

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC) IN CURBING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the extent to which the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has helped in curbing corruption in Nigeria. The research design was a survey design, the research was both qualitative and quantitative, 197 respondents from the target population were interviewed, primary and secondary method of data collection was adopted, literature were sourced from Journals , conference papers , bulletins , Magazines, EFCC reports etc. some high profile and on going corruption cases as well as convictions , cash recoveries and asset forfeiture were highlighted. Results and literature showed that the EFCC has helped in curbing corruption to some extent but not appreciable..The study concluded that the corruption is a very serious problem in Nigeria, requiring very urgent intervention. Expunging of the immunity clause from the constitution, Good governance, change in value system amongst others were recommended as some of the ways of curbing corruption in Nigeria

Keywords: Impact, EFCC, Curbing, Money, Corruption, Nigeria

1.0

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's inability to consolidate her democracy is blamed largely on the high level of corruption in the country. Corruption generally, has eaten so deep into Nigeria's body politicsthat its practice is seen more like a societal norm than an exception. People have imbedded the belief that hard work, honesty and integrity are not worthy principles since one can do very little to get or earn so much.

The purpose of modern governance is to establish and reinforce the rules that guarantee social cohesion ,personal freedom and collective well being in contrast corruption comprises everything that deviates from that purpose by distorting the goal for which all social and political structure were created , sacrificing the well being of the collective for the benefit of the few. (Luna-Pla and Nicolas-Carlock (2020) .

Thus, corruption pervades all aspects of human life, beginning from the home to both public and private institutions. Corruption whether political, economic, academic, judicial or bureaucratic impedes the progress of any society where it predominates and is tolerated in a societal relationship.

In Nigeria, it is one of the many unresolved problems (Ayobolu, 2006) that have critically

hobbled and skewed development. It remains a long-term major political and economic challenge for Nigeria (Sachs, 2007). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep in the fabric of the nation. It ranges from petty corruption to political/bureaucratic corruption or systemic corruption (International Center for Economic Growth, 1999)

World Bank studies put corruption at over \$1trillion per year accounting for up to 12% of the Gross Domestic Products of Nations like Nigeria, Kenya and Venezuela (Nwabuzor, 2005). Corruption is endemic as well as an enemy within (Agbu, 2003). It is a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of the country and had stunted growth in all sectors (Economic and Financial Crime Commission, 2005). It has been the primary reason behind the country difficulties in developing fast (Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, 2006). This is evident in Transparency International's rating of Nigeria as one of the top threemost corrupt countries in the world (Ribadu, 2003).

Ocheja *et al* (2023) reported the sharp increase in corruption in the civil/public service as a result of the 1988 civil service reforms, Ejigbo *et al* (2023) also reported same, both researchers called for very urgent interventions to save the civil service in particular and Nigeria in general.

According to Ake and Oluwajola(2016) the lack of political will by the ruling elites and the economic system of capitalism in Nigeria that emphasis primitive and excessive accumulation of wealth, thus promoting corruption, contributed to the failure of numerous civil service reforms in Nigeria

As part of effort at fighting corruption and strengthen the economy, Nigeria embarked on an aggressive pursuit of reform, anti-corruption campaigns and establishment of clear and transparent fiscal standards since 1999. The major aim of the economic reforms in Nigeria is to provide a conducive environment for private investment (African Economic Outlook, 2008).

The reform process has the following key pillars: Improved macroeconomic management, reform of the financial sector, institutional reforms, privatization and deregulation and improvement of the infrastructure. The importance of infrastructure for economic growth and development cannot be over emphasized. The poor state of electricity, transport and communications is a major handicap to doing business in Nigeria.

These measures were initially commended by large section in the media and public commentators who are aware of the grave challenge political corruption poses to the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria. It is glaring that the prevalence of political corruption in all spheres of Nigerian public life will undermine the principles of democratic government such as accountability and transparency, thereby making the consolidation of democracy an uphill task. However, the efforts to eradicate corruption become even more problematic and complex when those officials and agencies that were set up to fight corruption are themselves corrupt. The Crisis of the Nigerian state has been blamed on corruption since 1960 and the fight against this menace has been on without any meaningful result achieved. Consequent upon these, scholars from different backgrounds have classified the Nigerian State to be either failed, failing or disarticulated state.

The institutions charged with fighting corruption in Nigeria has not done enough to contain the upsurge of this menace as expected.

It is on this note that this study seeks to investigate the effect of EFCC in combating corruption in Nigeria.

The following research questions were asked

- (i) Has the fight against corruption been significantly enhanced by the establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)?
- (ii) What role is the EFCC expected to play to justify its establishment in Nigeria?
- (iii) Does political influence have any significant effect on the effective performance of the EFCC

The general objective of the study is to examine the effect of economic and financial crimes commission in combating corruption in Nigeria

Specifically, this study attempts to:

- i. Examine the extent the fight against corruption has been significantly enhanced by the establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Nigeria.
- ii. Determine the role the EFCC is expected to play in curbing corruption in Nigeria.
- iii. Examine the significant effect of political influence on the effective performance of EFCC.

The following hypotheses were formulated

The null hypotheses formulated to be tested for this study are stated below:

H₀₁: Establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has not significantly enhanced the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

H₀₂: Economic and Financial Crime Commission has not curbed corruption in Nigeria.

H₀₃: Political influences have no significant effect on the effective performance of EFCC.

The benefits to be derived from this study will be very high. Future researchers that will specifically embark on the study of this kind will find this literature very useful as a reliable reference material.

The findings of this study will serve as deterrents to managers of public and private organizations and to the general public to avoid deviant behaviors as Economic and Financial Crime Commission will not “spare the rod and spoil the child”.

This study serves as enlightenment to readers who lack the conceptualization of Economic and Financial Crime Commission in Nigeria. This study will contribute greatly to existing theories by enriching the wealth of knowledge through its findings on the activities of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to fight against corruption in Nigeria.

Practically the findings and recommendation of this study will help the Nigeria government and the general public on the way forward on the fight against corruption. This study will convince

the Nigerian government on the efficacy of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to fight against corruption as been commendable and the need to give it more support. The scope of this study was limited to the effect of Economic and Financial Crime Commission in combating corruption in Nigeria. The limitations to the study were , inadequate time, financial constraints, insufficient literature etc

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definitions

1. Law: Law as legality when adjudged are sets of rules and regulations made by some constituted authority for the purpose of proper regulation of a society. Law can be referred to as a guiding principle which directs the conduct of those concerned. The Nigerian Constitution is an example of law which binds on the generality of her citizens.

