

Comparative Studies on Strategies for Combating Corruption between Nigeria and Iraq

Ibrahim Kawuley Mikail^{1*}

Saad Sahi Abbas²

Norafidah Bint Ismail²

Mohammed Ainudden I.Lee Ibn Abdullah²

¹Federal College of Education, Zaria-Nigeria

²Universiti Utara Malaysia

*Corresponding author: elkawuley75@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Corruption is the great ailment that disturbed most of the nation states across the globe, its predicament is worst in the developing states than developed one. The sinister of corrupt practices have attracted the attention of international community to designed some strategies for combating its menace, this has adversely makes the member states to masterminds their strategies or review the existent one for enhancing probity, accountability and national development. This study compares the strategies for combating corruption between Nigeria and Iraq. The study employed qualitative techniques through interview method in obtaining data from the stakeholders, academics and politicians. The study revealed that both Nigeria and Iraq have institutional strategies for fighting against grafts in their country. It was also revealed that the strategies are effective in Nigeria while they are ineffective in Iraq; it also pointed that all strategies were facing some challenges such as autonomy, political interference, and funding, inadequate staff among others. The paper recommends that the anti-grafts institutions should be strengthen, holistic approach, and enhancing political will towards discarding the above challenges facing the institutions. The role of the media and civil society should also be recognized in fighting against corruption in their respective states.

Keywords: *Comparative studies, Corruption, Strategies for combating corruption, anti-grafts institutions. Nigeria, Iraq*

Received: January 2017

Published: July 2017

INTRODUCTION

Corruption has involved various nations over the globe, particularly the immature country states. It has different ramifications for both the developed and immature economies (Owens, 1987; Eugene, 2013). Corruption is discovered everywhere throughout the world – in both rich and poor nations (Oby Ezekwesili, 2012). Gloomier evaluated that worldwide bribery adds to over \$1 trillion in expenses. Subsequently, this amount neither involves misappropriation nor the misapplication of public funds, which include sum of \$1.5 trillion (Transparency International, 2011a). Furthermore, almost 2% of the global gross domestic product GDP about \$1.5-\$2trillion been lost to the bribery worldwide (IMF, 2016; Lawder, 2016). In African perspective, corruption costs the continent to loss \$148billion each year which is equivalent to the 25%of Africa's national income and increasing the cost of the goods by 20% and distorting development (Blunt, 2002; Lawal and Tobi, 2012).

This debilitating scenario has facilitated the international community to pay more attention on corruption and established some agencies and conventions against corruption such as UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), African Union Convention on Preventing and combating corruption, OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and ECOWAS Protocol against corruption among others to wage war against corruption as well to direct all their member states to establish anti-graft institutions to enable them to combat the menace of corruption worldwide (Chiwunze, 2014; Mikail, 2017). This development made nation states to reconstitute their anti-graft strategies as well as to establish the new institutions for combating corruption Nigeria and Iraq.

Due to the complex nature of corruption, there is no single strategy that is used to combat corruption. Different strategies have been adopted by different countries or government in its effort to control corruption (Pabia, 2013). Various strategies have been put in place in Nigeria and Iraq in order to address the problems of corruption in their public and private sector management. Both two countries have advocated the institutional strategies for combating debasement so as to meet the international demand in fighting grafts as well as to improve accountability, probity and transparency in governance. This article is an attempt to look at the strength and weaknesses of these strategies through comparative analysis between Nigeria and Iraq. This paper was structured within six phased: introduction; literature review; methodology; data presentation and analysis; and concluding remarks.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section contains the review of previous work on the strategies for combating corruption to serves as the guides for filling our research gap that

other previous studies were not attempted or failed to fulfill it within their studies. This will enable researchers to provide a context for the study and demonstrates why is significant and timely, it also clarifies the relationship between this research study with previous studies conducted on the said topic (Sheikh Ismail, 2017). In this respect, the literature was divided into two segments to review the literature on global perspective on the strategies for combating corruption from previous studies as well as the review of specific literature in relations to the areas of the study.

International Strategies for Combating Corruption

Globally, corruption became point of discourse that cut across all nation states, ranging from developed nations, countries in transitions, and developing societies among the third world states (Oby Ezekwesili, 2012; Hameed, 2014; IMF, 2016; and Mikail, 2016). Consequently, corruption has impeded some international organizations such as Olympic International and Federation International Football Association (FIFA). The allegations of corruption over its controversial decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar by Muhammad bn Hammam Qatari former FIFA official and former President Asian Football Confederation on payments of US\$5Million to football officials of FIFA in return for their support for the Qatar 2022 World Cup bid (Bond, 2014 in www.bbc.com/sport), and the removal of Sep Platter as FIFA chairman on corrupt practices were among the classical testimony.

Panama Papers highlights how impervious corporate vehicles can be used to hide huge amount of funds that is illegally generated through illicit attitude, including tax evasion, corruption and sanctions evasion (IMF, 2016), the Panama Papers are exceptional leak of 11.5million files within the database of law firm Mossack Fonseca, this shows the gravity of widespread of grafts at international scene, because the report has indicted several nations, big global personalities and multinational corporation among others that was obtained from Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper Germany and shared with International Consortium of Investigative Journalists ICIJ (Harding, 2016).

