



Analysis of Media Reports On Corruption Cases In Nigeria

(February – July 2018)

Volume II

MacArthur
Foundation



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PREFACE

Corruption remains a major clog in the wheel of development efforts in Nigeria and continues to be a magnet of intervention from a range of stakeholders both locally and internationally. While the roles of the different arms of government, international partners and civil society have been well publicised, the media provides a critical link through the performance of its duty to enhance the overall fight against corruption in Nigeria.

This publication covers review and analysis of media reports on corruption and anti-corruption efforts from February to July 2018 tracked from print and online publications. It highlights reportage of high level corruption issues across government agencies. Corruption in the judiciary also made up a large space of media reports within the period under review.

The publication observes a higher return of media reports on anti-corruption issues such as reports on ongoing investigations and status of court cases. However, on corruption issues uncovered through legislative panel investigations, there was a low reportage in the period under review. This observation highlights the need for effective legislative oversight in the fight against corruption.

Similarly, the publication finds imperative the need to strengthen legislative oversight functions for effective investigation into perceived corruption issues in any sector of the economy and recommends for greater synergy between the legislators and the executive in the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

With regards to the linkage between the media reportage on corruption and National Assembly oversight mandate, the publication highlights the role of a responsible media to investigate rumour of corruption and report with evidence to serve as alarm to alert investigative and enforcement bodies to take action. It is noted that when such investigative reports are published, the legislature would be aided in its oversight functions.

Furthermore, the publication presents a focus-based analysis of two (2) broad categories with media reports focusing on corruption in; 1) the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government and 2) reports on corruption focusing on individuals in government otherwise regarded as Politically Exposed Persons (PEP). A sectoral analysis of captured media reports on corruption-related issues is also presented with specific sectors recording high corruption-related media reports within the period under review.

It is against this backdrop that this publication serves to improve legislative action on corruption as a strategy to improve public sector accountability. The publication will also aid the various committees of the National Assembly to identify the level of corruption-related reports relating to the sectors under their purview as evidence for further investigation. The analysis presented in the publication will also serve as tool for evidence-based advocacy against corruption in Nigeria.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is therefore grateful to the MacArthur Foundation for its support through the project Strengthening Legislative Accountability and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms (SLAAM) under which this publication is made. CISLAC also immensely thank Mr. Olumide Olaniya, Botti Isaac and Tunde Salman who carried out the media research.

It is hoped that this media report would be useful to relevant stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

Auwal Musa Ibrahim (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCB	Code of Conduct Bureau
CISLAC	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
ICPC	Independent Corrupt Persons (other related offences Commission)
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
PEPs	Politically Exposed Persons
NASS	National Assembly

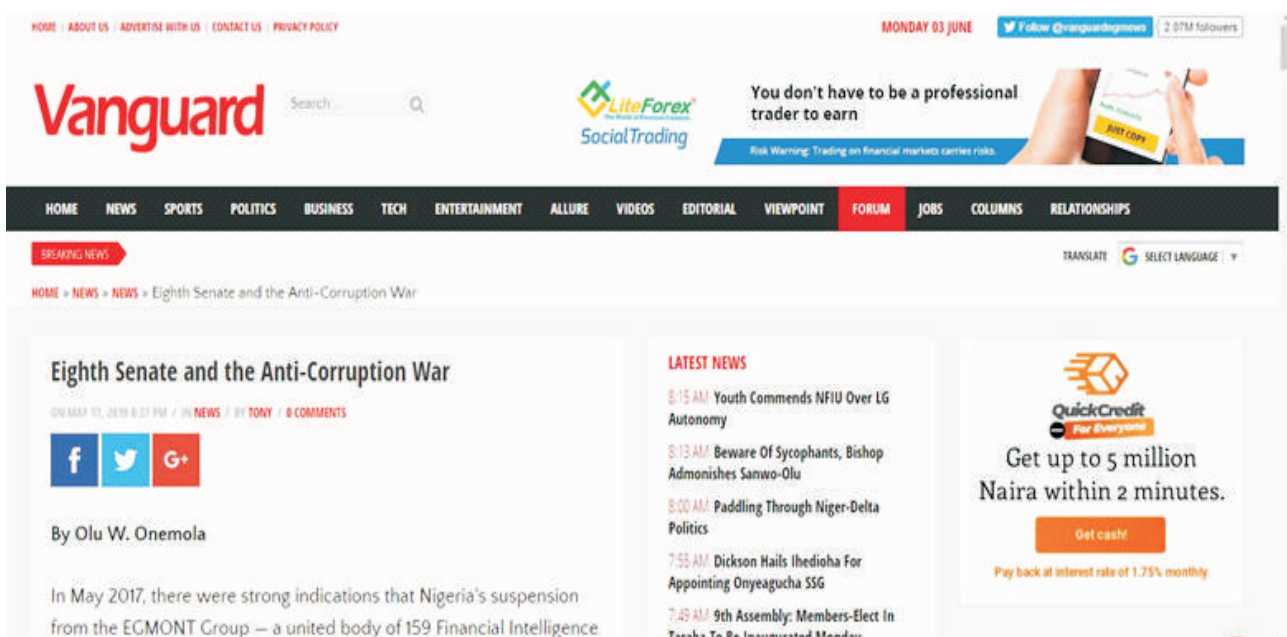
Analysis of Media Reports on Corruption Cases in Nigeria

(February – July 2018)

Executive Summary

Media reportage of corruption cases is part of the ongoing effort to curb or reduce grand and retail corruption in Nigeria by helping to keep corruption-related issues and cases in the public domain until action(s) is/are taken. The fight against corruption in Nigeria is being supported by various actors both local and international, who see the need to support civil society voices to amplify accountability. It is in this context that CISLAC seeks to develop this report to provide further ground for anti-corruption advocacy and citizens' engagement. The media, therefore, acts as a watchdog of other activities of the state machineries and serves as citizens' mouthpiece.

The legislature can set up committees to investigate the activities of any government MDAs for alleged irresponsibility in their management and can summon witnesses to testify before it. These powers are intended to assist the legislature to (i) make laws with respect to any matter within its legislative competence and correct any defects in existing laws; and (ii) expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence.