2. Development: The term “development” has been so talked about that it means different things to different people. Development is the movement of the whole social system upward with positive changes. Adding that development is also “a process that enhances the effective freedom of the people involved to pursue whatever they have the reason to. Development can be defined in terms of attacking wide spread absolute poverty, reducing inequalities and removing the spectrum of unemployment. He perhaps, posed the most fundamental questions relating to the meaning of development when he asserted that “The question to ask about a country’s development are therefore what have been happening to poverty? What have been happening to unemployment? What have been happening to inequality? All these questions have declined from high levels, and then beyond doubts, this has been a period of meaningful sustainable social system. This involves improvement of income and output through positive radical changes of institutions, social and administrative structures as well as popular attitudes, customs and beliefs.

3. Sustainable Development: Sustainable development is a process in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investment, the orientation of technological development and institutional changes are all in harmony and enhances human potentials to meet both current and future needs and aspirations.

4. Social Development: This means the provision of improved quality basic needs of a people, state, or nation.

5. Democracy: This is a form of government by the people through elected representatives.

2.2.1 The Concept of Corruption

According to Eigen (2001), corruption is seen as a daunting obstacle to sustainable development a constraint on education, healthcare and poverty alleviation, and a great implement to the millennium development goal of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. Corruption, according to Collins English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (2001) is dishonest and illegal behavior by people in positions of authority or power. Corruption occurs when an official transfers a benefit to an individual who may not be entitled to the benefit, in exchange for an illegal payment (the bribe). By taking the bribe, the official breaks a legally binding promise he gave to his principal or employer (usually the state government or a private company) to allocate the benefits to those entitled to it.

In the same vein, Otite (1986) sees corruption as, the perversion of integrity of state of affairs through bribery, favor or moral depravity. It involves the injection of additional but improper transactions aimed at changing the moral course of events and altering judgments and positions of trust. It consists in the doer's and receiver's use of informal, extra-legal, or illegal act to facilitate matters. He went on further to categorize corruption into political, economical, bureaucratic, judicial and moralistic manifestations.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Bad Apple Theories

Second, bad apple theories, like public choice theories, primarily look at the level of the individual corrupt agent for the causes of corruption. These studies seek the cause of corruption in the existence of people with faulty (moral) character, the so-called 'bad apples'. There is a causal chain from bad character to corrupt acts; the root cause of corruption is found in defective human character and predisposition toward criminal activity. Causes are rooted in human weaknesses such as greed. When the focus is on the faulty character of an official, morality is assumed to determine behavior (like in the forthcoming clashing moral values theories): people are assumed to act on the basis of moral values. 'Wrong' values are therefore the cause of corruption. Of course, one can question whether people act on the basis of moral values (Graaf 2003). But the focus on individual corrupt officials and their motives can also be of a different nature.

'Bad apple' theories are less popular than they used to be. Punch (2000) writes on police corruption: "In the past there was a tendency to think of corruption as a temporary, exceptional 'problem' to be removed by 'surgical' treatment, as if it was a malignant cancer, to restore an otherwise healthy agency (the 'bad apple' metaphor). Conventional wisdom has shifted recently to see corruption as near universal and as forming a permanent concern." We see the assumption of the 'bad apple' often made explicitly or implicitly in the literature, but hardly ever based on empirical claims: the assumption is most often theorized.

2.3.2 Clashing Moral Values Theories

A fourth branch of literature makes a distinction the public role and private obligations of

corrupt officials. As distinguished from the previous theories, corruption is considered on a macro level, more precisely, the level of society. Since the culture of an organization is also influenced by society at large, there is an overlap between this group and organizational culture theories. The causal chain in these theories starts with certain values and norms of society that directly influence the values and norms of individuals. These values and norms influence the behavior of individual officials, making them corrupt. In many societies no clear distinction exists between one's private and one's public roles. Rose-Ackerman: (1999): "In the private sector, gift giving is pervasive and highly valued, and it seems natural to provide jobs and contracts to one's friends and relations

No one sees any reason not to carry over such practices into the public realm. In fact, the very idea of a sharp distinction between private and public life seems alien to many people." Private appropriation of the spoils of office is not regarded as morally reprehensible or illegitimate. Here, as in the second group of theories, morality has an opportunity to cause behavior and thereby cause corruption. In many of these theories, values are assumed to determine behavior. Because of a clash of values connected to one's private and one's public role, choices have to be made. And certain values lead to corruption. Out of obligations to friends or family (which can be very important in certain cultures), officials take bribes. Thus it is not so much selfish personal gain the corrupt official is after, but rather the agent feels a need to be corrupt to fulfill important personal (moral) duties, like ensuring loyalty to friends and family.

The macro morality is characterized by the complementarity of rights and duties as the primal modus of social ties. For its existence, it depends on societal trust in the compensating mechanisms of social institutions. A problem of the macro morality is its higher level of abstraction, which limits the chances of internalizing its norms. Conflicts in society arise when persons see themselves in two social roles with opposing moral obligations: the macro morality of public officials requires the promised gifts against the chances of being caught and the possible negative impact that would have for him.

2.3.4 Correlation 'Theories'

The variables considered are on all possible levels: individual, organizational and societal. For example, campaign finance practices in the United States (Williams 1995), or longevity in power by elected officials (Heywood 1997: 431), or economic development and 'being a former British colony' (Treisman, 2000). Then it is often claimed that these factors are somehow 'causes' of corruption. Usually this is done on the basis of percentages or explained variance. If we were to add up all the claimed variance of these factors in all the research that can be grouped here, it would not be surprising if we found a causal construction in which well over 100 percent of variance would be explained (Schinkel 2004). This can be explained of course by the varying circumstances between and within countries. Once again, we are warned about making strong general claims on the causes of corruption.

