

INVESTIGATING WHISTLE BLOWING INITIATIVE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION WAR IN NIGERIA UNDER PRESIDENT MUHAMMED BUHARI

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ABSTRACT

Corruption which has been adjudged as a canker worm has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian society. This is evident as it has devastated the economic development of the nation. Notwithstanding, many scholars have come to address corruption by providing plausible solutions which yielded little or nothing. Thus, the emergence of Muhammad Buhari as the president of Nigeria has put greater efforts at winning the war against corruption. However, it is against this established premise that the study focused examining the effectiveness of whistle blowing initiative as an anti-corruption mechanism by the President. Methodologically, this paper significantly appropriated qualitative method and data were generated through the secondary sources of data collection and analyzed in content. The theoretical framework of analysis for the study was strictly anchored on the theory of prebendalism. The findings of the study reveals that whistle blowing as a good initiative has made a lot of successes in recovering looted funds. It has prevented public office holders from accumulating and diverting public funds at will. On the contrary, whistle blowing policy is defective enough in the fight corruption, because it does not address those leakages and factors that promote corruption in Nigeria. This study recommends among others that whistle blowing should be strengthened and accorded legal backing and be incorporated in the constitution to protect those that blow whistle.

Keywords: Whistle blowing, EFCC, Corruption, Budget Padding, Prosecution.

• Introduction

The issue of corruption has remained a menace that cuts across every country of the world. There is no country that will say that it does not feel the wind of corruption blowing. What differ among countries are the degree, tolerance and level of commitment in the fight against corruption. In developed world, once there is an allegation of corruption established against public office holder, the person most times willingly resigns from his or her position of authority. Surprisingly, that is not the case in post- colonial Africa countries, and Nigeria in particular.

Based on expert opinions, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), that measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide, showed fact findings that are less encouraging. Accordingly, not even a single country in Africa comes close to top marks, while over 120 countries scored below 50 on the scale 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) (Transparency International, 2018). The most disturbing part of it all is that Nigeria was ranked 136th in 2018 and the latest first quarter CPI, ranked Nigeria 148 out of 180 countries surveyed. Moreover, over the years, Nigeria has been challenged with rising corruption, especially those perpetrated by public office holders. These acts of political corruption have remained serious impediment to economic, political and social development of the nation. It is important recalling that the character of political corruption in Nigeria has taken different shapes which include but not limited to embezzlement, bribery, vote buying, and money laundering. Importantly, some corrupt Nigerian leaders have helped to boost other countries economy by laundering money in to foreign accounts scattered all over the world. This, in no small measure has contributed to the sorry state of Nigeria's pace of infrastructural development and deficits of every sector. The situation has made Nigerians feel pains of hardship as the money which would have been used to reduce poverty had been channeled into private pockets of a small group of persons.

Thus, following the return to democracy, and the emergence of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1999, he initiated certain policy reforms that were specifically aimed at tackling corruption. Subsequently, two major anti-corruption bodies were established. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2000 and 2003 respectively. The pioneer chairman of the ICPC was a retired judge of the appeal court and that of the EFCC was a senior police officer. While the former was appeared to be more deliberate in his approach in fighting corruption, the later was more aggressive, and thus gained as much popularity as notoriety (Adebanwi & Obadare, 2011).

However, despite laudable achievements, the EFCC under Obasanjo's administration was hugely criticized to be selective, and a tool employed by former President to silence and intimidate those who opposed him. Following the expiration of the tenure of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, on May

29, 2007 President Umaru Yar’adua was sworn into office as Nigeria’s third democratically elected President. A cursory look at policy frame of Yar’Adua’s administration gives a clear indication that his government was determined not only to continue with the war against corruption, but introduced major reforms that would correct perceived lapses. According to Enweremadu (2010), Yar’adua was determined to fight corruption but he believed hugely on regards to rule of law in fighting corruption. He further maintained that such credence in rule of law and due process in fighting corruption slowed the pace of war against corruption.

In 2015, following the general elections that brought in Muhammad Buhari as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and his inaugural speech delivered, he lamented the evil that corruption has done to Nigeria over the years and vowed to fight it no matter who is involved. In his quest to key in his manifesto on the war against public office holders and offices, the federal government through the ministry of finance launched an anti-corruption initiative known as whistle blowing in December 2, 2016. According to the then minister of finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, the primary goal of the policy is to support the fight against financial crimes and corruption, by increasing exposure of financial crimes and rewarding whistleblowers. In order to promote such exposure, whistleblowers are to be encouraged and offered protection from harassment or intimidation by their bosses or employers. The hope for the initiative is that more looted funds will be recovered through the engagement of voluntary information about corrupt practices.

