

## Chapter 2

# Corruption and Governance in Africa: An Insight

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Corruption is a challenge and problem for governance in Africa. The existence of anti-corruption institutions and legislation in Africa is the result of the questioning of the commitment and dedication of African leaders to combat and tackle corruption. There are corrupt practices conducted by Africans as well as foreigners who are collaborating with corrupt African leaders. The aim of this chapter is (1) to highlight the types of corruption in Africa, (2) to highlight the anti-corruption efforts and moves in Africa, and (3) to suggest workable and suitable solutions. The external and internal sources of corruption are discussed which are systemic, interrelated, and interdependent. The chapter also looks at the failure and challenges to handle or deal with the issue of corruption in various dimensions.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Anyone that has had the privilege to count the numbers of times African countries have been “labelled” being “corrupt” in the international media will have miscounted. Therefore, without any obscurantism, there can be no scepticism that all charges are factual as there are both international and also domestic investigations of corruption and fraudulent scenarios in Africa. Each of these reports has questioned the willingness of African Heads of State to manage cases of corruption. Also, governance in Africa plays a tremendously essential role and responsibility in determining and examining the relationship between the followers and the leaders, especially when state endowments (resources) are being allocated so as to enhance the socio-economic welfare of Africans. It is on this ground that government concentrates

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and focuses on the citizens to embark on its constitutional obligations and duties as well as to ensure the required platform for social participation between citizens and leaders when tackling socio-economic issues such as poverty (Nnoli, 2003).

Thus, the issue of poverty in Africa has been connected to corruption at the institutional level. Therefore, to get Africa out of corruption, motives need to change and efforts to stop corruption at the institutional level must now be made. A nation that is affected by corruption cannot develop and nurture its citizens to their maximum capabilities and capacities. Corruption thus results in underdevelopment (Momoh, 2013). In addition, vast resources lost to corruption, both externally or internally, that should have been channelled to tackle the scenario of underdevelopment in Africa is a major worry to those that view corruption as a challenge to the globe that must be emphasized and tackled.

Also, the severe nature and level of corruption in Africa, particularly at the institutional level, question the ability and willingness of African nations to manage the issue of corruption in which enormous amounts of resources are lost, especially when the global extent of poverty is on the rise.

## **THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Many theories have been presented in order to explain the extent of corruption and the inferior quality of governance in Africa. Some of the findings of the research conducted, which are presented in this book support the theories that have been written about. This book's perspective originated from the public choice mechanism of human behaviour that distinguishes a society into Private and Public spheres, based on the writings and thoughts of several authors and on research conducted by institutions. Rather than trying to introduce any innovative ideas or new theories, or to conduct any new research, this book attempts to cobble together, by borrowing and copying, the works of others in order to present a coherent and comprehensive perspective. The concentration of this book's point of view is on the public and general issues in which decisions or policies on governance are ensured.

An evaluation of corruption usually categorizes between bureaucratic, political and also economic corruption (Nakitende, Rafay & Waseem, 2021) A study of corruption also usually distinguishes between incentive settings or theories in these three domains (Chipkin, 2013). Furthermore, the focus on political corruption in this book is essential because major advanced scenarios of corruption in Africa emerge from the political sphere. This perspective has been supported and backup by the American and British Intelligence Report in Ezeoha and Uche (2005) which found that in a Nation such as Nigeria; 60 percent of corruption comes from the presidency. It, therefore, falls within the scenario of this book's theoretical perspective to give an insight into what has and is transpiring in Africa when it comes to corruption.

Lastly, this book could be antagonized for only focusing and depending on the structure and not the individuals that coordinate, control, and regulate the activities of these institutions. Although the individuals who coordinate and regulate the activities of these institutions do have access to the means to engage and involve in corruption, the instance and scenario of corruption in Africa are so severe at the institutional level, that the concentration first is on institutions and not on the people in them.

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