2.3.5 System Theory

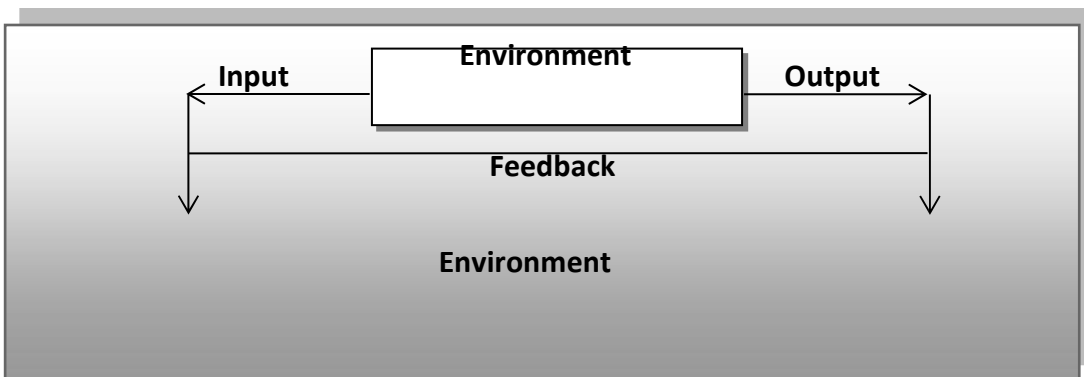
This theory was developed by a political scientist David Easton in 1953. It proposed that a

political system could be seen as a delimited (that is, all political systems have precise boundaries) and fluid (changing) system of step.

According to Easton (1953), a system is made up of different parts that make up a whole. Koontz et al (1983) also sees a system as an assemblage of things interconnected or from a complex unit. Laximikanth (2006) says a system is a complex who having a number of parts. These parts of the system are called subsystems. These subsystems are interrelated and interdependent for their functions. The system has a defined boundary through which interact with its environment. The external environment of a system is called a supra-system.

A system consists of 5 basic parts viz: Input, Process, Output, Feedback and Environment as shown below:

Parts of a system



2.4 Emperical Review

2.4. Emperical Review

2.4.1 The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC)

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is a law enforcement agent established in 2004. The EFCC Establishment Act 2004 mandated the commission to combat Economic and Financial Crimes. The commission is empowered to prevent investigate, prosecute, penalize economic and financial crimes and it is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the others laws and regulations relating to economic and financial crimes including:

- i. The Act itself i.e. the EFCC Act 2004
- ii. The Money Laundry Act 1991
- iii. The Money Laundry prohibition Act 2004
- iv. The Advance Free Fraud (419) and other fraud related crimes of 1995

- v. The failed Banks (Recovery of Debt) and financial malpractices in Banks Act 1994
- vi. The Banks and other financial institutions Act 1991 and the Miscellaneous Offences Act of 1991

In addition, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is the key agency of government responsible fighting terrorism in Nigeria. It is empowered to co-operate with foreign countries to investigate and bring to book cases of financial misappropriations or fraudulent actions of Nigerian public offices in and outside the country (EFCC Act, 2004). Though the establishment of EFCC was in 2002 with all the enabling laws, its final act was in 2004 with all the powers as enumerated above.

2.4.2 Functions of the EFCC

The major functions as set out in the enabling act of EFCC include;

- i. Investigation of all financial crimes such as advance fee fraud (419), money laundering, illegal charge transfer, computer credit card fraud, contract, forgery of financial investigation.
- ii. Adopt measures to identify trace and tackle economic and financial crimes and other related offences the value of which corresponds to such proceeds.
- iii. Dealing with matters connected with extraction deportation and mutual legal or other assistance between Nigeria and other countries involving economic and financial crimes.
- iv. Maintaining liaison with offices of the Attorney General of the Federation, Nigeria custom service National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) all government security financial supervisory institution in the eradication of economic and financial crimes.

The commission has received vigor with the setting up the body. The commission investigated in 2005 the following then serving governors of their respective states for offenses ranging from money laundering to fraud. These Governors include; Orji Kalu of Abia, Igbenedion of Edo, James Ibori of Delta, Victor Attah of Akwa-Ibom, Tinubu of Lagos, Alameiyesigha of Bayelsa, and Peter Odili of Rivers (Tell Jan. 31, 2005). The ₦55 million allegations against the Former Inspector General of Police Tafa Balogun, all these allegations were investigated by EFCC.

2.4.3 Justification for The Establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

Democracy is one of the major instruments through which effective public services delivery are provided and enshrined. Therefore anything worth doing should be done well with the best impeccable means. In the words of Rosembloom and Kraychuk (2002), “Public services is the use of managerial political and legal theories and process to fulfill legislative, executive and judicial mandates for the provision of governmental regulatory and service functions”.

Another phenomenon common with public service is bureaucracy which is akin to due process which could be described theoretically as a special process of carrying out government

activities where specialization, expertise, and accountability are the major guiding principles. However, as government grows in responsibility, bureaucracy plays an increasingly important role in political life, since cases of corruption abounds, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission can only serve as the rescuer (Heywood, 2003). This implies that Economic and Financial Crimes Commission will help to restore accountability and good leadership which are the major deficiencies faced under the democratic governance of Nigeria today.

The justification for Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) under the democratic governance of Nigeria is that:

8. It investigate all financial crimes such as advance free fraud (419) money laundering illegal charge transfer, computer credit card fraud, contract and forgery of financial investment.
9. It adopts measure to identify, trace and tackle economic and financial crime and others related offences, the value of which corresponds to such proceeds.
10. It deals with matters connected with extradition deportation and mutual or other assistance between Nigeria and other countries involving economic and financial crimes.
11. It maintains liaison with offices of the Attorney General of the Federation, Nigeria Custom Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and all government security agencies to fight its culprit (EFCC) (Act 2004).

2.4.4 Achievements and Challenges of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

At the onset, we must understand that corruption is the biggest killer disease in Africa. Corruption apart from distorting key macroeconomic indices ensures that basics such as Medicare, Water, Schools, Roads and other infrastructure are unavailable. By way of pro-email remarks, it must be stated that at no time in the history of Nigeria has so much been demanded from a single institution of agency of Government like the expectation from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. The commission has assumed a larger than life status and has grown to be perceived in the eyes of Nigerians as a solver of all problems even those outside its mandate. The reason for these misplaced expectations may not be unconnected with the failure of most institutional structures in Nigeria.

The historical background of the existence of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission derives from the need in the late 1980s to create special interventionist agency to investigate economic and financial crimes. At that time, the menace of Advance Fee Fraud, with its negative impact on the country had been recognized.

