



European Union



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

International Conference

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING IN NIGERIA: 40 YEARS AFTER THE THEORY OF TWO PUBLICS

Organisers: European Union's Support to Anti-corruption in Nigeria project implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Anti-corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), the research and training arm of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission of Nigeria (ICPC).

Dates: 26-27 October 2015

Location: Abuja, Nigeria

One of the most dominant themes in Nigeria's socio-political debate has been the issue of rising corruption amidst a proliferation of anti-corruption programmes. Since its independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria has grappled with the challenge of taming corruption. Many regimes have been toppled from power after being accused of tolerating corruption, or even engaging in it. Yet the scale and complexity of corruption appear to grow with each succeeding regime. From a handful of incidents in the early post-independence period (1960-1966), to widespread in the 70s and 80s, the vice gradually became systemic and institutionalised during the 90s, when successive authoritarian and unaccountable military regimes tolerated or even adopted it as a policy of statecraft. Since returning to a democracy the phenomenon appears to have become even more widespread. Some of the most common forms of corruption experienced in Nigeria today include acceptance of gratification and other forms of inducements, influence peddling; embezzlement of public funds and conflict of interests, for example, in the award of contracts by public office holders to cronies, family members and personally held companies. Corruption has also found expression in recruitment, appointment and promotion of public officers, misappropriation and conversion of public property, procurement scam, leaking of tender information, diversion and misappropriation of funds through manipulation or falsification of financial records, payment for favourable judicial decisions, electoral and examination malpractices among others. In recent times, no institution or sector of the country has been spared of corruption including religious bodies, educational institutions, judiciary, military, and the private sector.

Evidence of corrupt practices is not difficult to find in Nigeria. Many corrupt practices have been extensively reported in the local media. Others can be found in reports of a multitude of official inquiries established by governments at all levels. Many academic studies have also been carried out on the subject. In the last 10-15 years, Nigeria's anti-corruption agencies have also investigated and prosecuted several corruption cases shedding further light on the nature and levels of corruption in contemporary Nigeria. Thus, it will seem that Nigerians have good cause to worry about the level of corruption and its effect on their society. Indeed, corruption is not only seen as endemic in Nigeria but is also widely

considered in development circles as the most obstructive force hindering the country's development.

The centrality of corruption to Nigeria's socio-political discourse has fostered two positive realities. On the one hand, it has spurred hundreds of scholarly research and studies. The findings illuminate different aspects of the phenomenon including its nature, causes, consequences and possible remedies. On the other hand, the discourse has also encouraged successive Nigerian governments to conceive and implement several policies and programmes aimed at addressing the problem of corruption in Nigerian public life. Some of these interventions include the enactment of numerous anti-corruption legislation, establishment of several anti-corruption agencies; and the signing of relevant international treaties and protocols.

Despite these commendable efforts, there remains a growing concern that Nigeria is not making much progress in its efforts to significantly reduce corruption. One of the major reasons for this is perhaps the poor integration of available research products into the design, implementation and review of anti-corruption intervention by both government and other stakeholders. Indeed, while an increasing number of scholars have studied the phenomenon and published extensively on the same, there is little evidence that products of anti-corruption research come to the attention of policymakers and ultimately influence policymaking in Nigeria. This has in turn contributed to the failures of successive anti-corruption projects in Nigeria.

In order to close this observed 'research-policy gap' and further facilitate the ongoing campaign for a corruption-free Nigeria, the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), the research and training arm of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC) are jointly organising an international conference on the theme, *Anti-Corruption Research and Policymaking in Nigeria: 40 Years After the Theory of Two Publics*. The period indicated in the theme is symbolically marked against one of the well-known theories of corruption developed from the Nigerian experience. The theory developed by Professor Peter Ekeh was published in the 1975 edition of the *Journal of Comparative Studies in Society and History* as "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement".

The conference aims to bring together researchers and policymakers concerned with corruption and anti-corruption programmes in Nigeria to brainstorm on the opportunities and strategies for the interface between research and practice. Leading experts in the field from within and outside Nigeria will be invited to deliver papers and take part in the discussions.

In terms of objectives, the conference is designed to assure a broad multidisciplinary coverage of anti-corruption research and challenges involved in enhancing the integration of available knowledge or research based evidence into policymaking. In more specific terms, the conference will help to:

- i. review the production, dissemination and use of research in anti-corruption policymaking in Nigeria;
- ii. highlight policy implications of research relevant to the causes, nature, consequences and remedies of corruption as it relates to Nigeria

- iii. share experiences and good practices on strategies for improving the infusion of research products into anti-corruption policymaking;
- iv. identify challenges to the interface between research and anti-corruption policymaking in Nigeria; and
- v. enhance networking among anti-corruption scholars and practitioners working on corruption within the Nigerian context.

Sub-themes:

1. Review of Nigerian anti-corruption legislation, policies and programs in light of theories of corruption;
2. Measuring the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria: contested narratives; building blocks for further research; evidence driven policy making etc;
3. Corruption prevention and enforcement strategies of major anti-corruption agencies and institutions;
4. Anti-corruption policies and programmes of private sector organisations, CSOs and development/international agencies;
5. Influence of research in the development of national anti-corruption policies and legislation;
6. Leveraging anti-corruption research for civil society advocacy and programmes;
7. Impact of corruption research on the policies and programmes of international development agencies;
8. Review of the mandates, activities and output of the Departments of Research, Planning and Statistics of anti-corruption institutions; and
9. Comparative analysis on anti-corruption research and policy making experiences.

Papers related to any of the sub-themes listed above are invited from interested academics, staff of civil society organisations, development agencies, and operatives of anti-corruption agencies.

Deadline for submission of abstracts and completed papers:

Interested participants are hereby invited to first submit an abstract of a maximum of 250 words and a CV including a list of publications by 30 May 2015. Intending participants whose abstracts are accepted will be notified by 15 June 2015 and invited to submit full papers which should reach the organisers by 30 September 2015. Full papers should not be longer than 25 pages double spaced and should strictly adopt the American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition manual of style.

Mode of submission: Interested participants should direct all inquiries and submission of abstract and full papers to: oluwafemi.ladapo@unodc.org and copy acan.icpc@outlook.com

Contact numbers: 08030494446 or 07088709621

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