Hameed (2014) pointed that the world economic forum shows that graft is the central obstacle in conducting trade in the sixty seven developing economies out 144 states. He further argued that decreasing graft is the main emphasis of development aid and diplomatic relations but it has focus also on multilateral trade and international business determination (Hameed, 2014). Corruption is a challenge to good governance, interfere with public policy, delude on equitable distribution of wealth and a setback to economic development (Bardan, 1997; Rose-Ackerman, 1999; Anan, 2004).

Sequel to the above analysis so far, several concerted efforts have been made by international agencies in order to forestall the menace of grafts to their member states and the entire global community. Some nation states and International Organizations have concentrate much attention towards

looking for strategies to combat the menace of corruption. This led them to come out with various plans and new agencies (anti-graft) across the globe (Siddique, 2010). The war against corruption received global, regional and national perspectives which attribute the representatives of devastated nations to meet in Peru's headquarter to announce Lima Declaration against corruption 1997. Furthermore, in November, 1997, Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) convene towards supporting the Global Coalition for Africa in Maputo, Mozambique denounced that corruption is "a crime against human beings and the humanity". After one month the OECD Anti-Bribery Conference was also adopted (Igbuzor, 2008).

However, the researchers, global financial agencies of Breton wood institutions (IMF and World Bank) development agencies, donors, NGO's, and National governments have now adopted the fight against corruption as a battle cry (Enweremadu, 2012). In fact, the UNCAC popularly known as UN Convention against Corruption was embraced in 2003. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offenses was likewise adopted in July at the second conventional session of the Assembly Heads of State and Government of the African Union. In the previous one and half decades, nearly policies and techniques set up to battle defilement (Igbuzor, 2008).

The International Agencies and Organizations such as World Bank, Transparency International (TI) and United Nations Organizations as well as some continental and regional Organizations made their concerted efforts towards combating corruption among their member states across the globe (Mikail, 2016). These efforts motivates the member states to designed a policy framework and strategies for the combating corruption or to redefine their existence ones so as its basic objectives for fighting corruption or reducing it to the barest minimal.

In fact, the World Bank perceived the opposition to debasement NGO Transparency International (TI) which give birth to the CPI in 1995. It rapidly turned into the best known political debasement measure. The CPI has additionally fortified numerous cross national, quantitative investigations of defilement's conceivable circumstances and end results (Mauro, 1995; Triesman, 2000; Montinola and Jackman, 2002; Canache and Allison, 2005 cited in Ruhl, 2011). Therefore, since the inception of CPI in 1996, its carry out numerous researches on corruption so as to aid the global community and individual countries with the information on corruption index at their domain in order to take some measures or strategies towards combating or reducing it to the barest minimal in order to ensure transparency and national development ((Lambsdorff, 2008). This development has really assisted the researchers on corruption at global and state level to ascertain the rating system of the country's corruption index every blessing year. It will also aid the policy makers and stakeholders who are working in anti-graft institutions to take some decisive measures to halt the menace of corrupt practices in their respective domain.

UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon (2008) hinted that “in 1997, the United Nation’s fight against corruption and “uncivil society” such as illegal drugs pushing, human trafficking, corruption and terrorism. UNDOC targets to be a strategic planner at International and national levels. The strategy set out certain objectives within three phases: rule of law, policy and development analysis, protective measures, treatment and restoration and development substitute. Corroborating the above, the role of UNODC on crime, former UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Anan posited that “I have assigned Vienna as the Center of the United Nations in our fight “uncivil society”- the individuals who utilize the advantages of globalization to illegal drugs trafficking, money laundering, and take part in terrorism and human trafficking”. He further called attention to that three conventions (an) Anti-Drug Conventions (b) Conventions against Organized Crime (UNTOC) and (c) Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was came out from normative work among key areas of UNODC (www.unodc/en/corruption/index.html).

United Nations Conventions against Corruption (UNCAC) is the bedrock of global anti-corruption agreement that was legally bonded among member states of UN on 14 December.2005 in accordance with article 68(1) of UN general Assembly. Accordingly, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon at the occasion of International Anti-Corruption day (9th December,2009) hinted that “ the UNCAC is the convention against corruption is the world’s strongest legal instrument to build integrity and fight corruption”, he approached organizations to embrace anti-graft measures in accordance with the convention”. The UNCAC is the main legitimately binding all anti-corruption campaign strategy (www.unodc.org/en/corruption/index).

In fact, the above international convention, gestures and presentation have assisted the member states to established their fresh anti-graft agencies as well as motivates them to reconstitutes and reform their existent ones, so as to ensure transparency, public probity and accountability through forestalling the menace of corrupt activities in both public and private sector management.