Objectives:

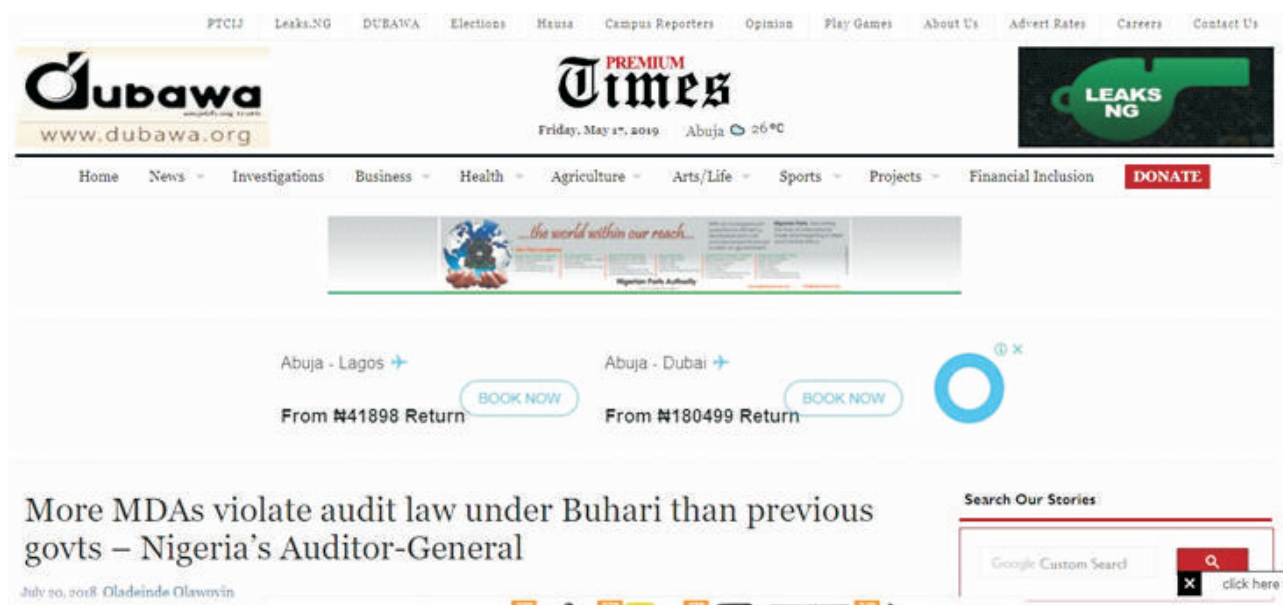
This policy brief aims at promoting increased legislative action on corruption, thereby improving public sector accountability. It is envisaged that this paper will help set the agenda on efforts of the National Assembly and other stakeholders to address corruption through oversight and investigations. The various legislative committees will be able to identify issues of corruption as it relates to their sectors, status and efforts to prevent, curb and/or sanction individuals and institutions that might be involved in corrupt practices.

Design and Methodology

CISLAC initiated and developed a maiden edition of this biannual policy brief, covering August 2018 to January, 2019 as part of its programme to curtail corruption in Nigeria. This is the second edition. It covers February – August, 2019; though, both editions were produced almost simultaneously and finalised last quarter of 2018. As with the maiden edition, we adapted iterative approach of content analysis of tracked newspapers. Newspaper selection from print and online sources were randomly selected based on reports from newspapers. Newspapers from which relatively large number of news were compiled were eventually used for the review and analysis from a total of 700 corruption-related media reports that were tracked and documented from 18 media houses between February and July 2018.

Key findings:

- There is strong linkage between the free press that has resources to investigate rumours and evidences of corruption in a professional manner and the legislature's effectiveness and efficiency in the execution of its oversight functions.
- The 468 media reports on corruption cases indicate that corruption is visible in a plethora of sectors across the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), including the oil and gas sector, security, judiciary, education, health, aviation, power and civil service, amongst other agencies of government.
- Individuals that are serving and former public office holders (referred to in this document as Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) and others in the private sector, such as banks; were also involved in high level corruption.



- Media reported efforts of the three arms of government at fighting corruption, including the National Assembly, the Executive, through its anti-corruption agencies, especially the EFCC and ICPC, as well as cases of corruption trials and convictions by the judiciary. However, there were no adequate evidence of follow-up on cases of corruption in a systematic manner.

There is need for the National Assembly to increase its efforts on the oversight of reported cases of corruption (or financial discrepancies) in the media and from other sources, such as the report of the Auditor General of the Federation.

Recommendations:

To the Media

- There is need to focus as much attention on reporting corruption issues as on anti-corruption issues. In other words, reporting more on corruption issues will afford the citizens opportunity to contribute to accountability campaign and advocacy by amplifying the corruption reports until actions are taken.
- There is also the need to avoid the practice of sensational reporting, the practice of yellow journalism, but be objective and factual in reportage. It is not uncommon that stories are planted in the newspapers and social media to discredit investigation and prosecution of corrupt cases.

To the Legislature:

- The legislators are best positioned to promote accountability, hence their oversight function on public expenditure. This role should be strengthened through effective investigation or probes into perceived corruption issues in any sector of the economy.
- The legislature should execute its oversight functions without biases or favour to individuals and other entities, to ensure more public trust as well as continuing, concluding and publicising its probes or corruption investigation.
- There should be more synergy between the executive and the legislators in addressing the menace of corruption in the Nigerian system. Cases of use of anti-corruption efforts by institutions of government should be addressed,

There is also need for effective collaboration of media organizations as they have a role in helping to amplify the various corruption issues dealt with by the legislators.

Introduction

Corruption has been identified as the bane to societal development with harmful effects on every facet of human lives. Corruption is a global problem. It is visible in several countries, though, its prevalence differs. In Nigeria, corruption is a household name; there is strong perception amongst the populace that it is endemic and entrenched within the country's system. International report such as that of Transparency International rated Nigeria as number 144 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries in 2018 on its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). This is a threat to sustainable economic development, justice and democratic values. The impact of corruption is visible in public services, according to PwC Nigeria, "... corruption in Nigeria could cost up to 37% of GDP by 2030 if it's not dealt with immediately. This cost is equated to around \$1,000 per person in 2014 and nearly \$2,000 per person that lives in Nigeria by 2030."¹

The prevalence of corruption within the Nigerian system provides a perfect illustration of nuances surrounding corruption and how it affects the society, the struggle for development as well as value re-orientation. Reports of corruption cases abound in the Nigeria media. These reports covered every sector of the country's economy with monumental cases of corruption perpetrated by highly placed individuals or politically exposed persons within government establishments and governance structure. Analysis of the various media reports from February – July 2018 shows disturbing trends of endemic corruption in every of Nigeria's sectors.