At the same time, it was recognized that the sophistication of economic crimes were such that there might be the need for a special commission to hand its investigation and prosecution as opposed to the regular law enforcement agencies. By 2002, Nigeria found its way in the financial action task force, a list of non-cooperative countries and one of the conditions for being taken off that list was compliance with Recommendation 26 of the FATF's laws then 49

recommendations which required the creation of a Financial Intelligence Unit domiciled there with. The statute creating EFCC was first enacted in 2002 and subsequently re-enacted in 2004. The EFCC started operations in 2003.

The statute creating the EFCC vested it with the mandate to:

1. Investigate and prosecute Economic and Financial Crimes to cover several issues such as bank frauds, tax evasion, capital market fraud, futures market frauds, etc.
2. Implement the provisions of the Advance Free Fraud Act, failed Banks decree, money laundering Act and the Banks and other financial institutions decree.

From a practical point of view, the EFCC sees its mandate as the provision of financial security for the Nigerian Economy. It implements the mandate through tackling those menaces such as official corruption, tax evasion, bank fraud, advanced free fraud, illegal bunkering and several shades of economic crimes that can distort key economic indices and inhibit growth. It also seeks to create a level playing field for all stakeholders within the economy. (EFCC Reports, 2012).

2.4.5 Effect of Economic and Financial Crime Commission in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

In the area of convictions, the commission has secured over 1000 convictions. The analysis of these convicted cases shows that the bulk of them have come from areas of Advance fee fraud and other related offences. There have been other high profile convictions involving politically exposed persons such as Tafa Balogun, Diepriye Alamiesigha, Bode George, Cecilia Ibru and Lucky Igbenedion among others. Many other convictions were made with many others still pending in courts for offences ranging from Advanced fee fraud, official corruption, money laundering, illegal bunkering, abuse of due process, tax evasion, and other shades of economic crimes.

According to African Economic Outlook (2008) The prosecution and subsequent conviction of Chief Bode George marked a watershed in the history of the commission. Chief George a Chieftain of the ruling People Democratic Party, alongside principal officers of the Nigerian Ports Authority was convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. The importance of this lies in the fact that this was the first time in the history of the commission that a high profile case involving a politically exposed person went through the full process of trial and conviction without recourse to a plea bargain. The process was equally affirmed and upheld by the court.

The commission has also recovered over \$28 billion since its inception in 2003. These recoveries include some part of the Former Gen. Abacha's loot, as well as recoveries from the bank sanitization exercise which the commission embarked on with the Central Bank of Nigeria. Expectedly, a substantial portion of these recoveries are Government funds that have been siphoned along with criminal proceeds from bank frauds. It will do us well to explain the avenues of recovery and the use of which this recovered fund are channeled. Restitution may not be the primary motive of the work of the commission but it is an important incidental of the investigation and prosecution of criminals. Thus in cases of official corruption and theft of Government funds, the proceeds of the crime are remitted to the office of the Accountant General of the federation of Nigeria or that of the applicable state Government, as required by public service rules, where the victim is a private entity. The proceeds of the crime are given to

such private entity. The commission has aggressively sensitized the general populace and politically exposed persons on the ills of corruption. Whereas hitherto, public funds are misappropriated with impunity, there is a growing understanding of its negative impact. Most importantly, the cliché which says “EFCC is watching” has continued to gain grounds. There has been a gradual reduction in corrupt practices that were hitherto accepted and taken for granted. As indicated earlier, the history of the commission cannot be divorced from the efforts of Nigeria to be delisted from the Financial Action Task Force and from the list of non cooperative countries and Territories. In this respect, the results have been singularly successful. The creation of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, domiciled with the commission has led not only to the delisting of Nigeria but also the membership of the prestigious Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units since 2007. Nigeria continues to play a significant role in the Egmont Group and indeed is nurturing some other West African Countries to assume membership. Further, the commission played a key role in the establishment of the West African Regional style FATF agency, GIABA. Also key staffs including the incumbent Director General were drawn from the commission.

All the foregoing success indices of the commission have led to an improved image of Nigeria and Nigerians. The decisive steps taken by the commission in combating Advance Fee Fraud, has translated into its being a key member of the International Mass Marketing Fraud Working Group. Further, the country’s ranking in Transparency International’s List of corrupt countries has continuously improved. But in recent years the rating has been fluctuating, eventually there has been no appreciable improvement

2.4.6 Initiatives of the EFCC

- (i) **Sanitation of Banks:** This was premised on the understanding that banking and financial institutions are the platform for laundering and the flight of ill gotten wealth.
- (ii) **Aggressive Investigation and Prosecution of Cases of Tax Evasion:** Under Section 47, of the Act establishing the Commission, tax evasion is an economic crime and there was the need to break any nexus it may have with money laundering.
- (iii) Fight Cyber Crime and the Scourge of Advance Fee Fraud using Smart Technology.
- (iv) Actively implement the 40 plus 9 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.
- (v) Initiating Legislative intervention in the key areas that will aid the anti-corruption fight. Arising out of these commitments, EFCC embarked on tax investigation to establish the criminality involved therein and so far have recovered over \$20 million for various levels of government. Charges are being prepared and will be filed in Court against the affected companies and their directors. We were also involved in the Central Bank of Nigeria bank cleansing exercise and to date have recovered close to \$5 billion dollars of bad loans for the banks. Charges have been filed against several bank executives and stock broking firms and some of them like the former Chief Executive of Oceanic Bank have been jailed.

From a point of view of direct interface with offshore investors and entities that can be scammed, we have created the Transaction Clearance Platform (TCP). The TCP which can be accessed at our website is designed to do basic due diligence for anyone who gets a business proposal from

Nigeria. The TCP will confirm the authenticity of the business, the individuals behind the business and the track record of the business. It will not confirm the profitability or otherwise of a business or indeed help in procuring license and approvals. In the past 18 months after, its existence, it has processed over 17, 000 requests. Using sophisticated tools of detecting potential cyber crime, it has also sent advisory mails to over 3 million foreigners that would have been defrauded of billions of dollars in proposed transactions worth over \$12 billion dollars.