Strategies for Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption and anti-corruption fights have been at the heart of national political discourse and actions in Nigeria since independence in October, 1960. Almost all the regimes that have come to power in Nigeria strongly denounced corruption, without any form of external pressure, while also proposing measures against it. It is true that most of these measures (inauguration of commissions of inquiry) to probe specific allegations and suggest remedies with radical anti-corruption laws (Kolajo, 2002). Indeed each regimes has its own systemic corruption and also has its strategy for combating it.

Nigerian rulers at all levels of government since political freedom from white men have been enmeshed in plundering the wealth of the nation. Without a doubt, Nigeria has experienced government that have plundered the assets of the state; that couldn't or would not convey administrations to their citizens; that as a rule were rapacious, corruptly extricating their assets, that kept up control through roughness and bribery; and that misused and stolen help (Justine and Okoye, 2014). This malady distort the development and good governance to the common man of Nigerian citizens.

Nigerian society is presently characterized by social malaise such as governance failure, economic downturn, insecurity of life, poverty, armed robbery, dilemma of development and all forms of corruptions, moral degeneration, succession crises, and a general lack of accountability by those entrusted with governance (Achebe, 1988; Aluko, 2002; Egbue, 2007; Agubamah, 2009)". This vindicates the fragile democratic governance and dwindling economy that would not cater for the betterment of its citizens and national development. Due to these contending and precarious problem of corruption the past previous government have made some concerted effort as strategies for fighting corruption in Nigeria at their time which serves as the decorum legacy for the subsequent generations.

In Nigeria, there was legislations or laws enacted by either military decree or Act of parliament from democratic legislative body to fight against corruption. This legislation gave birth to the institutional framework for combating corruption. From the assertion of Alapiki and Amadi (2012) in addition to the existing criminal and penal codes that have existed since the colonial era, the military rule in Nigeria made impressive body of laws against corruption and financial crimes. The past laws and decree include the Corrupt Practices Decree 1975; recovery of public property decree 1984; National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, 1990; Public Complaint Commission and Code of Conduct, 1990; Criminal Code Act Cap 77, Laws of the federation 1990; Failed Bank (Recovery) of Debts and Financial Malpractices Act, 1994; Money Laundering Act No.3 of 1995 among others. While in the fourth republic the government came up with Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act of 2000; Economic and Financial Crimes Act 2004. This development led to the emergence of ICPC & EFCC as twins' anti-graft agencies for fighting corruption in Nigerian fourth republic.

In fact, there are several programs initiated by previous regimes on combating corrupt practices aimed at sanitizing the system. These programs include: Ethical Revolution of Shagari administration (1979-83); War against Indiscipline (WAI) General Buhari military regime (1983-85); Mass Mobilization for Self-Reliance and Social Justice (MAMSER) of General Babangida's military oligarchy (1985-1993); and War against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAIC) of General Abacha's military dictatorship (1993-98) respectively (Igbuzor, 2008).

Accordingly, past administrations of both civilian and military regimes have made some plans of action and programs to tackle the issue of corruption. But their antidotes, where applied, have often fallen short of the required impact to turn the state of corruption around for good (Akhaphe, 2014). This challenges motivate the fourth democratic government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to revisit the anti-corruption Acts and Decrees to embark on inaugurating the new anti-graft Acts, strategies and agencies so as to deal with the challenges of corruption in the nation. Waziri (2010) pointed out that “the previous Acts and more especially the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Act 2000 and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission led to the establishment of the said Anti-corruption agencies.

The above were the current institutional strategies that Nigeria used to fight debasement in both public and private sector management. Though despite the challenges facing by these agencies such as funding, autonomy, political interference by the authorities especially in previous administration, but they have really show there optimistic effort in fighting against graft particularly during the former chairman of EFCC Malam Nuhu Ribadu and the present dispensation. This was due to political will of the government in combating grafts in the country.

Strategies for Combating Corruption in Iraq

Corruption acts as a main impediment to growth, development and prosperity. A widespread problem affects economic, social and political aspects, locally and globally. The worldwide communities have increasingly recognized the importance of problem of corruption especially in developing countries. In this regard, Iraqi citizens are aware of corrupt practices as serious threat to decline the standard of living, prosperity; but they are not making any efforts to combat corruption. Since the emergence of Iraqi criminal law, it has stated some articles on fighting corruption (Agator, 2013).

Corruption has been building its wide nets gradually in Iraq by moving from these forms of personal bribes to become systemically widespread in almost all Iraqi political, social and economic sectors. Now corruption has become the main impediment to growth, development and prosperity in Iraq. It becomes widespread problem that affects Iraqi economic, social and political aspects locally and globally (Gunter, 2013). Corruption is aggravated at all levels of political system in Iraq and the political aspects serves as a great cause of corruption in Iraq (Looney, 2008). There are two distinctive aggravators to Iraq's political corruption: the persistent violence and continuing sectarian conflicts.

These anti-graft measures are mission and message originated from good reasoning and consideration that characterized from management sciences towards fighting corruption based on international practices. This

measures consist of set of guidelines to be followed which involves the role of citizens and institutions in safeguarding the Iraqis society as well as combating divergent forms of corrupt practices and protect its occurrence (Republic of Iraq National Anti-corruption Strategy, 2010-2014).