Media reportage of corruption cases is part of the ongoing effort to curb or reduce grand and retail corruption in Nigeria by helping to keep corruption-related issues and cases in the public domain until action(s) is/are taken. The fight against corruption in Nigeria is being supported by various actors both local and international, who see the need to support civil society voices to amplify accountability. It is in this context that CISLAC seeks to develop this report to provide further ground for anti-corruption advocacy and citizens' engagement. The report seeks to analysis the various investigative and other media reports amplifying corruption cases.

The various media reports are analysed by sector – looking at frequency of corruption reports by sector. Issue-based analysis of the reports is further done to dissect the various corruption issues reported by the media.

The media plays crucial roles in the dissemination of information in the quest for transparency, accountability and democratic governance. The mass media, also referred to as fourth estate of the realm, comprises both the print and the electronic media (including the new media). The functions of the media are indispensable in raising public awareness on issues that are tropical as well as the consequences on national development with the aim of

1. PwC Nigeria, Impact of Corruption on Nigeria Economy, <https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/publications/impact-of-corruption-on-nigerias-economy.html> (Last accessed 30, April, 2019)

galvanising the people for positive social change. In recent times, the media have been vivacious in exposing cases of corruption, impunity, violation of human rights, misappropriation of public funds, embezzlement, and bribery in Nigeria. The media, therefore, acts as a watchdog of other activities of the state machineries and serves as citizens' mouthpiece.²

Objectives of Media Review

This policy brief aims at promoting increased legislative action on corruption, thereby improving public sector accountability. It is envisaged that information provided here will help set agenda on efforts of the National Assembly, as well as other stakeholders, to address corruption through oversight and investigations. The various committees will be able to identify issues of corruption as it relates to their sectors, status and efforts to prevent, curb and/or sanction institutions and/or individuals that might be involved from the analyses and syntheses in this brief.

Policy Brief Design and Methodology

CISLAC initiated and developed a maiden edition of this biannual policy brief, covering August 2018 to January, 2019 as part of its programmes to curtail corruption in Nigeria. This is the second edition, it covers February – August, 2019; though, both editions were produced almost simultaneously and finalised last quarter of 2018. As with the maiden edition, we adapted iterative approach of content analysis of tracked newspapers. Newspaper selection from print and online sources were randomly selected based on reports from newspapers. Newspapers from which relatively large number of news were compiled were eventually used for the review and analysis. These newspapers used totalled 18.

A tracking template was designed³ to identify and document media reportage or coverage of corruption and logged into an excel document on daily basis (between February - August 2018). 700 reports/news were logged into the database. Thus, the dataset, which forms the basis of the analysis presented here, is therefore collected through tracking of newspaper coverage on the phenomenon of corruption and its devastating impact on delivery of public goods and services in the country, as well as policy and legislative responses to control the menace.

The unit of analysis cuts across all genre of reporting, including news reports, editorial comments, news features, interviews, viewpoints or articles (opinions), advertorials, etc. where attention is given to key words such as corruption, anti-corruption agencies (EFCC, ICPC, Code of Conduct Tribunal - CCB). This edition also focused and analysed corruption around politically exposed persons (i.e. public servants linked with corruption within and/or

2. This paragraph is culled from Owasanoye, B. and Samuel, O. S (2014). Trend Analysis of Print Media Reporting of Impunity in Nigeria (June – December 2013). Lagos: Human Development Initiatives (HDI) for Stop Impunity Campaign

3. The template has 13 columns to collection data. See, Appendix 1

outside their MDAs). The data presentation and analysis involve both quantitative and qualitative techniques, using simple statistics such as frequency table and charts with infographics to sectorise and simplify the dataset of print media reports on the subject matter for proper understanding and presentation. The draft report was validated with the stakeholders, including the media, MDAs and CSOs. Inputs from the validation meeting was used to enrich the final report.

The linkage between the Media Reportage on Corruption and National Assembly Oversight Mandate

Controlling corruption requires a press that is free from intimidation and restraint, a press that has the resources to investigate rumours and evidence of corruption; and a press that has the maturity, restraint, and professionalism to eschew loose and sensational charges based on any whisper of malfeasance.⁴ In that sense, the media serves as “fire alarm” by uncovering and publicising wrongdoing, thereby alerting enforcement bodies to further investigate and take action.

According to the acting Chairperson of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, “... the war against corruption would not be successful without the support of the media.”⁵ This underscores the strategic importance of media in the fight against corruption. Media continual highlights of cases of corruption has continued to put in public purview major allegations and cases of corruption in Nigeria, including the one involving the former Secretary General to the Federation, Babachir Lawal and several other politically exposed persons for example.

LEGISLATIVE POWER IN THE CONSTITUTION

The legislature can set up committees to investigate the activities of any government MDAs for alleged irresponsibility in their management and can summon witnesses to testify before it. These powers are intended to assist the legislature to: i) make laws with respect to any matter within its legislative competence and correct any defects in existing laws; and ii) expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence

4. See, Larry Diamond (undated), “Horizontal Accountability and Corruption Control” (p10). Available through Google search