Comparatively, the practice of whistle blowing has cut across different countries of the world, and it has been seen as one of the global best practices in fighting corruption. Importantly, whistle blowing has received massive moral and legislative boost from enactments of several international organizations, which include but not limited to African Union (AU), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Transparency International (Ogbu, 2017).

However, since the introduction of whistle blowing initiative in December 2016; a lot of shocking looted funds have been recovered. As noted by Akinyemi (2017), the minister of

information and culture, Lai Mohammed stated that over ₦50 billion which is equivalent to \$138,500,000.00 has so far been recovered. Accordingly, the initiative has made remarkable progress following the recovering of £74,000 and \$9,772,000 from the safe house of Andrew Yakubu, former Group Managing Director of Nigeria National Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC). Also, the amount of ₦449, 770, 000 laundered money was recovered at a shop in Legico Shopping Plaza, Victoria Island Lagos. The lump sum of \$43,449,947, £27,800 and N23, 218,000 which is equivalent to \$64,546.04 were found at 7B, No. 16, Osborne Road, Ikoyi Lagos and the rest of other recoveries. The above can be made clear following the tables below showing amount of money recovered:

Table 1: Showing Cash Recoveries

Serial	Items	Naira	US Dollar	GB Pounds	Euro
1	EFCC Cash at Hand	39,169,911,023.00	128,494,076.66	2,355	11,250
2	Royalty/Tax/Payment to FGN Account in JP Morgan Account New York	4,642,958,711.48	40,727,253.65		
3	ONSA Fund Recovery Account in CBN	5,665,305,527.41	8,000,000.00		
4	VAT Recovered from Companies by ONSA	529,588,293.47			
5	EFCC Recovered Funds Account in CBN	19,267,730,359.36	455,253.80		
6	ICPC Revenue Collection in CBN	869,957,444.89			
7	Office of the Attorney General	5,500,000,000.00	5,500,00		
8	DSS Recoveries	47,707,000	1,943,000.5	3,506,000.46	
9	ICPC Cash Asset Recovery	2,632,196,271.71			
	Total	78,325,354,631.82	185,119,584.61	3,508,355.46	11,250

Source: Federal Ministry of Finance, 2019

Table 2: Recoveries under Interim Forfeiture

Serial	Items	Naira	US Dollar	GB Pounds	Euro
1	Cash in Bank under Forfeiture	8,281,577,243.92	1,819,866,364.73	3,800.00	113,399.17
2	Amount Frozen in Bank	48,159,179,518.90	7,131,369,498.49	605,647.55	
3	Value of Properties under Interim Forfeiture	41,534,605,998.49	77,844,600.00	1,875,000.00	190,000.00
4	Value of cars under interim Forfeiture	52,500,000.00			
5	ONSA Funds under Interim Forfeiture	27,001,464,125.20			
6	Value of Assets Recovered by ONSA	512,000,000.00			

7	ONSA Assets under Interim Forfeiture	260,000,000.00			
8	DSS Recoveries Frozen in Banks	658,929,000.00	226,476.20		
9	EFCC Cash in Bank under Final Forfeiture	103,225,209.41	17,165,547.00		
	Total	126,563,481,095.43	9,090,243,920.55	2,484,447.55	303,399.17
	Grand Total	204,888,835,727.25	9,275,363,504.76	5,992,803.01	314,649,17

Source: Federal Ministry of Finance, 2019

The tables above are indicators of government’s efforts in retrieving looted funds from corrupt public official. These engagements at recovering looted monies were done through the instrumentation of whistle blowing policy. The total and grand total amounts stand at billions of naira has helped the government in timely execution of the budget.

• **Contending Theoretical Debate and Analysis**

The increasing trends of corruption in African states, and possible solutions to the menace has gone viral following a lot of theoretical debates among scholars on why contemporary African political leaders have found themselves favoured in appropriating state treasuries. One fundamental fact from the onset is that Nigerian state like most African states and third world countries is a product of colonialism. Therefore, it is not unforeseen that many scholars and political theorists of African politics have traced the problem of political corruption to the depravity of colonial administration. According to Ogundiya (2009), theories on African politics have helped in the understanding of Africa’s predicaments, and more importantly issues of endemic corruption.