However, the successive Iraqi political authorities that have recognized increasingly the importance of fighting corruption especially in official sectors, all their strategies have proved to be a complete failure. Although the instruments and institutions of investigation for combating corruption do exist in Iraq represented by Board of Supreme Audit, Inspectors General and Commission of Integrity, yet these institutions are unable of produce any effect due to government interferences, intransigence and manipulation (Republic of Iraq National Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2010-2014).

i. Board of Supreme Audit

The board of Supreme Audit was established in 1927 five years before independence of Iraq, under the law 17 of 1927 in order to ensure probity and enhance public auditing system in the country. The law stressed the relevance of division of power and checks and balances as well to enhance honesty and effectiveness in public expenditure (The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014).

The above law was amended in numerous time in order to fit the Iraqi's financial management system. The latest amendment took place under legislative order No.77 (2004). In this respect the Board of Supreme Audit has mandated to assist in keeping government funds with probity and discard all sort of misappropriation; to produce account and investigation record on domestic and international standard; establish sound account and auditing system; as well as to ratified final account process to all government establishments ((The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014).

The above body was the watershed of anti-corruption institutions in Iraq and later work in collaboration with the anti-graft institutions in order to combat corrupt practices and improve public probity and accountability in financial management system of the country.

ii. Inspector General

Inspectors General Offices emerged at all public agencies in conformity with the regulation so as to disband the alliance authority No. 57 (2004) basically to direct the government institutions to revisit its performance, confirmation and investigation. These strategies were makes to improve the standards of integrity, monitoring the public institutions performance and avoid mismanagement of government expenditure, corrupt practices, in furtherance to makes the citizens acquainted with the law and stop disobeying it (The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014).

The basic role of the agency is to ensure that it improve level of honesty, transparency, proper management of public resources, adoption of appropriate monitoring system, exposing corrupt scandals, prevent the level of corrupt practices, as well as organizing training on anti-graft strategies to public institutions and other independent organizations. The agency used to offer maximum support to court, integrity commission, and internal audit so as to discharge their responsibility diligently (The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014). The above laws predicated to set up autonomous offices for government audit to ensure them to undertake investigation, evaluation and monitoring exercises in organized manner and global best practices.

iii. Commission of Integrity

The Commission of Integrity has established under regulatory law attached to the order issued by provisional coalition authority No. 55 (2004). The focus of this commission is to adopt all anti-graft measures and improve government services, it also produce the directives of the law makers if it needed. The commission also serves as the forum for enlightenment campaign for the entire Iraqi citizens in order to attain transparency and public accountability through such the leaders would comply with moral conduct in conducting their daily responsibilities as well to declare their assets before the commission (The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014).

Though investigation, detection, and prosecution were among the legal codes of the commission in order to forestall the menace of corrupt practices in public sector private firms in Iraq. This can be done through enhancing fairness, transparency, accountability to both public and private sector. It will also aid the top government functionaries within the parliament, executive and judiciary to prompt action against graft in their respective duties ((The National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2011-2014).

The Commission of Integrity (CoI), was been described as the leading strategies for fighting graft in Iraq. Is held responsible for examination of grafts scandals within fifteen province and the national government. In fact, since its inception in 2004, the commission has advanced to attained power for anti-corruption body in Iraq, due to the numerous corrupt and related cases reported to the said commission as well the commission has act as appropriate in dealing with such cases. The number of criminal investigation scandals has jumped from 786 in 2004/5 to 6,779 in 2009 and 11,671 in 2011 (UNODC, 2013). This is in conformity of the objectives of the commission in fighting corrupt practices in Iraq.

Despite all these achievement by numerous anti-grafts agencies but the country was rated as 160 out 163 in 2006; while it became 169 out of 176 countries in the world (UN General Assembly, 2013). The attributes the international anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International to rate the country among the top nations in the world.

Challenges for Anti-Graft Institutions

Lumumba (2013) pontificates that the great challenge for anti-corruption commissions is centered on political interference due to lack of political leaders to fight corruption and short term for the officers that are willing vigorously to combat corruption". These challenges that perverted the anti-corruption institutions in developing countries like Iraq are among lack of sound investigative system due to immunity clause, lack of coordination in internal audit, weak oversight function, inadequate data, paucity of funds to the anti-grafts institutions, inadequate professional and trained personnel, weak judicial system and lack of protection to the whistle blowers etc. (Saleh, 2014).

In other word, Bajalan (2014) hinted that absence of accurate data, security, lack of independence, ineffective policies by the anti-graft agencies, political influence and involvement of elites in corrupt activities, inadequate funds and absence of professional and adequate number of staff to the anti-graft institutions among others. These challenges has really affect the institutions to gain autonomy, effective decisions as well as weaken them towards discharging their basic responsibilities for fighting corruption in Iraq. Bello-Imam (2015) lamented that the paucity of fund is the great bottleneck to ICPC and EFCC Nigerian anti-corruption agencies. This assertion is in consonance of the views of Adagba (2012) and Shehu (2015); the lingering underfunded system has hampered these institutions to have adequate staff, offices, logistics and professional training in discharging their basic duties. The great restrain that intimidates the anti-corruption institutions in Nigeria are lack of adequate funding, political interference and judicial bottleneck among others in fact is merely the same obstacle in the case of Iraq as mentioned above.

METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative research which administered exploratory studies in order to seek the opinions of the informants or participants on the known situation of the phenomenon so as to generate adequate information on the phenomenon for viable theoretical framework (Sekeran and Bougie, 2013). The in-depth interview was duly conducted from 14 informants as guided in qualitative study, whereby 7 informants are from both Nigeria and Iraq. The researchers analyze the data through manual analysis after transcribing the data from the informants. The informants selected from the staff of anti-grafts agencies, academics in Nigeria while the members of the Parliaments and academics was targeted in Iraq, this was due to lack access to the anti-graft bodies in Iraq. Meanwhile, the research questions and the responses from the informants are in the same lane and its analysis of this study. The discussion of findings interrogates the linked between the data and the views

of previous scholars so as to highlights the mutual agreement in some areas and otherwise from the responses.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The research questions accompanied with the responses from the informants was highlighted in this portion as well the discussion of the finding would follow later. The researchers seeks to ask the below questions and obtain the following results.

1. What are the strategies for combating corruption in Nigeria and Iraq?

In responding this quest, the informants unilaterally responds that they have institutional strategies which the government advocated them, through legislations in order to address the problems of grafts. The Nigerian informants confirmed that the establishment of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission ICPC; and Economic Financial and Crimes Commission EFCC was came to the board in 2000 and 2003 during President Obasanjo purposely to address the cases of grafts in the country. Anti-graft agencies have been established to show their readiness to fight corruption. Agencies like EFCC and ICPC emerged for anti-corruption crusade with enforcement mission. This was a very good strategy because the agencies were able to try corrupt officials. The statutes of the EFCC Acts is to enforce laws for fighting corruption in Nigeria. While ICPC was basically for education, prevention and enlightenment campaign against corruption in the country. Indeed, these institutions saddled with the responsibilities for fighting corruption in Nigeria (Informants 1-7 from anti-graft agencies and Members of Academics via interview).

Meanwhile, the respondents from Iraq also attested that the strategies for combating corrupt practices were the government established bodies such as Board of Supreme Audit was established earlier since the independence of the country which its mandates was amended to meet the present demands for fighting grafts, while later after the removal of Saddam Hussein in 2004 the new post-war government came up with Inspector General and the Commission of Integrity. They are held responsible to improve the level of honesty, transparency, probity and public accountability in management of public expenditure while the commission of integrity is to undertake all anti-corruption measures such as investigation, detection, prosecution and taken corrupt officials to court for adjudication and conviction based on legal determination (Informants 1-7 from Members of the Academics and the Parliament Members of Iraq via interview).

The above position is conformity with UNCAC (2004) that anti-graft institutions are the set of organizations or agencies with legislative

mandate to fight against corruption in the state. In fact, most of the nation states adopted their own anti-corruption institutions and agencies in line with the directives of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC, 2004). The initiation of these agencies is the deliberate directive from United Nations Program for eliminating corrupt practices worldwide (Enwerenmadu, 2012). More so, these institutions were enacted with authority to discharge their responsibility in addressing anti-graft strategies and framework in the country so as to combat corruption and related offences (Enwerenmadu, 2012; Gashinbaki, 2013).

2. Were the strategies effective in combating corruption in Nigeria and Iraq?

In this respect, the four informants from Nigerian anti-graft institutions attested that the institutions were effective in terms of discharging their duties despite the challenges that is bordering them like funding, lack of training, judiciary delay, and manpower but they are still effective in dealing with corrupt cases in Nigeria (Informants 1-4 representing EFCC & ICPC via interview). While the other three participant's from the academics contravene the above and contend that the institutions were saddled with challenges of autonomy, paucity of funds and lack of professional skills among others, this shows that the institutions are not effective in combating corruption in Nigerian political climate (Informants 5-7 representing Members of Academics via Interview).

Meanwhile, in Iraq that the absence of efficiency and fairness by the leaders which they appointed the people based on nepotism, loyalty to the Party, sect and party blocs has really affect the staff placement of Iraqis' anti-graft institutions. This led them to engage incompetent, unskilled and people with low integrity to man the institutions in Iraq. This trend has led to the lack of coordination among the institutions and made them became ineffective (Informants 1-4 Members of Iraqi's Parliament via Interview).

While, there was widespread of bribery and corrupt practices among the staff of anti-corrupt practices which they concealed the truth especially to those who are to be convicted within top government functionaries. This staggering trend affect the effectiveness of the institutions in Iraq. However, poor monitoring and evaluation on inspector general, integrity commission, Parliamentary integrity committee, office of financial supervision and judiciary etc. this led to the spread of corruption and intimidate the institutions to discharge their work effectively (Informants 5-7 from Members of Academia Interview).