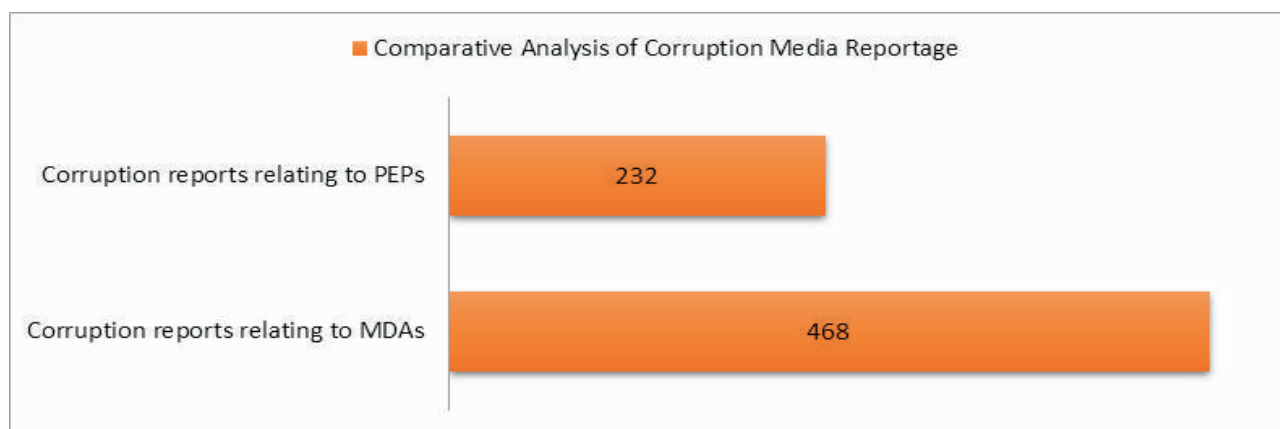
5. See, Onochie Anibeze, “Fight against corruption: Magu on the spot”, Vanguard, September 2018. Available at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/09/fight-against-corruption-magu-on-the-spot-2/>

The legislature, in this instance the National Assembly (NASS), has constitutional power to carry out investigations and oversights in order to “... expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it ...”⁶ To effectively perform this duty, the National Assembly is expected to uphold the highest level of moral standard, efficiency, accountability and transparency and leadership by example⁷ to ensure its oversight powers is not undermined or eroded in practical terms. As an institution, the legislature is an ombudsman, a formal watchdog within the government. The legislature, both at the federal and state level, constitutes an important link in the chain of horizontal accountability. Horizontal accountability is constructed as the capacity of state institutions to check abuses by other public agencies and branches of government or the requirement for agencies to report sideways⁸. It works best where there are densely overlapping realms of oversight and scrutiny.

FOCUS-BASED ANALYSIS

During the period under review, a broad-based analysis of the entire documented media report on corruption in Nigeria was done to provide a guide and basis for the other analysis done in this report. A total of 700 corruption-related media reports were tracked and documented from 18 media houses between February and July 2018. These media reports were classified into two broad categories, namely, (1) media reports focusing on corruption issues involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and (2) corruption-related media reports focusing on individuals in government who can be referred to as Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).

A breakdown of the tracked media report shows a total of 468 corruption media reports focusing on corruption issues in MDAs and 232 media reports focusing on corruption cases involving some 50 politically exposed individuals (PEPs) whose cases could not be classified into any of the economic sectors or MDAs.



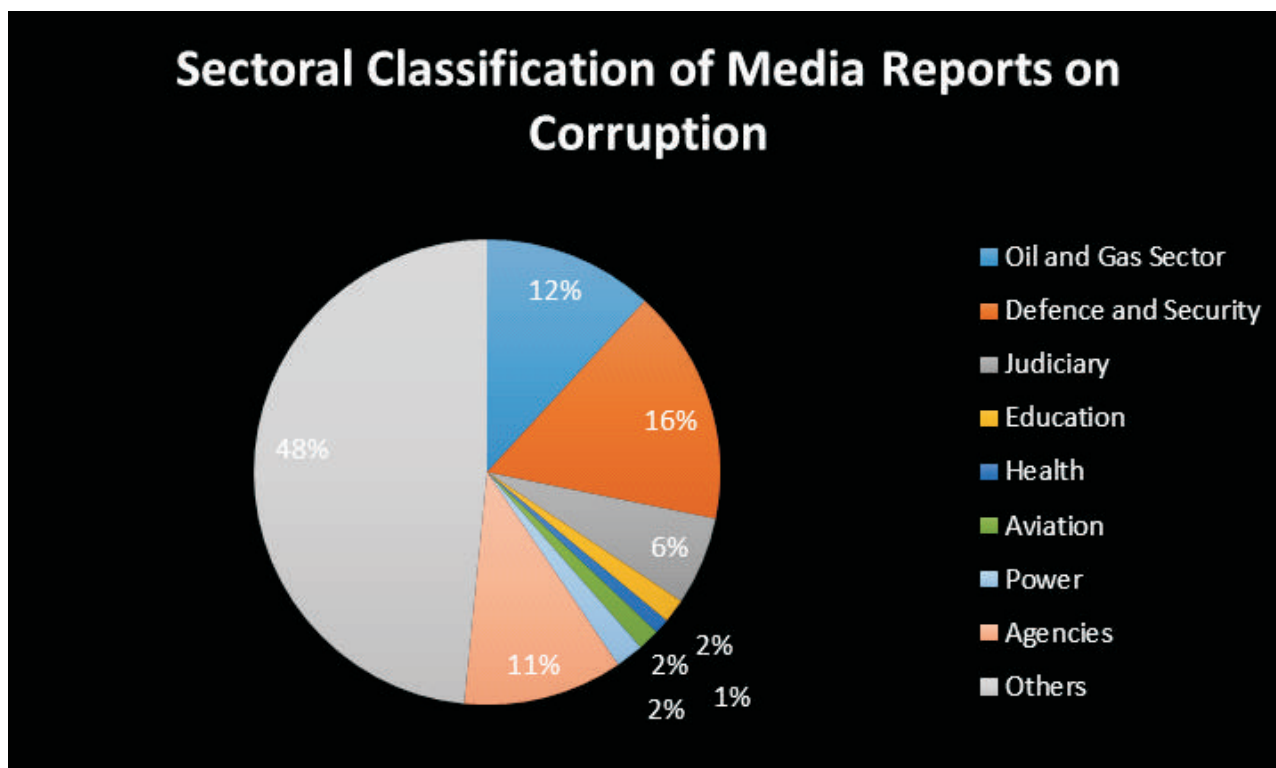
6. See amongst others Sections 88, 89, 128 and 129 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) respectively.