Thus, despite avalanche of theories like political economy theories, capture theory, and the theory of post-colonial state, this study employed the theory of prebendal. The theory was developed and propagated through the writings of Richard A. Joseph in 1987 and later validated in 2013. The main proposition and central argument of prebendal is premised on the description of patron-client relationship in politics for self appropriation. According to prebendal theory, state offices are regarded as prebend that can be appropriated by officeholders, who use them to generate material benefits for themselves and their accomplices.

Thus, when one underscores the theory to what is happening in Nigerian state, one will discover that politics of Nigeria is characterized by kleptocracy and lootocracy of public resources by public officials. People become rich overnight once they join politics. Then, state or government treasury becomes the national cake which everybody struggles and fights to have share. It is not uncommon as political class and opportunistic bureaucrats have seized every opportunity they have in position of authority to embezzle and squander state resources.

The struggle for control and exploits of offices of the state by political leaders has contributed negatively to the growth and development of Nigerian economy. This is because the state occupies the central position in the economy, where it provides access to material goods and power, making it attractive for competitive access through zero-sum game for exclusive rights to exploit the state office (Oni, 2017). The implication becomes minority group of elites who use the state to acquire wealth, authority, power, and influence at detriment of the majority of Nigerian citizens. It is against these oddities that various regimes, especially the administration of President Muhammad Buhari has set to re-write through the initiation of whistle blowing policy.

- **Dialectics of corruption and Anti-corruption Strategies in Nigeria**

Corruption in Nigeria did not start today. It has been a recurrent issue in the history of Nigeria as a country as it was found in pre-colonial, colonial and post colonial political Nigeria. According to Ekpo, Chime & Enor (2016), the manifestations of corruption in Nigeria could be traced back to the pre-colonial era when for the sake of self-preservation and glory, Nigerians accepted bribes to sell out their brothers into slavery. More importantly, the manifestation of corruption had found footing in Nigeria even before independence and has taking different dimensions after independence. It was noted that prior to Nigeria's independence, Nnamdi Azikiwe, the then Premier of Eastern Nigeria was exposed by the Foster Sufton Tribunal of Enquiry in 1956 to have connived with African Continental Bank (ACB), to abused his office and diverted huge sums of Eastern Nigeria's government funds into his personal bank account. Likewise, the G.B.A. Coker Commission of Inquiry in 1962 revealed how Chief Obafemi Awolowo diverted

huge sums of money and shared it with his colleagues and party members (Osoba, 1996; Ekpo, et al, 2016).

Thus, the desire to rid Nigeria out of corruption was the justification military always give for intervening in Nigeria politics beginning from 1966. In 2006, the then Nigeria's anti-corruption Chief, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu revealed that leaders of the country have stole about \$380 billion of its oil revenue between 1960 and 1999 (Mcferson, 2009 cited in Oni, 2017). In a similar note, the Nigeria's current information minister Alhaji Lai Mohammed maintained in January, 2016 that 55 Nigerians have stolen over 1.3 trillion naira of public funds between 2006 and 2013 (Premium Times, 2016). This is not a shocking revelation considering Nigeria being consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. To support the revelation above is the lists of corrupt allegations in Nigeria since the emergence and return to democratic governance in 1999:

- i. Tafa Balogun, the then Inspector General of Police (IG). He was charged with mismanagement of police budget, tried and convicted on plea bargaining, forfeited assets worth of 2.2 billion naira to the government and served 6 months jail term.
- ii. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh, she was alleged to have spent a sum of 628 million naira on the renovation of her official quarters. She was never tried in court. She stepped down from her position as the speaker of the House of Representatives ignominiously.
- iii. Halliburton Scandal. This involved a bribery scheme of \$182 million dollars paid by KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton to three successive Nigerian Presidents between 1995 and 2004 in exchange for a \$6 billion contract to build the liquefied natural gas facilities (Vanguard, 2012).
- iv. The alleged case of missing 20 billion dollars unremitted crude oil sale receipts. The Whistle Blower who was the Central Bank Governor, Lamido Sanusi was summarily suspended and dismissed from his post (BBC News Africa, 2017).
- v. This allegation involved the purchase of two bullet proof cars at the cost of ₦255 million (\$706, 371,162) for the use of officials of the aviation ministry by Stella Odua (Sahara Reporters, 2016).
- vi. Diezani Alision Madueke, a former petroleum minister was alleged to have spent 10 billion naira (\$27,700,830) of government money to maintain a private jet. The House of

Representatives ordered her probe. She applied for court injunction against the probe, and the probe was suspended.