The above analysis is in conformity with Drucker (2006) effectiveness refers to getting the right things done for attaining the objective and goals of the organization. Organizational efficiency is the ability of an association to create the wanted results with a base consumption of vitality, time, cash, and

human and material assets (Pedraza, 2014). For the organization to become efficient must have a defined structure, strategy and effective decisions making and sound leadership. Indeed, the Nigerian anti-grafts institutions are in the said track because their institutions are effective in one wing. But to those who contend that the institutions are not effective they have gone contrary due to the institutional negligence, lack of competent staff, interference on the duties of the organization as in the case of Iraq.

3. What are the challenges that hinder these strategies in combating corruption?

In response to the above question, the informants duly pointed that the challenges or restrain that perverted the anti-corruption institutions in Nigeria are lack of adequate funding, political interference and judicial bottleneck. In fact, paucity of funds has affected the institutions in discharging its basic duties such as logistics, inability to recruit enough staff, training and facilities in both ICPC & EFCC (Informant, 1-7 from Staff of anti-grafts and Members of Academics Interview). While the need for special court in dealing with corrupt cases is very paramount as hinted by the staff of anti-grafts institutions (Informants, 1-4 Staff of anti-graft institutions). Though, the main obstacle to these institutions is political interference, lack autonomy and weak judicial response as lamented by the informants (Informant, 1-7 from Staff of anti-grafts and Members of Academics Interview).

Meanwhile in Iraq, stressed that Interference in the work of anti-corruption institutions by government and influential officials disrupts the decisions of these institutions. They further argued that absence of independence in the work of anti-corruption institutions such as the Board of Supreme Audit, the Integrity Commission and the Inspector General. The executive authority dominates and controls these institutions. Because when these ministers of Commerce, former defense minister and former minister of electricity were charge of corruption they have escape through influential people (informants 1-7 Members of the Parliament and the Academics). They also vindicate that concealing facts by government officials causes the weakness of the work of anti-corruption institutions. The Anti-corruption Institutions use to cover and protect the corrupt practices rather than revealing it and hold them accountable. While whoever revealed the corrupt cases in anti-grafts institutions he should face a wrath of threat from the top officials without any protection like Adel Nouri a member of Parliamentary Integrity he survive with seven assassination attempt as well as Justice Radhi Radhi, the former head of the Integrity Commission, was forced to escape to the United States after receiving threats from officials when he revealed corruption documents involved by senior Iraqi government officials. These are the weakness of the institutions (informants 1-7 Members of the Parliament and the Academics).

Meanwhile, the political interference and using power and influence of corrupt officials was dominant to halt the fight against corruption in republic of Iraq. The fact is that the elites use their influence in ministerial positions, party blocs, sect leaders and ethnic affiliates to intimidate the activities of the anti-graft institutions, they can transfer the judge that is optimistic in fighting graft or change his position with someone who is answerable to the elite's directives (informants 1-7 Members of the Parliament and the Academics).

The above assertion is in conformity with the view of Lumumba (2013) that the great challenge for anti-corruption commissions is centered on political interference due to lack of political will to fight corruption and short term for the officers that are willing vigorously to combat corruption. Lack of autonomy accompanied with political interference in the course of investigation and prosecution had an immense effect on war against corruption (Shehu, 2015), and the role of the anti-graft institutions. In other words, Shehu (2015); Sawan (2012) and Agator (2013) pointed that the corrupt officials has a conduit link to connive in order to forestall the achievement of the anti-graft institutions at any length. This was accentuated due to the absence of political will from the government in power to combat corruption (Idris, 2011; Lumumba, 2013).

4. What are the possible ways in improving the strategies for combating corruption in the Nigeria and Iraq?

In respect to the above question, the informants from Nigeria pointed that strengthening the anti-corruption institutions through given them autonomy, sufficient funds, training and modern facilities for fighting grafts would boost them to halt corrupt practices in both public and private sector domain in Nigeria. They also contend that holistic approach should be put in place, enlightenment and awareness campaign, attitudinal change, discipline and moral values shall entrench in our sociological system so as to improve the strategies for fighting corrupt practices. The anti-grafts institutions shall collaborates with civil societies, private sector, religious and traditional institutions, and media in order to have collective efforts against corruption in Nigeria (Informants 1-7 representing the Staff of ICPC & EFCC and Members of the Academics Interview).

Moreover, the Iraqis' informants suggests that empowering the anti-corruption institutions through given them political and financial independence, political will from the government for fighting grafts, and entrenching discipline to all system shall serves as a requisites for combating corruption in Iraq. They also hinted that recruitment of staff for anti-graft agencies shall be based on merit and competency, this will makes the institutions to discharge their responsibilities judicious and diligently. Meanwhile, the government should allow the existence of civil society organizations with anti-corruption mandates and independent media to collaborate with anti-grafts agencies for combating corruption in Iraq.

