 5. (Online), 2016.*
- [3] EFCC Act 2004
- [4] ICPC Act 2000
- [5] Neifi.org.ng/index (viewed and retrieved on: 29/12/2016 by 3.30p.m)
- [6] NDLEA Act, 1989
- [7] MLPA (2003, 2004, 2011).
- [8] AFF ACT 1995
- [9] OgbewereBankoleJewereme Anatomy of Corruption in the Nigeria Public Sector, *Theoretical perspectives and some Empirical Explanations Journals. 2013,sagepub.com*
- [10] Okoduwa R. A. *An Overview of Corruption*,(Abujah Education Publishers, 2015)
- [11] Mbah J. U. *The Role and Challenge of Anti-corruption Agencies in Enhancing prudent Financial Management in Nigeria* (the case of ICPC and EFCC) department of Accountancy, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, 2010
- [12] Omenka, Iba Jacob The Affects of Corruption on Development in Nigeria IOR *Journal of Humanities and social Science (IOSR –JHSS) Vol.15, Issue to (Sept – Oct 2013) programmes. 2013, 39-44. www-losrjournal.org*
- [13] EFCC,28/09/2009) viewed and retrieved on: 25/12/2016 by 2.10p.m)
Sect 45, EFCC Act 2004 Sam, Iwala Cladapo
- [14] <http://www.dictionary.com><http://www.yourdictionary.com/fraud>
- [15] www.accountingtools.com/pay
- [16] Ulthman, B. A. et al, *Curbing Financial Crimes with Anti-graft, Bureaus in Nigeria: The Accountants Perception Accounting Management Information System, Vol, 14, No. 1, 2013, pp.107-127.*
- [17] <https://www.reference.com> - viewed and retrieved on: 21/01/2017 by 10.05a.m)
- [18] Online library. Wilely.com-encyclopaedia of theoretical criminology (viewed and retrieved on: 21/01/2017 by 10.10am
- [19] www.bribenigeria.com viewed and retrieved on:02/05/2017 by 4.15pm
- [20] www.bribenigeria.com/bribe - viewed and retrieved on:02/05/2017 by 4.40pm
- [21] EFCC Act 2000
- [22] Yusuf –Alli, (2008) ICPC, EFCC

[23] www.ndlea.gov/iv

[24] www.nassnigiorg/documentdownloads/5807

[25] www.nassnigiorg/documentdownloads/5807

[26] Ronald Mutum by Media Trust Ltd (NIG). (www.dailytrust.com.ng-viewed today 01/05/17)

[27] Amaefule K.I, Umeaka, E. C. X Combating Economic And Financial Crimes by the Anti-graft Agencies In Nigeria: Implications on the Nation's Economic Growth and Development, *International Journal of Innovative Development & Policy Studies* 4 (2), 2013, 8-33. www.sealnipaj.or

[28] Bayo Oluphonda reports – September, 4, 2012. <http://www.nigeriansinamerica.com> (viewed today: 28/04/2017 by 3.25pm)

[29] Uthman, Oke, Ajape, Abdul-Baki and Tijani (2015)

[30] Uman, Bt Samsidiu and Mohammed (2016)

[31] Adegbie, F. FandFakile, A. S. (2012), Economic and Financial Crime in Nigeria, Forencic Accounting as Antidote, *British Journal of Arts & Social Sciences* ISSN: 2046-9578, Vol.6 No.1,(British Journal Publishing, Inc. 2012).