7. See, Oyekanmi (Ojo and Omotola, 2014:217

8. See, Larry Diamond's Horizontal Accountability and Corruption Control

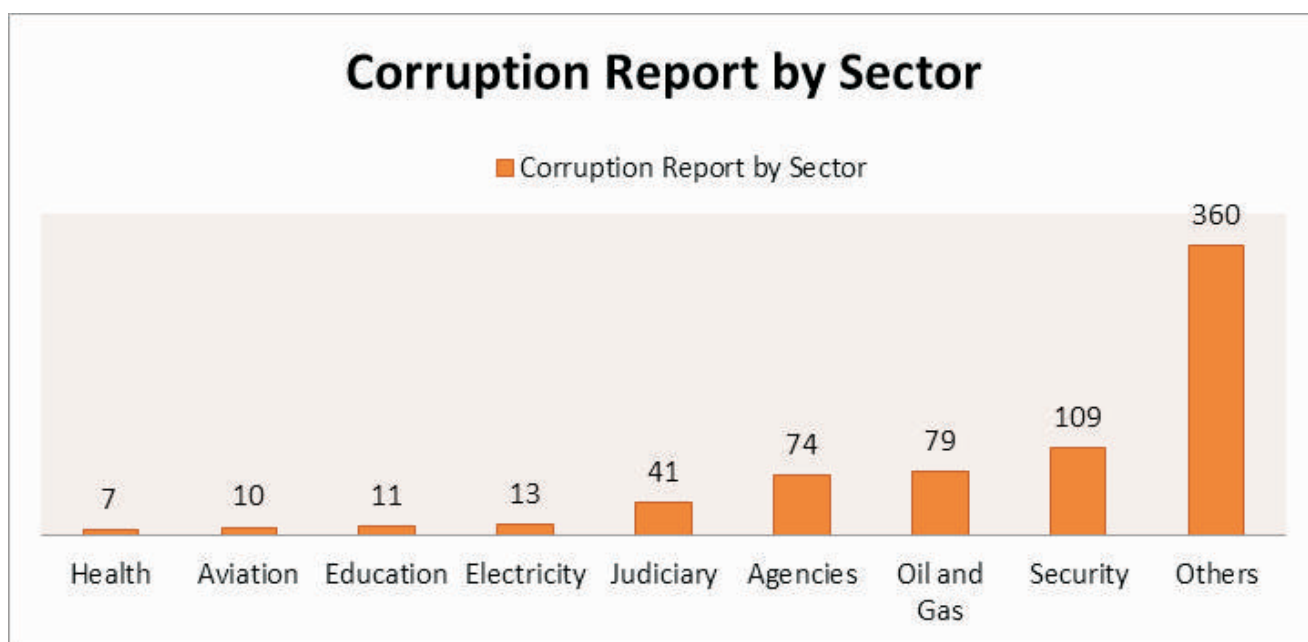
SECTORAL ANALYSIS OF CAPTURED MEDIA REPORTS FEBRUARY–JULY 2018

In a span of a six-month period, between February and July 2018, there were 468 media reports from major news channels reporting on corruption cases involving some key MDAs. These reports cover wide range of corruption issues from all the sectors of the country's political, social and economy life. Specifically, the tracked media reports cover the sector of oil and gas, security, judiciary, education, health, aviation, power, banking and civil service.



Sectoral analysis of the documented media reports show that 16% of the corruption media reportage, which represents 109 of the media report, is connected to the Defense and Security sector, while 12% of the reports under review captured corruption cases related to the oil and gas sector. Further breakdown shows that 6% of the media reports focused on issues of corruption in the Judiciary arm of government. The sectors of education, health and aviation have a total of 28 media reports representing 5% of the media reportage. Corruption reports from the power sector constituted 2% of the entire report. 11% of the media reports focus on corruption issues across government institutions and agencies. 48% of the reviewed report cover corruption issues relating to some private and government individuals, bank workers, and private organisations as well as issues related to the Abacha loots – this is tagged “Others”

9. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/07/17/new-taxonomy-for-corruption-in-nigeria-pub-76811>



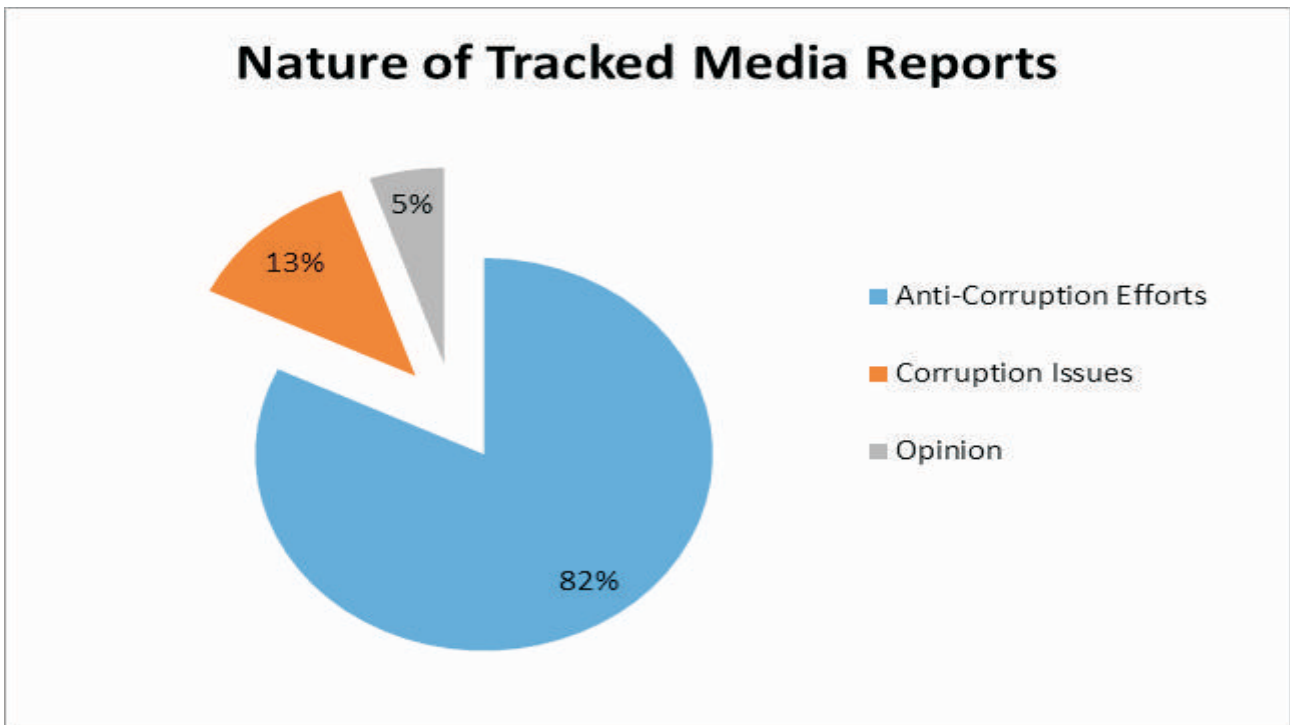
The analysis further shows a high reportage of corruption issues across some government agencies as well as some key sectors of security, oil and gas, health, education, aviation and electricity. The security sector has been in the media for some high profile corruption cases involving hundreds of billions of naira and thus contributes to the destabilising and compounding security situation in the country.⁹ Corruption in the judiciary was also high in the media report reviewed with some 43 media reports on a number of corruption cases involving judges and lawyers in a space of six months. This situation of high level corruption within the judiciary sector undermines the country's already anodyne accountability mechanisms, thereby fuelling corruption across other sectors. Educational, health, aviation and electricity corruption, as evidently pronounced in the reports, have contributed to sapping the country's social capital and have a great negative impact on the citizens at large.