The commission has also launched an Anti corruption revolution campaign (ANCOR). The major motive behind the campaign is not only to sensitize Nigerians about the ills of corruption but also to get them actively involved in the work of the commission as whistle blowers. (EFCC Reports, 2012).

2.7 Some Past and on-Going High Profile Corruption Cases and Convictions

Some past Governors were convicted and jailed, with monies recovered, James Ibori, Joshua Dariye, Jolly Nyame, DSP Alamasiegha (Deceased) etc. Orji Uzor Kalu was convicted and jailed, but released shortly after, today he is a serving Senator

Farouk Lawal. \$500,000 Subsidy bribe, arraigned by EFCC at a federal capital territory high court, arraigned on seven counts of criminal dealings, allegation made against him by Mr Femi Otedola 13 June 2012. Farouk Lawan was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, upheld by the Court of Appeal and is set to be confirmed or otherwise by the Supreme Court.

Deizieni Allison Madueke, former Minister of Petroleum, has been under going trial for theft of several billion Naira and acquiring properties in Nigeria and Abroad, she is to forfeit all those properties stolen the case is still on going monies to the Federal government,

Ahmed Idris, former Accountant General of the Federation, is under going trial for money laundering to the tune of 90 Billion Naira, he was released on bail., the case is un going, but worrisome is the fact that he has been seen attending some public functions and social events he was even conferred with a Chieftaincy title somewhere in Kano state

Beta Edu, the current Minister for humanitarian Affairs is being investigated for corrupt practices

The EFCC has vowed to revive the corruption cases involving 13 ex Governors in involving 772 Billion Naira. The case of 20 Billion Naira money laundering against Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi state is being investigated awaiting when he leaves office for prosecution to commence owing to the immunity clause in the constitution there is also a case against his cousin Ali Bello, involving 3 Billion Naira,.

2.8 The Weakness of EFCC in the Fight against Corruption in Nigeria

Despite the efforts made by government to sanitize the country and make it a corrupt free nation, some problems hinder in proper and effective performance of these commissions. The critics posited that these commissions have not landed any big fish or caught any fish at all (This Day, June 24, 2002). These weaknesses are stems from the following analysis.

(i) **Immunity Clause:** With the on-going campaign against corruption, it would appear that the nation is not yet prepared to do away with Section 308 of the Constitution which gives

immunity from prosecution to the President and Governors. It is one of the institutional weakness of these commissions. The Federal High Court who handled the case of the then Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State on account of fraudulence and money laundering asked him not to appear in court because of section 308, then ICPC boss, Akanbi, said Section 308 today makes it difficult for these commissions to prosecute offenders who have the privileges of enjoying this immunity (Searchlight volume 3. No 5 May/June 2005) form the foregoing constitutional constraint is one of the major weakness to the success of these commissions.

(ii) **Biased Lawyers and Victimization in Law Court:** Some defense lawyers fail to conduct their cases in the tradition of the high standards required in the legal profession. It is well known attitude for so many defense lawyers today who ensure that cases do not go through proper procedures for the right judgments to be passed by the Judge most especially when the Judge refuses to their detriment, the Judge becomes the target. He will be accused of been biased and an application for his transfer to another Court in termination may follow immediately. The accession or replacement delays and frustrates trials and waste resources on both sides. Some critics say that it appears to be some persons are referred to as sacred cows and untouchables in the country. For instance, during the last administration of Olusegun Obasanjo, a point was raised on a misappropriated 350 billion naira given out on road contract scandal which also involved Obasanjo's henchman and former works Minister Chief Tony Anenih. Also a one time FCT Minister and Chairman FCDA Nasir El-Rufai, was accused by the members of the National Assembly of Paying a Youth Corps Member 2million naira per month with such selective injustice and he was untouchable. This has expressed corruption as much more critical through political and administrative dimensions as revelations from the investigation on the prevalence of corrupt practices in Nigeria prove political exigencies as one of the major factors (The Weekly Treasure Vol 22 No 17th April, 2005).

(iii) **Politicization:** These commissions have been highly politicized subjected and used as tools in the hand of some of the members of a ruling government to nail and suppress all forms of opposition lists and political enemies in their ways in and outside the country. And this has contributed a lot of controversies among Nigerians. This undermines the desired effective results from these commissions, for instance , Adams Oshomole , then APC, Chairman was reported to have said in 2018 that “ If you join APC your sins will be forgiven” , some former Governors, senators , house of Representatives members defected to the APC from other Political Parties to escape prosecution., The appointment of the Chairmen in recent years have been controversial especially that of the immediate past Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa who was a relatively junior officer appointed as Chairman over and above his superiors in 2021.

(iv) **Inadequate Funding and Poor Procedural Law:** Other weaknesses are cost of investigation and prosecution, inadequacy of existing procedural laws for the prosecution of offenders.

(v) **Threats to Lives and Properties:** There are several instances of violence, threats to human live and properties to the agents of these commissions and other citizens of the country spearheaded by political thugs for the purpose of controlling and securing power for their godfathers who without doubts sponsor them in carrying out such evil. (EFCC Reports, 2012).

2.9 The Implication of the Activities of EFCC On Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria

The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) along with its counterpart anti-graft body, independent corrupt practices and other related offences commission were originally and officially set up by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration to confront the menace of corruption especially its political manifestation.

However, a critical look at the track record and the style of its operations will reveal that the EFCC is not a panacea; rather it has become an instrument in the hands of the presidency to perpetrate political corruption. We shall buttress this assertion by examining the way and manner the anti-graft body handled the impeachment cases of Alamiyeseigha and Dariye, this three cases attest to the fact that the EFCC does not follow due process in performing its functions.

The EFCC though did not impeach these governors directly but it however, facilitated the process by ensuring that these Governors were impeached. In the case of Dariye, through the involvement of the commission, six out of twenty-six lawmakers were able to impeach the former Governor as against the two-third (2/3) requirement as entrenched in the 1999 Constitution.