- vii. Farouk Lawan, chairman House of Representatives Adhoc committee on fuel subsidy was alleged to have collected \$160,000 from Femi Otedola, one of the accused beneficiaries of fuel subsidies mismanagement scheme in Nigeria. (The Punch, 2016).
- viii. Ibrahim Larmode, former EFCC chairman. He was alleged to have diverted about one trillion naira. Part of the funds repatriated from Abacha's loots by the Swiss government. He was invited by an investigative panel setup by the national parliament. He refused to appear before the panel. Subsequently, an arrest warrant remains in force against him (Oni, 2017).
- ix. Babatunde Raji Fashola, he was alleged to have spent 139 million naira on digging two boreholes while he was the governor of Lagos State. Petitions were submitted against his nomination to be a minister in the current cabinet. This allegation was never investigated. (The Guardian UK, 2015).
- x. Rotimi Amaechi was alleged to have squandered 70 billion naira (\$193,905,810) funds of Rivers State while he was the governor of Rivers State between 2007 and 2015. This allegation was investigated by a panel of inquiry set up by the state government (The Nation, 2016).
- xi. Haliru Mohammed, he is a former People's Democratic Party Board of Trustees chairman. He was accused jointly with his son Bello Abba Mohammed of benefiting a sum of \$1.5 million from the Dasuki gate. He has been charged to court. The trail continues (BBC News Africa, 05/012/2015).
- xii. Budget Padding, the 2016 budget submitted by the Buhari's government to the National Assembly was exposed to have included frivolous expenditures, over-estimation of contracts, repeated expenditures amongst others (BBC News Africa, 2016).

Table 3: Nigeria’s Corruption Ranking, 2001 – 2017

Transparency International Perception Index						
Year	CPI (Index)	Transparency %	Countries (No)	Ranking	Corruption Rate %	Remark
2001	1.0	10	91	90	90	Very corrupt
2002	1.6	16	102	101	84	Very corrupt
2003	1.4	14	133	132	86	Very corrupt
2004	1.6	16	145	144	84	Very corrupt
2005	1.9	19	158	152	81	Very corrupt
2006	2.2	22	163	142	78	Very corrupt
2007	2.2	22	179	147	78	Very corrupt
2008	2.7	27	180	121	73	Very corrupt
2009	2.5	25	180	130	75	Very corrupt
2010	2.4	24	180	134	76	Very corrupt
2011	2.4	24	183	143	76	Very corrupt
2012	2.7	27	175	139	73	Very corrupt
2013	2.5	25	177	144	75	Very corrupt
2014	2.7	27	175	136	73	Very corrupt
2015	2.6	26	167	136	74	Very corrupt
2016	2.8	27	176	136	72	Very corrupt
2017		28	180	148		Very corrupt

Source: Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (2017)

The table above shows Nigeria being very corrupt without remarkable improvement. Despite the ratification of anti-graft agencies such as ICPC and EFC, and introduction of whistle blowing mechanism to eradicate corruption in the country, it has remained an illusion. Thus, the irony of fighting corruption has begged for questions to be answered. Why, in spite of the efforts of the government in fighting corruption, it still persists. The steps taken towards a corrupt free society in Nigeria are mainly a result of the efforts of the Obasanjo regime in 1999. The elevation of corruption to an urgent national issue by Obasanjo was itself motivated by a combination of some domestic and global developments. At the domestic level, Obasanjo’s anti-corruption drive was propelled by an unprecedented disclosure of evidences of corruption perpetrated by his immediate predecessors, especially the late General Sani Abacha, who ruled Nigeria from 1992 to 1998.

Therefore, on assumption of office in 2015, President Muhammad Buhari made the fight against corruption his number priority. In fact, it was believed that it is one of the reasons most

Nigerians voted for him during the 2015 general elections. This was aimed to bring sanity in Nigeria. However, as events unfold, many Nigerians started believing that president Buhari's anti-stance against corruption is purely a witch-hunt aimed to shield and to turn blind eyes whenever a member of his cabinet and political party is caught in the act of corruption. Interestingly, when the corrupt news about former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal , went viral through the social media, following his indictment by the National Assembly, many Nigerians were caught shocked to have seen a corrupt person under President Muhammad Buhari's cabinet. In a swift reaction, the president quickly set up an in House Committee of Inquiry to investigate the indictment leveled against the former Secretary. It was learnt that the resolutions of the committee did not hold water, and this led the members of the National Assembly to stick to the initial resolutions against the culprits. It was on the ground that the president wanted to wash off his hand the corrupt allegation that made him to set up another panel headed by the vice president Yemi Osibanjo. It took the panel barely six months for the reports to be acted upon.