Corruption media reports classified as “others” include cases involving bank officials, private individuals, private organizations and some prominent people in the corridor of power who can be referred to as politically exposed persons (PEPs). These individuals include ex-governors, aides to former presidents, former first ladies, families and allies of former presidents and former governors, former senators etc. The 232 corruption reports focusing of PEPs represent 33.1% of the entire tracked media reports for the period showing a high trend of corruption or corruption issues among people who are entrusted with public funds. According to a Business Day report, over N183 billion was involved in the corruption cases involving some governors, their family members and some influential Nigerians.¹⁰

10. BusinessDay (2018, June) Nigerians, CSOs want prosecution of more politically exposed persons. <https://www.businessdayonline.com/news/article/nigerians-csos-want-prosecution-politically-exposed-persons/>

CLASSIFICATION OF MEDIA REPORTS BY NATURE

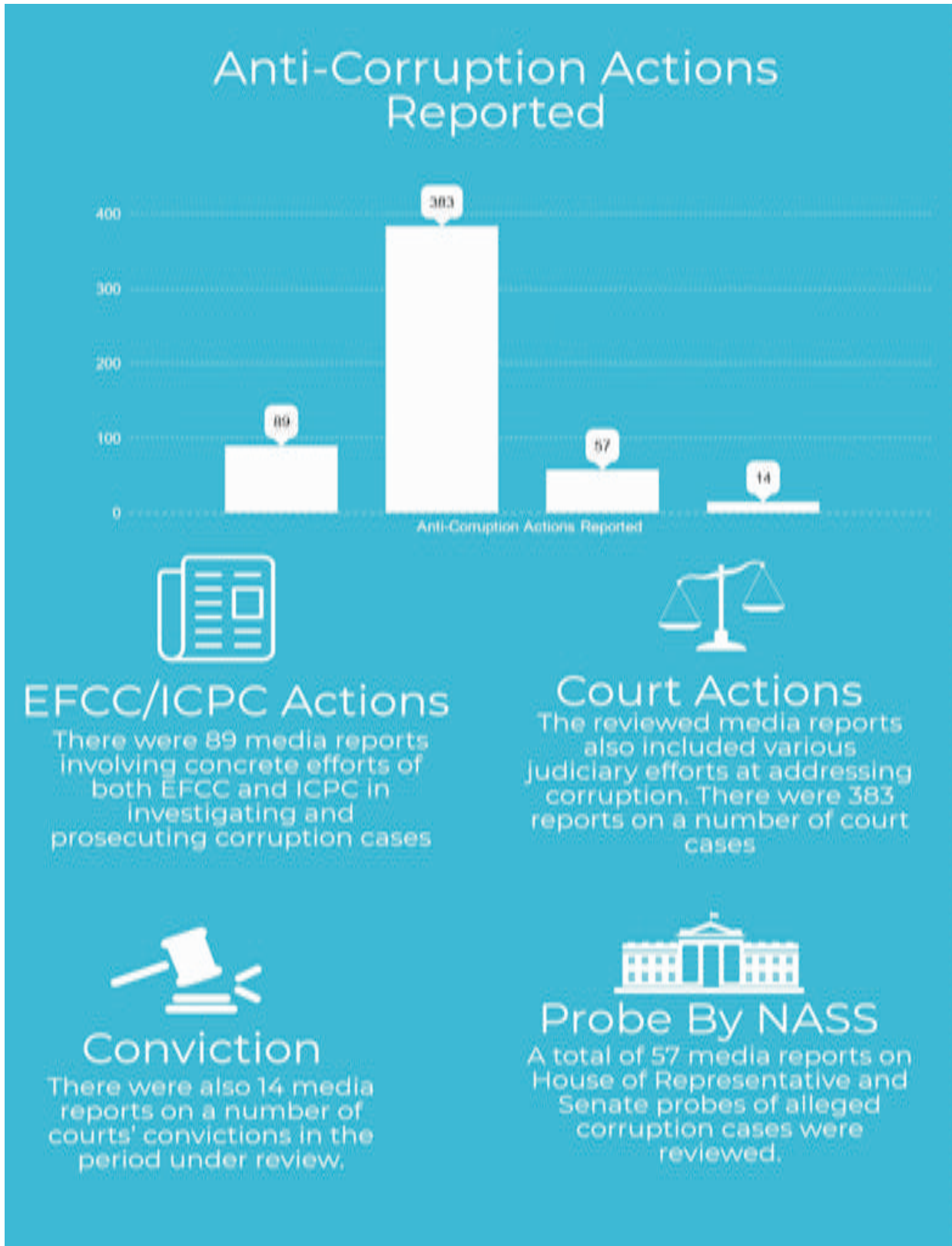
An important component in determining the focus of the tracked media reports is to consider the nature of news reported in terms of focus on corruption issues or anti-corruption efforts. Analysis of the tracked media reports show that 82% of the tracked media report focused on anti-corruption efforts. This includes reports on ongoing investigation efforts, reports on ongoing court cases as well as reports on concluded court cases. 13% of the reviewed reports focused on corruption allegations issues such as corruption issues discovered through legislative panel investigations and probes; it also includes reports on citizens' call for specific corruption investigations. 5% of the reports merely expressed divergent anti-corruption opinion including suggestions on going forward in the fight against corruption in Nigeria.



