

**COMBATING CORRUPTION AND ENHANCING  
INTEGRITY: COUNTRY EXPERIENCE**

*BY*

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# INTRODUCTION

- Corruption has become a business
- The owners of this business do not give up easily and they have the means to fight any measures taken to destroy the business.
- Where the business of corruption has blossomed, the investments are found in politics, in industry and all the commanding heights of the economy.
- It is self sustaining and self perpetuating

# SRATEGIES

Where corruption is endemic and chronic, multiple but coordinated approaches are required to combat it including:

- Top to bottom choice of suitable targets of high profile culprits for maximum impact.
- Simultaneously reforming anti-corruption institutions by ensuring that they are headed by credible professionals who will carry out the job with passion and aggression. This will help announce to the corruptors and corruptees that it is no longer business as usual.
- Side by side with the reform of the anti-corruption agencies should be the strengthening of anti-corruption laws to assist investigation and prosecution. Certain provisions are critical:
  - The burden of proof under the law must shift particularly in cases of unjust enrichment.
  - Frivolous interlocutory appeals must be barred.
  - Prosecution time circles must be shortened.

## **STRATEGIES Contd.**

- Reform the judiciary. No matter the efficiency of an anti-corruption agency, its work will come to naught if the cases investigated are not brought to timely and efficient closure in the courts. In this regard there should be:
  - Careful selection of judges who handle corruption cases. Training and retraining of those judges on international best practices in anti-corruption work.
  - Provide them with all necessary work facilities to ensure effective performance.
  - Proper remuneration for the judges
  - Sensitize them to buy – into the fight against corruption.

## **STRATEGIES (Contd.)**

- Reform the 'toll gate' institutions which have been identified to be deeply associated with corrupt practices.
- Partner the civil societies and CBOs in public sensitization and exposure of corrupt conduct through whistle blowing.
- Reform the financial institutions and ensure that they buy-into anti-corruption fight particularly compliance with the anti-money laundering policies (AML).
- Establish a workable Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to oversee activities in the financial sector and assist investigators and regulators conduct proper money trail.

# STRATEGIES Contd

- Political Will- This is the foundation of the fight without which the fight will be futile.
- The leader must publicly express and exemplify it. President Obasanjo in his inaugural address had this to say in May, 1999-
- ‘corruption, the greatest single bane of our society today, will be tackled head-on at all levels...the beneficiaries of corruption in all forms will fight back with all the foul means at their disposal. We shall be firm with them. There shall be no sacred cows. Nobody, no matter who and where, will be allowed to get away with the breach of the law or the perpetuation of corruption and evil.’

## **SRATEGIES (Contd.)**

### **- Leadership and Governance**

The root of corruption in many countries is bad leadership and bad governance. Effective fight against corruption must be accompanied by a reform of the political process including:

- Transparency in conducting political party matters including the administration of integrity test on political aspirants
- Transparency in electoral matters
- Regulated campaign financing
- Ensuring that only credible persons stand elections and get elected into political offices

# What Has Been Done

- Creation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) as arrow head institutions to fight corruption with adequate statutory provisions to enable swift investigation and prosecution.
- Situation of the anti-corruption fight within the larger economic reform programme of government-the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)- a poverty reduction programme.



# What Has Been Done Contd.

- Aggressive investigation and prosecution of corrupt officials leading to the conviction of- the Inspector-General of Police and the recovery of over \$13 million USD, removal from office and prosecution of a former Senate President, two Senators, two serving Governors and ministers, heads of Parastatals, Chief Executives of financial institutions.
- Recovery of assets and cash of over \$5billion USD.
- Conviction of the perpetrators of the biggest advance fee fraud case in the world- \$242USD Bank Noreoste's Case.
- 85 convictions for fraud, corruption, money laundering counterfeiting etc.
- Over 300 cases undergoing prosecution.

# What Has Been Done Contd

- Designation of special courts to handle corruption and other economic crimes cases.
- Reform of the 'toll gate' institutions and agencies- Customs, Ports Authority, Central Bank, Inland Revenue Service.
- Reform of the civil service
- Privatization of ailing government agencies.

# What Has Been Done

- Buy into the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) of the G8 to disclose oil revenues.
- Publication of monthly revenue allocations to the three tiers of government.
- Creation of a Due Process office to oversight public procurement contracts- Over \$5b saved in less than three years

# Challenges

- Politicization and blackmail
- Constitutional Immunity
- Public apathy and doubtful attitudes towards anti-corruption work
- Slow justice system

# International Acknowledgement

- Grant of debt relief by the Paris club in early 2006- Nigeria is now substantially debt- free.
- Delisting from the FATF list of Non-Cooperating Countries and Territories (NCCTs) in June, 2006
- The WB and the IMF have certified the NEEDS strategy as credible and working.
- Improved rating by several international rating agencies
- Donor support and cooperation from several international law enforcement Agencies- FBI, INTERPOL, MP, SCORPIONS etc.

# International Acknowledgement

- “Nigeria is a prime example of what can happen when leaders finally say enough is enough to rampant corruption”— Maria Costa- Executive Director, UNODC at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Crime Congress in Bangkok, 2005.

THANK YOU--- END

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