Accordingly, previous researchers hinted that to offer autonomy to the anti-graft institutions through strengthening them, financial autonomy, professional manpower, training and formulating effective strategies as well as good leadership in conformity with justice, honesty and transparency shall be entrench and the enlightenment campaign or re-orientation etc. are their submission for improving the strategies to meet the desire objectives (Idris, 2011; Waziri, 2011; Adagba, 2012; Enweremadu, 2012; Bello-Imam, 2015; Shehu, 2015; Mikail, 2016).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The paper concludes that the strategies for fighting corruption in developing countries Nigeria and Iraq are inadequate to halt the menace of corruption in their respective countries due to some challenges of autonomy, weak of political will of government, paucity of funds, unskilled and untrained staff among others. They findings shows that anti-grafts institutions are not fully independence in two countries which intimidate them to discharge their service objectively. This trend has a great impact in combating grafts. In the case of Nigeria, the strategies are merely effective as hinted by the staff of EFCC&ICPC but to the members of academics were doubting on the effectiveness of the said strategies due to some obstacles. But the reverse is the case in Iraq, because the informants unilaterally responds that the strategies are ineffective to combat corruption in Iraqis political system. Furthermore, the challenges of the strategies shows that inadequate funding, political interference, lack of autonomy, and judicial weakness has serves as stumbling block for the strategies to meet its basic objective in both Nigeria and Iraq. Though, the Iraqis participants emphasis on political interference and impunity as a great challenge in fighting grafts in Iraq, to the extent that the influential powerful corrupt elites threatening the life of credible people in anti-grafts institutions, the case of justice Radhi Radhi of CoI is a classical testimony. This trend shows that in the process of fighting corruption, corruption has fights back against their fighters.

Sequel to the above analysis so far, the paper recommends that: the political and financial autonomy shall be offer to the anti-grafts institutions, competent and professional staff should be engage into the services of the institutions; holistic approach and collective strategy which involves civil societies, private sector, media and both religious and traditional institutions shall be put in place; and inculcates discipline, moral values, public probity, transparency and accountability in public and private sector management. The adoption of the above suggestions would ensure sanity, public trust, transparency, and creating space for anti-grafts institutions to condone their services for combating corrupt practices judiciously with maximum output.

REFERENCES

- Achebe, C. (1988). *Fraud and Corruption the Trouble with Nigeria*: Enugu Fourth Dimension Publisher.
- Adagba, S. O. (2012). Evaluation of Performance of Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and Code of Conduct Tribunal in Combating Corruption in Nigerian Public Service. Unpublished PhD Dissertation, Submitted to the Department of Public Administration ABU, Zaria-Nigeria.
- Agator, M. (2013). Iraq: overview of corruption and anti-corruption. U4 Expert Answer. U4 Anti-Corruption Centre and Transparency International.374(5). Retrieved from <http://www.u4.no/publications/iraq-overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption/downloadasset/3106>
- Agubamah, E. (2009), Corruption in Civilian and Military Regimes in Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis, in Enweremadu, D. U and Okafor E. E. (Eds) *Anti-Corruption Reforms in Nigeria since 1999: Issues and Challenges and the Way Forward* Ibadan: IFRA Special Research Issue Vol. 3 Pp. 81-89.
- Akhakpe, I.I. (2014) “*Bureaucracy and Good Governance*”. Lagos: Pumark Nigeria Ltd
- Aluko, M. A. O. (2002). The Institutionalization of Corruption and its Impact on Political Culture and Behaviour in Nigeria. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 11 (3) PP 393-402
- Amadi, L. and Alapiki, H. (2012). Re-inventing Anti-Corruption Strategies for Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria: Challenges and Policy Options. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* Vol.14 no.17 PP.156-173.
- Annan, K. (2004). “Forward in United Nations Convention Against Corruption” United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UN, New York City.
- Bajalan, C. (2014). Effective Legal and Practical Measures to Combat Corruption in Iraq. Participants Paper No.80 21.
- Bardhan, P. (1997). Corruption and Development: a review of issues. *Journal of Economic Literature* Vol. 35 PP.1320-1346. Available at www.jstor.org/stable. Accessed on 12th may, 2015.
- Bello-Imam, I.B. (2015). *The War Against Corruption in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects (2nd Revised edition)* College Press, Ibadan-Nigeria.
- Bond, D. (2014). *Qatar World Cup: £3million Payments to Officials Corruption claim* available at www.bbc.com/sport/o/football. Accessed on 9th May, 2015.
- Chiwunze, G. (2014). *Corruption in Africa: Implications for Development*. Available at www.consultancyafrica.com/index.php. Accessed on 19th May, 2015.
- Drucker, F. P. (2006). “The Effective Executive: The Definitive Guide to Getting the Right Things Done. New York: Collins.
- Egbue, N. G. (2007). Africa: Cultural Dimensions of Corruption and Possibilities for Change. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 12 (2): 83-91.