Similarly, in the case of Alamiyeseigha, the EFCC facilitated the impeachment process by blackmailing and pressurizing members of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly to impeach the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly who were core loyalist of Alamiyeseigha. To make life difficult for the people of Bayelsa State, the Commission froze the State account following the refusal of the officials of the state to impeach the Governor. All of these portray the corrupt and lawless way in which the EFCC fights corruption. Noble as the anti-corruption crusade might be and laudable as some of its achievements might be (especially in the pulling down of some high profile public figures such as Senate Presidents, Ministers and Governors), its practical implementation no doubt creates room for worries and questions. For instance, a situation where the commission picks and chooses only corrupt public officers who are no more in the good book of the president for prosecution is condemnable. A good example of the prosecution of public officers who have fallen out of the former president's favour is the case of Alamiyeseigha. All through the first term he was a friend of the president until when he became staunch advocate of resource control for the Niger Delta. Coupled with his close loyalty to the former Vice-President Atiku who had the ambition of contesting for the presidency in 2007 with Alamiyeseigha speculated as his running mate. The former president who was still nursing the ambition of ruling the country for a third term saw every 2007 presidential aspirant especially within the ruling Peoples Democratic Party as an enemy and therefore, used the EFCC to deal with all perceived opposition. Alamiyeseigha thus became a victim of the EFCC. Apart from being used to unlawfully remove "unfriendly" governors, the EFCC and ICPC were also surreptitiously used by the presidency through the instrumentality of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to screen party candidates for various elective offices. In the first instance, screening of contestants by any official agency is illegal as there are no legal or constitutional provisions supporting it. Neither the 1999 Constitution nor the Electoral Act 2006 authorized screening or verification of candidates by the EFCC and ICPC. It was obvious that the PDP under President Obasanjo merely used the EFCC and ICPC to witch-hunt and disqualifies political opponents (Madu-West et al, 2006). This assertion was buttressed by the pressure that was mounted on INEC by the ruling PDP to disqualify the presidential flag bearer of Action

Congress (AC) party, Atiku Abubakar, the former Vice President, who had defected from PDP to AC because of the feud between him and his boss, Obasanjo on the latter's third term agenda (Ajayi, 2007:148). However, the EFCC indictment report had earlier been declared illegal by a Lagos High Court.

These and other cases reveal that the establishment of the EFCC was basically meant to fight opposition and political enemies. This, therefore, means that the EFCC is rather used as a political tool for victimization and harassment of political opponents rather than the reduction of political corruption.

The EFCC as an anti-graft body and knowing what corruption entails is supposed to act according to the law by following due process in dealing with corrupt cases. Indeed, due process was not followed in the impeachment of D.S.P. Alamiyeseigha and Mr. Joshua Dariye. Though fighting corruption is a legitimate course, the EFCC in doing this, takes the route of illegality to achieve the anti-corruption objective. In its attempt to remove these governors from office, the EFCC violated all known rules and procedures of the respective state Houses of Assembly as well as Section 188 (containing procedures for impeachment) and Section 308 (the immunity clause).

The various houses of assembly such as Oyo, Ekiti, Bayelsa, and Plateau States that impeached their governors did not do it voluntarily. It was rather as a result of the intimidation, blackmail and threats from the EFCC that compelled them to do so. This role of the EFCC in facilitating the impeachment of governors is not stated in the Act establishing it. All that is stated is the investigation of public officers that are involved in economic and financial crimes. EFCC, even after investigation of any governor, was not authorized by law to interfere with the prosecution of such a governor by the legislators concerned. The legislators are to be given a free hand to carry out their constitutional role. It is, therefore, left for the legislators to decide whether or not to impeach the governor following the report that the EFCC sent to the assembly. Democracy is a constitutional system of government and to that extent actions of any institution of government ought to be governed by the law. Thus, if EFCC claims to be fighting corruption then it should act according to the law. It cannot use lawless and unconstitutional means to arrive at a democratic destination. If the elimination or reduction of corruption by the EFCC is to serve as a vehicle for the consolidation of the country's democracy, then there is the need for the EFCC to follow due process in handling corrupt cases. (African Economic Outlook 2008).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design used for this study is the Survey Research Design. The two primary purposes of a survey research design are to describe systematically detailed facts and characteristics of a given area of interest and to make comparisons and evaluations. This type of research design is based on information gathered through questionnaires, interviews, self report and observation (Adefila, 2008; Akpa and Angahar, 1999). The research was both qualitative and quantitative in its approach. The qualitative approach includes detail description explanation of a phenomenon under study while the quantitative approach involves the use of numbers (Encarta Dictionary, 2009).

3.2 Population of the study

The population of the study comprises of 390 staff of EFCC, Abuja .

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique.

The sample size comprises of 197 respondents from the target population. This was determined using the Slovin's formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where n=sample size, N=total population (390), e=error tolerance (5%). $n = \frac{390}{1 + 390 * 0.05^2} = 197$.

The simple random technique was adopted in this study. This is the method of selecting a sample in such a way that members of the population have equal opportunity or chance of being selected where the selection of one subject and the non-selection of another subject have no influence on each other.

3.4. Methods of Data Collection

There are two major sources of data collection namely; primary and secondary sources of data collection. In gathering data for this study, the researcher made use of primary and secondary sources of data collection. Through the primary source of data collection, a scheduled questionnaire was used as the instrument for eliciting research relevant information and secondary sources such as published and unpublished documents were used through the use of text books, journals, magazines, newspapers, reports from private and public corporations, published and unpublished projects in libraries, etcetera. The copies of the questionnaire were delivered to the appropriate respondents by the researcher and a period of one week was allowed to enable the respondents carefully complete the questionnaires. After the one week interval, 130 copies of the questionnaire were returned out of 197 questionnaires that were distributed.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The analytical tools used in analyzing data collected for this study are descriptive statistics and chi-square. The descriptive statistics tools used are frequency distribution and percentages.

Chi-square was used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study. The formulae for Chi-square is

$$\sum \frac{(o_i - e_i)^2}{e_i}$$

\Where

o_i = observed value or frequency, e_i

= expected frequency

The degree of freedom (df) is $(C-1)(R-1)$

where C =No. of Columns

R = No. of rolls

$X^2_{0.05}$ = Critical value of Chi-square (table value).