Similarly, the issues surrounding the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Maikanti Baru who was accused of engaging in corruption by the minister of state for petroleum, Ibe Kacikwu attracted lot of reactions from Nigerians against corrupt fight of President Muhammad Buhari. Accordingly, Maikanti was accused of insubordination and awarding of contracts without approval of either the Minister of state for petroleum or the NNPC Board. It was learnt that the accused responded that he does not need the approval of NNPC Board to award either procurement or sales of contract rather he only needed to go to the NNPC management procurement committee which he chairs. It was noted that the presidency was convinced with the explanations given by the culprit, and the former was charged to mind his business which made the allegation to die before its birth.

Furthermore, a closer look into the administrations of President Muhammad Buhari will make one to begin to question the integrity of the later. The allegation levelled against the former chairman of Presidential Task Team on Pension Reforms (PTTPR), Abdulrasheed Maina to have misappropriated billions of naira under the former president, Goodluck Jonathan indicates the

extents at which corruption has been thriving in Nigeria. Initially, Maina was relieved of his appointment and dismissed from civil service. He was later invited by EFCC, but he declined the invitation and travelled to United Kingdom. It was when President Muhammad Buhari came to power in 2015, that he authorized the Attorney General of the Federation, to visit Abdurashed Maina and possibly to negotiate his return, and to be reabsorbed into federal civil service.

Furthermore, the corrupt allegation leveled against the Executive Secretary of National Health Insurance, Professor Usman Yusuf is not different from other cases of allegations against persons and offices under the general watch of the President. It was discovered that the secretary was accused of impunity, corruption and other elements of official misconducts. The preliminary investigation conducted by the minister of Health found Yusuf culpable, and forced him to proceed to suspension. The most surprising was the news and shock that the President has ordered Yusuf to resume work without recourse to neither to the minister nor the recommendations of investigative panel that was set up.

- **Prospects of Whistle Blowing in Nigeria as an Anti-corruption Initiative**

Whistle blowing, since its introduction as an anti-corruption measure has been impactful. Though, through the mechanism Nigeria government has been recovering some huge sum of money which is of help in financing government budget. According to Akinyemi (2017), whistle blowing policy has been impactful and has yielded some positive results. Over 5,000 cases of misappropriation had been reported since its introduction. Likewise, according to the minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, over ₦50 billion which is equivalent to \$138,500,000.00 looted fund have been recovered due to the policy. These recoveries would not have been possible if not whistle blowing policy. Looters of public funds have no longer found it easy hiding their loots. This is for the reason that they are afraid and do not know who is watching and waiting to blow the whistle.

Corroboration the above is the stance of Onumah (2017), that whistle blowing policy has been a huge success despite avalanche of perceived corrupt acts going on under the control of the presidency. It is observable that whistle blowing has added a fresh impetus to anti-graft war as in

less than one year of inauguration of President Muhammad Buhari, it led to the recovery of staggering amount of looted funds, thus proving to be an effective and reliable mechanism for combating the singular vice that seems to have permanently arrested the development of Nigeria nation since independence. It was noted that in June 2017 only, ₦11.6 billion which is equivalent to \$32,152,962.80 was recovered and about ₦375.8 million amounting to \$1,040,997.19 was paid to 20 whistle blowers as commission.

There is no doubt that the Whistle Blowing policy in Nigeria has been helpful in uncovering corruption in both the public and private sectors since its introduction in December, 2016. Since the date it was launched, the government has been able to recover billions of naira stolen from the public coffers through the tips from Whistle Blowers. For a country that is struggling with the burden of revamping its economy and basic infrastructure, the magnitude of money coming from these recoveries have certainly gone a long way in providing necessary growth and development of the economy and ensuing of sanity of the system.

- **Challenges of Whistle Blowing Initiative as Anti-corruption Mechanism**

There is no doubt that whistle blowing initiative has done well in exposing looted funds of corrupt political officials. It also has helped recovering huge sum of money which has been impactful to government in financing its expenditures. However, despite harvests and innumerable advantages of introduction of whistle blowing policy, there tend to be challenges which the whistle blowing initiate has been encountering that have prevented it from performing optimally. Just like Ogbonnia (2017), tracing corrupt proceeds among Nigerians, of course, is not an easy exercise. A whistle-blower is required to provide specific and fact based information as what occurred, amount involved, who is involved and date of occurrence. She/he must have provided the government with information it does not have and could not otherwise obtained from any other public available source to government.