- Enweremadu, D.U. (2012). *Anti-Corruption Campaign in Nigeria (1999-2007) The Politics of Failed Reform*. African Studies Centre Leiden Vol. 1.
- Gashinbaki, I.B. (2013). *Anti-corruption: An evaluation of Strategies, Legislations and Systems in Nigeria*. Available at www.commentary.com/nigeria.htm accessed on 27th May, 2015.
- Hammed, S. (2014). *The Costs of Corruption Strategies for Ending Tax on Private Sector led Growth*. A Report of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development. Rowman & Littlefield, UK.
- Harding, L. (2016). What are the Panama Papers? A guide to history's biggest data leak. *The guardiannews*. Available at: www.theguardian.com/news/2016/apr/03/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-panama-papers. Retrieved 22nd April, 2017.
- IMF (2016). *Corruption: Costs and Mitigating Strategies* IMF Staff Discussion Note SDN/16/05. Available at: www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/160pdf. Retrieved 21st April, 2017.
- Mauro, P. (1995). Corruption and growth. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 60(3): 681-712.
- Mikail, I.K. (2016). *"Corruption and Nigerian Political Economy"*. UUM Press Penerbit UUM Malaysia.
- Mikail, I.K. (2017). Towards Improving the Strategies for Combating Corruption in Nigerian Democratic Era. Paper presented at 3rd International Conference on Elections and Democracy organized by the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University Malaysia Sarawak from 19th -20th April, 2017.
- Idris, M. (2011). *Assessment the Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Institutions in the Federal Public Service of Nigeria*. Unpublished PhD Dissertation in Public Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria-Nigeria.
- Igbuzor, O. (2008). *Strategies for Winning Corruption the Anti-Corruption War in Nigeria*. Action Aid Nigeria Briefing Paper No.2
- Justine, I.I.C, and Okoye, J.C. (2014). Anti-Corruption Crusade in Nigeria. A more words than Deeds. *International Journal of Public Policy and Administration Research* No.1 (2) PP.47-63.
- Kolajo, A.A. (2002). *Layman's Guide to Criminal Law and Anti-Corruption Law*. Ibadan spectrums Books.
- Lambsdorff, J.G. (2008) *The Methodology of the Corruption Perception Index, 2008* available at www.transparency.org.com accessed 12th May 2015.
- Lawal, T. and Victor K.O. (2012). Combating Corruption in Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Economics and Management Sciences*. Vol.1 no.4 PP.1-7.

- Lawder, D. (2016). IMF: Global Corruption costs trillions in bribes lost growth available at: www.reuters.com/article/US-imf-corruption-iduskcnoy22by. Retrieved 21st April, 2017.
- Lumumba, P.L.O. (2013). "The Keynote speech on African Corruption". At the 3rd Anti-Corruption Convention on 2nd December, 2013 at Africana Hotel Kampala Uganda.
- Oby Ezekwesili, O. (2012). "*Corruption, national development, the Bar, and the Bench*" A Paper presented at the 2012 Nigeria Bar Association Conference, Abuja on 28 August, 2012.
- Owens, E. (1987). *The Future of Freedom in the Developing World: Economic Development as Political Reform*, New York, and Pergamon Press.
- Pabia, I. (2013). Combating Public Sector Corruption in Ghana: The Case of the Public Procurement Act (2003) Act 663. Unpublished M Phil Thesis submitted to the University of Ghana Legon- Ghana.
- Pedraza, J.M. (2014). What is Organizational effectiveness? How an Organization can be achieve it. Available at www.researchgate.net/post/whatis-organizational-effectiveness-How-an-organization-could-achieve-it Retrieved on 25th June, 2016.
- Rose- Ackerman, S. (1999). *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform*. Cambridge University Press.
- Saleh, S. (2014). Challenges in Combating corruption and fixing Accountability: in Iraq's Perspective. International Journal of Business and social sciences Vol.5 No.13 Pp.64-70.
- Sawaan, H.K. (2012). The corruption of political elites in Iraq – an economic analysis, Contemporary Arab Affairs, 5:1, 107-127
- Sekaran, U. and Bougie, R. (2013). "*Research Methods for Business*". John Wiley and Sons Limited United Kingdom.
- Siddique, N.A. (2010). Combating Corruption and Managing Integrity in Malaysia: A Critical Overview of Recent Strategies and Initiatives. *Public Organize Rev.* 10 PP.158-171.
- Shehu, A.Y. (2015). "*Nigeria the Way Through to Corruption to the well-being of a People*". National Open University of Nigeria, Lagos.
- Sheikh Ismail, S.F. (2017). How to Conduct your Literature Review Effectively. A Paper Presented at Academic Research Workshop on 29th March, 2017 at PUSAT ISLAM Universti Utara Malaysia.
- Treiman Daniel (2000). "The Causes of Corruption: Across National Study". *Public Economics* 76, no 3, 399-457. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0047-2727\(99\)00092-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0047-2727(99)00092-4).
- UNDOC (2013) Corruption and integrity in challenges in the public sector of Iraq: an evidence based study United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime United Nations Development Programme Iraq Central

Statistical Office of Iraq Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office
Commission of Integrity January 2013.

Waziri, F. (2010). *Chairman's Opening Remarks in Conference Proceedings on Corruption and Governance: Challenges in Nigeria*. Cleen Foundation Monograph Series No.7.