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data Presentation and Analysis

The questions administered were presented and analyzed below:

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents according their sex

| Sex Bracket | No.of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Male | 75 | 58 |
| Female | 55 | 42 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 1 shows that 75 respondents representing 58% of the total respondents are male while 55 respondents representing 42% of the total respondents were females.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents according to their age

| Age | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Below 20 years | 4 | 3 |
| 20 – 22 years | 17 | 13 |
| 30 – 39 years | 46 | 35 |
| 40 – 49 years | 50 | 39 |
| 50 years and above | 13 | 10 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The response in Table 2 shows that 4 respondents representing 3% of the total respondents are below 20 years, 17 respondents representing 13% of the respondents are between 20-22 years, 46 respondents representing 35% of the total respondents are between 30-39 years, 50 respondents representing 39% of the total respondents are between 40-49 years while 13 respondents representing 10% of the total respondents are 50 years and above

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to Marital Status

| Marital Status | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Married | 75 | 75 |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Single | 25 | 25 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 3 shows that 75 respondents representing 75% of the total respondents are married while 25 respondents representing 25% of the total respondents were single.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents according their Educational Background

| Education Background | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| School Certificate | - | - |
| NCE and Below | 5 | 4 |
| HND, B.Sc. or Equivalent | 45 | 35 |
| Post Graduate | 70 | 54 |
| Professional Qualification | 10 | 7 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 4 shows that there was no response for school certificate, 5 respondents representing 4% of the total respondents have attained N.C.E and below, 45 respondents representing 35% of the total respondents have attained HND, B.Sc. or its equivalent, 70 respondents representing 54% of the total respondents have post graduate degree and 10 respondents representing 7% of the total respondents have professional qualification.

Table 5: Perception of Respondents on their support for the establishment of Federal Government Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

| Responses | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 79 | 59 |
| Agree | 46 | 37 |
| Undecided | - | - |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 3 |
| Disagree | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in Table 5 shows that 79 respondents representing 59% of the total respondents took strongly Agree 46 respondents representing 37% of the respondents do agree and there was no undecided case 4 respondents representing 3% of the respondents strongly disagree while 1 respondent representing 1% disagree.

Table 6: Perception of the respondents on the Major Problems with Nigeria

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Corruption | 90 | 68 |
| Political Leaders | 31 | 20 |
| Constitution | 8 | 11 |
| Judicial System | 1 | 1 |
| Undecided | - | - |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 6 shows that 90 respondents representing 68% of the total respondents strongly agree that corruption is the major problem with Nigeria while 31 respondents representing 20% of the respondents strongly disagree and said it is Political Leaders., 8 respondents representing 11% said it's the Constitution and 1 respondent representing 1% said it's the Judicial system. There was no undecided case.

Table 7: Perception of the respondents on the Relationship Between the time fixed for Interrogation of Culprits and Section 27 to 42 of EFCC Act 2004

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 85 | 62 |
| Agree | 28 | 25 |
| Undecided | - | - |
| Strongly Disagree | 12 | 10 |
| Disagree | 5 | 3 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

From the response in table 7, it shows that 85 respondents representing 62% of the total respondents said they strongly agree with the above statement while 28 respondents representing 25% of the respondents said that they agree, no undecided case, 12 respondent representing 10% strongly disagree while 5 respondent representing 3% of the total respondent disagree.

Table 8: Perception of the respondents on Fiscal Transparency and Accountability of Economic and Financial Crime Commission in Nigeria

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 75 | 69 |
| Agree | 50 | 27 |
| Undecided | 0 | 0 |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 3 |
| Disagree | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 8 shows that 75 respondents representing 69% of the total respondents strongly agree with the above statement while 50 respondents representing 27% of the respondents agree there was no undecided case 4 respondents representing 3% strongly disagree while 1 respondent representing 1% disagree.

Table 9: Perception of the respondents on the Recovery of Billions of Naira by Economic

and Financial Crime Commission for Nigeria Government

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 49 | 38 |
| Agree | 62 | 48 |
| Undecided | 1 | 1 |
| Strongly Disagree | 12 | 8 |
| Disagree | 6 | 5 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result from table 9 shows that, 49 respondents representing 38% of the total respondents strongly agree with the above statement while 62 respondents representing 48% of the respondents agree 1 respondent representing 1% were undecided 12 respondent representing 8% Strongly disagree while 6 respondent representing 5% disagree.

Table 10: Perception of the respondents on the Returning of National Treasury to Sanctity by Economic and Financial Crime Commission

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 78 | 60 |
| Agree | 45 | 34 |
| Undecided | 2 | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 3 |
| Disagree | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 10 shows that 78 respondents representing 60% of the total respondents strongly agree with the statement above while 45 respondents representing 34% of the respondents agree 2 respondents representing 2% are undecided, 4 respondent representing 3% and 1 respondent representing 1% .

Table11: Perception of the respondents on Establishment and Achievement of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)in Nigeria.

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly agree | 48 | 36 |
| Agree | 62 | 48 |
| Undecided | 1 | 1 |
| Strongly Disagree | 13 | 10 |
| Disagree | 6 | 5 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 11 shows that 48 respondents representing 36% of the total respondents strongly agree with the statement above while 62 respondents representing 48% of the respondents indicated that they agree and 1 of the respondent representing 1% were undecided. 13 respondent's represents 10% strongly disagree while 6 respondents representing 5% of the respondents disagree.

Table 12: Perception of the respondents on Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Corruption Curbing in Nigeria

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly agree | 30 | 23 |
| Agree | 76 | 58 |
| Undecided | 2 | 2 |
| Strongly disagree | 15 | 12 |
| Disagree | 7 | 5 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 12 shows that 30 respondents representing 23% of the total respondents strongly agree with the statement above while, 76 respondents representing 58% of the respondents indicated that they agree, 2 respondents representing 2% of the respondents were undecided. 15 respondents representing 12% of the respondents strongly disagree while 7 respondents representing 5% disagree.

Table 13: Perception of the respondents on the significant Effect of Political Influence on the Effective Performance of EFCC

| Response | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly agree | 80 | 62 |
| Agree | 45 | 34 |
| Undecided | 0 | 0 |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 3 |
| Disagree | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 130 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The result in table 3 shows that 80 respondents representing 62% of the total respondents strongly agree with the statement above while 45 of the respondents representing 34% of the respondents indicated that they agree, 0% of the respondents were undecided. 4 respondents representing 3% of the respondents disagree while respondents representing 1% disagree.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Test of Hypothesis one

H₀: Establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has not significantly enhanced the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

H₁: Establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has significantly enhanced the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

Table 14 below shows the calculation of chi-square to test hypothesis one formulated for the study via SPSS version 17.0

Table 14: Calculation of Chi-Square (X²)

| Responses | Observed Frequencies | Expected Frequencies |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 48 | 26 |
| Agree | 62 | 26 |
| Undecided | 1 | 26 |
| Disagree | 13 | 26 |
| Strongly Disagree | 6 | 26 |
| Total | 130 | 130 |

Test Statistics

| | Results |
|-------------|---------|
| Chi-Square | 114.36 |
| Df | 4 |
| Asymp. Sig. | 0.000 |

0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5.