Furthermore, one could query why and how the potential whistle blowers would not feel being used and dumped once they submit petition only to be advised that the information so provided is already available to the government. Fundamentally, this singular disappointment has dispirited

some people from coming forward to blow the whistle against corrupt public officials. This is because they are not very sure whether the available information they have meets the requirements. Thus, following the character of state in post colonial African societies, especially in Nigeria, one could easily underscore that elites in the society swiftly play and control some of the agencies like EFCC and ICPC which were fundamentally saddled with constitutional backed investigation of corrupt persons. Importantly, the problem of blowing a whistle remains that after blowing, the person whom the whistle was blown against would be possibly be pre-informed beforehand, and the impending search in which he/she will definitely remove every implicating items. The most worrisome becomes that at the end, the person who blew the whistle will be arrested for given fake information.

Sequel to the above is unavailability of adequate extant laws that can protect whistle blowers against victimization and reprisals. According to Ogbu (2017), the whistle blowing policy does not offer much to protect the blower from reprisals that may trail his action. He further pointed out that despite assurances from the ministry of finance that any stakeholder who has made a genuine disclosure and who feels that, as a result, he or she has suffered adverse treatment in retaliation should file a formal complaint to an independent panel of inquiry. There is doubt if any whistle blower will have confidence or will genuinely be assured of his protection form acts of retaliation given slow nature of the wheel of justice turns in Nigeria.

In his contribution to the challenges of whistle blowing policy, Onyeacholem (2017), pointed out that since the policy was initiated and put into action, no more than three government employees were known to have been wrongfully fired from their jobs for cases of fraud in their work places. He cited a case of Thompson, an Assistant Director of Servicom with the ministry of foreign affairs who reported to EFCC, a fraud which amounted to the tune of \$229,000 perpetrated by Mohammed Kachalla, Director-General of DTC and some officers. The irony of everything became that the blower was hunted, threatened, suspended and eventually compulsorily retired from the services of the DTCA. This project for the war against corruption must be of serious concern to both government and the people who genuinely expected whistle blowing to significantly curb corruption and entrench accountability in public and corporate world.

- **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The war against corruption in Nigeria has been perceived to have taken a new paradigm shift following the introduction of whistle blowing policy. This is not as if the war against corruption was latent before, but such initiation involves the activities of private and unanimous individual(s), who have fact finding information about looted public funds by public officials. Inasmuch as the policy stands, whistle blowing has achieved at least putting fear among public officeholders from diverting public treasuries into private pockets.

Nonetheless, despite putting fear into the minds of public office holders, collective achievements for the war against corruption through the instrumentation of whistle blowing is now becoming cold. This is as a result of the principles of strong man and weak institutions. It is important to note that since Nigeria is a product of post colonial state, it has always proved to have lacked the power on the usage of the instruments of the constitution. The later has become very feeble, unable to muzzle challenge against culprits. Nowadays, people who might have been assumed to have reliable information about corrupt public officials have always being gripped with fear that extant laws many not be strong enough to protect him from the person with whom the whistle was blown. Evidences abound where blowers were arrested for being accused of given fake information, and where reliable information given, the anti-graft agencies connived with accused to put the allegation to death before its birth.

However, the paper argued that despite perceived intricate, whistle blowing has continued to help in recovery of looted funds, and curbing corruption in Nigeria. Conversely, in a practical term, the policy initiative has not been enough in fighting against in the country. This is because; abuses are entertained in the courses of blowing the whistle, and government efforts in recovering the loots. The inability of government to accounts for the recovered loots properly and arguments among stakeholders involved, remained problematique as citizens frown at the relevance of the policy.

Therefore, addressing the above findings are recommendations below:

- That there is need to strengthen extant laws establishing whistle blowing policy for optimal performance. This is aimed at according significant legal backing and incorporation in the Nigeria constitution.
- That the human rights and protection of whistle blowers should be guaranteed. The issue of the elites in the society especially, the political elites who involve in corruption just like every other person should be investigated and prosecuted if found guilty. There should not be any sacred cow if the fight against corruption ought to be meaningful.
- Rigorous procedures that are required before whistle blower can register his/her case should be apt and clear to avoid misconception.

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