However, considering the anti-corruption agenda of the President Mohammadu Buhari- led administration, significant efforts at curbing corruption were reported, particularly on the part of the anti-graft agencies and the judiciary as most of the reported corruption cases was logically investigated by both EFCC and ICPC. The reports reviewed further show that upon investigation, effective prosecutions were carried out and also with the courts ensuring that corruption cases were followed to logical conclusions. These were clear from the review carried out on the media reports. There were 89 media reports involving concrete efforts of both EFCC and ICPC in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases while 383 of the media reports were on a number of court cases showing significant effort from the judiciary.

However, the analysis shows that the National Assembly has also been relatively involved in the fight against corruption. The reviewed report shows that the National Assembly has been involved in a number probes and investigation on alleged cases of corruption in the past six months. A total of 57 media reports on House of Representatives and Senate probes of alleged

corruption cases were reviewed. There were also 14 media reports on a number of courts' convictions in the period under review.



(Source: Info-graphic Representation of Anti-corruption Action Reports from selected Newspapers by CISLAC, November, 2018)

From the above findings, significant efforts at combating corruption were evident in the number of ongoing court cases in various courts across the country. The documented media reports closely monitor and report on the various stages of corruption cases. This, therefore, allows citizens the opportunity to monitor development around the fight against corruption in Nigeria. However, anti-corruption efforts by the legislators are relatively low, considering the expected oversight role of the legislators in fighting corruption. The reviewed reports show that beyond a few probes, there were no other evidence or reports of concrete efforts by the National Assembly to support the fights against corruption. Even some of the probes carried out did not go beyond preliminary investigations, the reports of which never get to the public. None of the reports reviewed shows that any of the alleged corruption cases probed by the lawmakers ended in prosecution. This reiterates the need for the National Assembly to improve on its oversight function relating to curbing of corruption. A number of media reports made allegation of legislative complacency in the anti-corruption effort due to the weakness of the legislature to evidently and effectively curb corruption, being the watchdog. Some members of civil society groups have also condemned the legislature, alleging that they have not only taken the back seat in the fight against corruption, but that they have also willingly become potential tools in the hands of those who want to keep the country in the dark spot of maladministration.¹¹ The groups noted that there are instances where the National Assembly defends and absolves corrupt public officials of any wrong doing even when there are glaring cases of corruption against them.¹²

The parliament has a responsibility to check and scrutinise public expenditure as well as to follow up on auditors' report of public expenditure. However, it has been discovered that year-in-year out, the parliament has failed in this oversight function. Between 2002 and 2017, 14 auditors' reports have been submitted to the National Assembly, but not one out of these reports was passed to the plenary session.¹³ In August 2018, a Punch report revealed that all auditors' reports submitted to the National Assembly were never treated beyond committee level. The report noted that all the auditor's reports go by the way of “voice mail,” using a popular slang.¹⁴ Perceived corrupt practices on the part of the legislators rub negatively on their roles as one of the key horizontal accountability institutions. There is a plethora of corruption cases against some of the members of the National Assembly.

In fact, in December 2015, the then Auditor General, Samuel Ukura, pointed out that since 1999 none of the 14 reports submitted to the National Assembly has been passed to plenary let alone being submitted to the Executive for implementation.¹⁵ There were also cases of alleged breach of due process and/or infraction during budget defense by MDAs, but rather than these provoking serious probes, after much goof the lawmakers still go ahead to approve such

11. Sahara Reporters (2017, December) Nigerian Groups Accuse National Assembly of Frustrating Anti-Corruption Campaign. <http://saharareporters.com/2017/12/21/nigerian-groups-accuse-national-assembly-frustrating-anti-corruption-campaign>

12. Ibid

13. Punch (2018, February) National Assembly's Many Frivolous Probes. <https://punchng.com/national-assemblys-many-frivolous-probes/>

14. Punch (2018, August) Auditor General Reports and the Voice Mail Syndrome. <https://punchng.com/auditor-generals-report-and-the-voice-mail-syndrome-2/>

15. Daily Trust (2018, November) 14 Reports Unattended since 1999 by National Assembly. <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/null-2989.html>

budget giving room for corruption to flourish. A *Premium Times* report shows how lawmakers requested for bribe from MDAs to pass their budget.¹⁶ This kind of scenario accounts for why, despite infractions and clear breach of procedure, the National Assembly goes ahead to pass frivolous budgets that create space for grand corruption. On the issues of the several probes by the National Assembly, a lot of concerns have been raised which has made some citizens to describe the legislative effort as “Basket of Empty Probes.” They have further decried the lawmakers' approach to the magnitude of probes as ineffective.¹⁷ This implies that the probes are not followed up by any action. This, therefore, accounts for why there were only 57 reports on corruption issues emanating from the legislators of the entire 700 media reports tracked. This shows that legislative effort at combating corruption is significantly low.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Media

While the effort of the various media outlets reviewed is appreciated, there is need to focus as much attention on reporting corruption issues as on anti-corruption issues. In other words, reporting more on corruption issues will afford the citizens opportunity to contribute to accountability campaign and advocacy by amplifying the corruption reports until actions are taken.

There is also the need to avoid the practice of sensational reporting, the practice of yellow journalism, but be objective and factual in reportage. It is not uncommon that stories are planted in the newspapers and social media to discredit investigation and prosecution of corrupt cases.

To the Legislators

- The legislators are best positioned to promote accountability, hence their oversight function on public expenditure. This role needs to be taken serious by ensuring effective investigation or probes into perceived corruption issues in any sector of the economy.
- The legislators need to be more sincere in pursuing probes or corruption investigation to a logical conclusion.
- There is need for more synergy between the executive and the legislators in addressing the menace of corruption in the Nigerian system. The fight against corruption should not

16. Premium Times (2018, March) N' Assemble harassing us for bribe to pass budget –head, federal agencies. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/262815-nassembly-members-harassing-us-for-bribes-to-pass-budgets-heads-federal-agencies.html>

17. Sahara Reporters (2017, October) Nigeria's Senate And Its Basket Of Empty Probes By Fredrick Nwabufo. <http://saharareporters.com/2017/10/30/nigeria%E2%80%99s-senate-and-its-basket-empty-probes-fredrick-nwabufo>

be seen from the myopic lens of politicking. In other words, issues of accountability should not be politicized. There is need for both arms of government to bury their political differences and collectively tackle corruption.