With the level of significance of 0.05, degree of freedom 4, the calculated value of X^2 is 114.36 compared with the tabulated value of 9.488.

With this result, the null hypothesis is here by rejected the alternate accepted which says establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has significantly enhanced the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

The acceptance or rejection of hypothesis is base on the Decision Rule which says reject null if calculated value is greater than the table value (Reject H_0 if $X^2 > X^2_{cal}$)

cal

Test of Hypothesis Two

- H₀:** Economic and Financial Crime Commission has not curbed corruption in Nigeria..
- H₁:** Economic and Financial Crime Commission has curb corruption in Nigeria.

Table 15 below shows the calculation of chi-square to test hypothesis two formulated for the study via SPSS version 17.0

Table 15: Calculation of Chi-Square (X^2)

| Responses | Observed Frequencies | Expected Frequencies |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 30 | 26 |
| Agree | 76 | 26 |
| Undecided | 2 | 26 |
| Disagree | 15 | 26 |
| Strongly Disagree | 7 | 26 |
| Total | 130 | 130 |

Test Statistics

| | Results |
|-------------|---------|
| Chi-Square | 137.45 |
| Df | 4 |
| Asymp. Sig. | 0.000 |

0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. With the level of significance of 0.05

, degree of freedom 4, the calculated value of X^2 is 137.45 compared with the tabulated value of 9.488.

With this result, the null hypothesis is here by rejected the alternate accepted which says Economics and Financial Crime Commission has curb corruption in Nigeria.

The acceptance or rejection of hypothesis is base on the Decision Rule which says reject null if calculated value is greater than the table value (Reject H_0 if $X^2_{cal} > X^2_{table}$)

Test of Hypothesis Three

H₀: Political influences have no significant effect on the effective performance of EFCC.

H₁: Political Influences have significant Effect on the Effective Performance of EFCC.

Table 16 below shows the calculation of chi-square to test hypothesis three formulated for the study via SPSS version 17.0

Table 16: Calculation of Chi-Square (X^2)

| Responses | Observed Frequencies | Expected Frequencies |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 80 | 26 |
| Agree | 45 | 26 |
| Undecided | 0 | 26 |
| Disagree | 4 | 26 |
| Strongly Disagree | 1 | 26 |
| Total | 130 | 130 |

Test Statistics

| | Results |
|-------------|---------|
| Chi-Square | 194.67 |
| Df | 4 |
| Asymp. Sig. | 0.000 |

0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5.

With the level of significance of 0.05, degree of freedom 4, the calculated value of X^2 is 194.67 compared with the tabulated value of 9.488.

With this result, the null hypothesis is here by rejected the alternate accepted which says Political Influences have significant Effect on the effective Performance of EFCC.

The acceptance or rejection of hypothesis is based on the Decision Rule which says reject null if calculated value is greater than the table value (Reject H_0 if $X^2_{cal} > X^2_{a,df}$)

Discussion of Findings

From the data analyzed and hypotheses tested above, it was found out that:

The fight against corruption has been significantly enhanced by the establishment of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)?

(i) The role EFCC played in curbing corruption justifies its establishment in Nigeria? (iii) Political influence has significant effect on the effective performance of EFCC? Thuggery, recklessness, lack of courtesy, moral bankruptcy, general indiscipline, non- accountability, fraudulence, prejudice, stealing of ballot boxes, assassination, miss-placed employment, bribery, injustice and rigging are general indiscipline which are all embedded in the corrupt practices of the present day Nigeria people, government and culture. And all these plague the attainment of a realizable sustainable social development in Nigeria and enthrone bad leadership. The governance today in Nigeria is predominantly with the aim to gain power, to rule or precisely power to protect and preserve personal self-interest and consequently to enrich oneself. The unemployed youths are used to carry out violent crimes for the benefit of their political war-lords. Lack of employment and social services usually make the youth easy preys because they are usually enticed by the promises of employment, enrichment etc.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The EFCC can help curb corruption in Nigeria. EFCC has over the past 20 years grappled with many high profile corruption cases

. The EFCC is cardinal to the future economic emancipation of the nation as good governance, transparency, accountability, the rule of law and proper value-for-money are now emphasized in the country.

5.2 Recommendations

(i) There is need for both EFCC and ICPC to develop the political will to prosecute corrupt people no matter how highly placed. A situation where some people are regarded as sacred cows is not good.

(ii) For Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to properly fight against Corruption in Nigeria, it is recommended that EFCC should be given high level independence without any political interference and also with an independent Judiciary where both the rich and the poor are judged under the law without inequality, fear or favour and delays in passing verdicts should not be condoned.

(iii) The modus operandi of EFCC should change. They make a lot of noise instead of investigations. EFCC use to fight corruption on pages of newspapers and television. In Argentina and Chile, corruptions are fought through investigation and in noiseless form. This is not the case with Nigeria most often.

(iv) There is need for security agents assigned to these agencies by the federal government. It will amount to sending a child to farm without hoe, cutlass or farming implements. Confronting corrupt people needs sound security base.

(v) The Nigerian government should not introduce bank notes above ₦1000 naira, for a long time to come , higher denominations will encourage cash thefts , robberies and kidnap ransome payments.

(vi) The mass media has a crucial role to play in the campaigning to educate the people of their right as citizens and in exposing the vogue.

(vii) To fight corruption properly, moral principles must be upheld. EFCC can curb corrupt practices in Nigeria, which is no doubt; but only if there is (continued) sincerity and righteousness on the part of its operators.

(viii) Proper monitoring of transactions on personal , government and corporate accounts

(ix) The cash restriction/cashless policy started by the Buhari regime in the year 2023 should be built upon as it helps to curb Cash theft, kidnapping, robbery etc

(x) Proper check mating of cybercrime and activities of yahoo yahoo boys

(x1) Removal of the immunity clause from the constitution

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