- There is also need for effective collaboration of media organizations as they have a role in helping to amplifying the various corruption issues dealt with by the legislators.

CONCLUSION

The review of the 700 media reports on series of corruption issues and anti-corruption efforts clearly show serious gap in the fight against corruption. It is expected that all hands will be on deck to ensure that the menace of corruption in Nigeria is collectively addressed by all arms of government. However, evidence from the review and analysis of the media reports show that while it appears as though there is much effort on anti-corruption issues by mostly the anti-graft agencies and the judiciary, there is very little report on legislative effort in unravelling corruption issues. This, therefore, makes the anti-corruption effort one sided. The implication of poor legislative oversight on public expenditure is high level of corrupt practices in the public sector, particularly among Ministry, Departments and Agencies. This lack of oversight by the legislators is the reason why there are so many corruption reports among politically exposed persons who are either heads of government, heads of ministries and agencies.

About CISLAC

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is a non-governmental, non-profit legislative advocacy, information sharing and research organization, arising from the felt need to address defects in the legislative advocacy work of civil society and open the window through which legislators can also access civil society groups. It aims to strengthen the work of Civil Society on Legislative Advocacy and bridge the gap between legislators and the Civil Society.

The formation of CISLAC arose from the context of the fact that the return to civilian rule in Nigeria was achieved largely by the struggles of the organizations of Civil Society especially the Human Rights and pro-democracy groups. Many activists lost their lives in the demonstrations, and sometimes, violent eruptions which characterized agitation for democracy and the opening of the democratic space in the context of authoritarian military rule and dictatorship.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is currently one of the major civil society organizations in Nigeria with a primary focus on legislation and legislative processes. CISLAC is also engaged in policy/legislative advocacy, civil society capacity building and media engagement. CISLAC works to train and enlighten civil society on policymaking, the responsibilities of the legislature, and the existing policies and legislations affecting Nigerian citizens. It also aims to ensure that the legislature at local, state and federal levels are aware of their relationships with other government bodies and have a responsibility of acting as a voice for the people.

CISLAC was integrated as a corporate body (CAC/IT/NO22738) with the Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on the 28th December 2006. Prior to this incorporation, however, CISLAC had actively been engaged in legislative advocacy work since 2005. The organisation is also compliant with the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2007.

The Organisation reports to SCUML, any transaction that is above One thousand dollars, detailing the payee, purpose and the other KYC (Know Your Customer) requirements. This is done on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the volume of transactions and to ensure appropriate compliance with anti-money laundering laws.

CISLAC is also registered organisation under the National Planning Commission. In recognition of its broad perspective, CISLAC was granted an ECOSOC status by the United Nations in 2011 giving it the mandate and the instrumentality of the United Nations. CISLAC is duly registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 5(1) (a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). It is the national contact of Transparency International (TI).

CISLAC through its engagement of the governance processes in Nigeria has contributed towards the passage of several primary legislation such as the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, National Tobacco Control Act, National Health Act, Public Procurement Act, and Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Act which promotes transparency and accountability in governance as well as the domestication of international conventions at the Federal and state levels in Nigeria through advocacies, presentation of memoranda and public enlightenment programmes and media engagement.

CISLAC along with other civil society organizations campaigned and advocated for passage of the Freedom of Information Act. CISLAC is among the movement advocating for the passage of such pieces of legislation as Disability Bill, Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, Whistleblower Protection Bill, Prison Reform Bill, etc.

CISLAC has created civil society awareness through publication and dissemination of monthly newsletter—Legislative Digest which have been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it provides citizens a platform to monitor the performance of their Legislators, and a channel for Civil Society Organizations advocacy on critical issues that require legislative intervention. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs, which examines policies requiring amendment and providing recommendations.

As a renowned CSO in Legislative advocacy in the region, CISLAC has on several occasions shared its experience on best practices for legislative advocacy on invitation from its international partners such as the World Bank Parliamentary Forum and the United Nations Millennium Campaign/Sustainable Development Goals in African countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe. Similarly, Ghana, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo have also requested support from CISLAC for replication of its work in Legislative advocacy. In many West African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Togo and Benin Republic, CISLAC has carried out experience sharing and advocacy exercises on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative processes through supporting the passage of extractive industry initiative laws in these countries. CISLAC also undertakes capacity building for legislators, CSOs and Media on policy engagements in the above countries.

CISLAC's sub-granting experience includes grants to national organisations. With skilled, committed, experienced and proactive leadership and employees, particularly in the areas of coalition building, tenacious advocacy, community mobilization and the clout needed to engage lawmakers at all levels, the organization has proven capacity to attract international solidarity, engage policy makers and mobilize local civil society groups and communities into action.

GOAL:

To make government accessible, responsive and accountable to citizens.

VISION:

A Nigeria where legislators and policy makers are safeguarding citizens' rights and welfare while citizens effectively demand accountability

MISSION:

To engage state and non-state actors for improved policy and legislative frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance for people oriented development.

ADVOCACY VISITS

CISLAC has successfully engaged key members of the National Assembly in order to wield their influence in ensuring that civil society positions are accommodated. In 2006, for instance, CISLAC targeted key players and created public awareness on draft legislation and questionable provisions incorporated by the National Assembly. Such efforts improved the levels of discipline, transparency, and accountability in the management and openness of fiscal responsibility, public procurement, and the nation's extractive Industry sector in Nigeria.

Through such efforts, CISLAC has empowered communities mostly affected by the extractive industry sector, improved the levels of information dissemination, and ensure due process and transparency in the payments made by extractive industry companies to the Federal Government and its agencies. It has also educated State and Federal legislators, their advisory staff, CSOs, the media, and key stakeholders on their oversight roles in legislation and has reviewed their commitment in implementation.

PUBLICATION OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

CISLAC has strengthened Civil Society intervention by the publication of a monthly newsletter - ***Legislative Digest***, which has been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it monitors the performance of Legislators, and a channel for advocacy on critical issues that need legislation. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs.



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