CHAPTER SIXTEEN

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study investigated democratic governance, corruption, and economic development in Nigeria. This was undertaken given that the country has yet to attain a reasonable level of economic development and remains on top of corruption rungs despite abundant natural and human resources and democratic consolidation. The research adopted an ex post facto research design, sourcing secondary data from the Central Bank of Nigeria, the World Bank, the United Nations, and Transparency International. Descriptive and analytical statistics were used to analyze the data. The findings show that in the short run, economic growth, democratic governance, and corruption all have a positive effect on economic development. In the long run, only economic growth has a positive effect on economic development, while democratic governance and corruption have a negative effect on economic development. Hence, the study makes the following recommendations: Citizens and political leaders should undergo value re-orientation to imbibe effective governance as enshrined in transparency and accountability in political leadership to achieve economic development. The Nigerian Police Force, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, which are anti-corruption agencies, should also be strengthened to enforce the law against the abuse of electoral practices and political leadership by all citizens.

Introduction
Nigeria desires to be among the twenty largest economies in the World by 2025 (MTNDP, 2021-2025). "how this can be achieved with poverty still ravaging the people, with power supply very epileptic, and factories closing down, remains to be seen (Adegboyega and Arikewuyo, 2020).

Despite Nigeria having the World's seventh-largest reserve of crude oil coupled with other human and natural resources, poverty and underdevelopment are prevalent in the country. This has been attributed to ineffective governance and corruption, which has thrown up challenges of macroeconomic instability, unemployment, and insecurity of lives and property, which has alienated the people from the government (Abdulrasheed, 2021). Democracy pre-supposes responsibility, that leaders will be responsible enough to be crises-dampeners rather than crises-escalators and effectively maintain law and order to encourage the 'rule of law'. Nigerian democratic governance system since 1999 seems to have failed to provide leadership in consolidating democracy in the country and in diminishing the centrifugal salience of ethno-regionalism, reviving now and again since the first republic (Jinadu, 2013). George-Genyi (2013) stated that the abuse of the principles of governance is much in Nigeria, and the negative impact on politics is profound. He feared that from pieces of evidence and reoccurring signals, these would continue to endure for a long time. This will render political stability fragile, democratic institutions and processes fluid, and the economy debilitated due to corruption that has led the wrong people to occupy political offices (Oghuvbu, 2021).

Since 1996, when Nigeria first featured in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Transparency International (TI) has ranked the country consistently as one of the most corrupt countries in the World. Gray and Kaufman (1998) identified some economic costs of corruption, including rising transaction costs and uncertainty in an economy, impeding investment, and adversely affecting the state's ability to provide social services, including the rule of law (Bolaji, 2023). Hence, specific fundamental questions become apparent and thus beg for critical examination, especially despite the establishment of the "independent" Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), anti-graft agencies, such as Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in 2000, and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2003, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) named Nigeria amongst the twenty-three non-cooperative countries frustrating the effort of international community to fight money laundering (EFCC(Establishment) Act, 2002), corruption has continued to weaken institutions, discourage investment, retarding national development and breeding general insecurity, insurgency and terrorism (Fatai, 2022).

Based on these, this study examined democratic governance, corruption, and economic development in Nigeria. The study's contribution includes empirical analysis to the descriptive analysis familiar with such studies. The study also used economic development and democratic indicators of the United Nations such that the study can be used for comparative analysis. The study is organized into five sections. Section one is the introduction. Section two dealt with the review of relevant literature. Section three is about the methodology of the research. Section four presents and analyzes the data obtained, and finally, Section five presents the conclusions drawn and recommendations.

Literature Review

Conceptual clarifications: democratic governance, corruption, and economic development

Democratic governance refers to the exercise of power given by a country's electorate to political leaders to use institutions and resources to provide political, social, and economic priorities based on broad consensus in society to achieve improved welfare in the society. In its report, Governance for Sustainable Human Development, the UNDP acknowledges the following as core characteristics of democratic governance: i) Participation ii) Rule of Law iii) Transparency iv) Responsiveness v) Consensus Orientation vi) Equity vii) Effectiveness and Efficiency viii) Accountability ix) Strategic Vision (UNDP, 2007). The highlighted characteristics of good democratic governance seem deficient in Nigeria since 1999 (Fatai, 2022). The state's role in the governance process is crucial to national security and economic development and, therefore, requires building institutions that are responsive to and responsible for societal actions. It is very instructive to note that for the state to assume this position, it must be a creation of the society, that is, democratic (Olaitan, 1997). The development of any society is arguably tied to an extent to which its governance is 'democratic' and 'good'. Democratic good governance provides a platform for rapid changes in nations' socio-economic and political status and citizenry. This explains why Nkom and Sorkaa (1996) opined that "democracy and good governance are important for efficient economic management and development". Oghuvbu (2021) agreed with this assertion.

Huntington (1991) defines corruption as the “behavior of public officials which deviates from accepted norms to serve private ends. This may give the impression that corruption is limited only to the public sector”. Baghebo (2010) correctly appreciates that corruption can occur in public and private offices, but the public is naturally more interested in the former. Corruption in the public sector simultaneously involves the private sector (Gray and Kaufman, 1998). Whatever the origin, the relevant point is that such corrupt activities contribute to the underdevelopment of a country (Bolaji, 2023). According to Ngouo (2000) and the World Bank, corruption exploits public positions for private benefits. Akindele (2005) sees corruption as behavior that deviates from the formal rules governing the actions of someone in a position of authority. In this study, corruption is defined as the election and appointment of political elites to have charge over state resources. They use such positions to entrench corruption in the system to fester their selfish interest to the detriment of economic development. That is, they pursue the few political elites’ rent-seeking behavior against the majority’s general good in society.

Economic development refers to delivering welfare services that achieve the state’s ends. It is a multi-dimensional process of change that affects life expectancy, education attainment, and sustainable standard of living, which directly and positively changes the quality of life or welfare of society. Meaningful economic development has to be people-centric (Ajayi, 2021). Empirical studies agree that effective governance and economic development have a positive link. (Fatai, 2022). The issue of economic growth has been elusive in Nigeria, especially in this fourth republic, as political elites engage in all types of primordial sentiments that impede it (Elaigwu, 2013). So, economic development that encompasses lower levels of unemployment, poverty inequality, and a better standard of living are thwarted, resulting in heightened tensions, vices, and national insecurity.

Theoretical Framework

This research adopts the Political economy theory as a theoretical framework. The theory applies the neoclassical economic tools (self-interest and utility maximization) to explain political behavior and how government works. It was developed by Buchanan (1951) and recognizes that self-interest motivates politicians. These pathological patterns represent different kinds of "free-riding" and "rent-seeking" by voters, bureaucrats, politicians, and recipients of public funds motivated by such factors as public reputation, power, and patronage. It means that the politician is interested in something other than selfless service, but what gains comes from holding public office, not necessarily what the society benefits. Although Smith (1790) argued that self-interest also serves the interest of society, if not checked, it could lead to underdevelopment.

By application, this theory assists us in examining effective governance and the critical challenges of economic development in Nigeria. The fundamental question in democracy is effective governance, while the basic conception of economic development is improved life expectancy, high educational attainment, and a good standard of living (United Nations Human Development Index). It is effective governance in a democracy that can bring all the above to the people, and that is the nexus between governance and democratic dividends. Unfortunately, Nigerian democracy may have failed to bring these dividends to the people; the question that logically comes out of the above is why has Nigerian democracy failed to deliver the dividends of democracy? Corruption by political leadership is the chief cause, as reported by Bolaji (2023), Abdulrasheed (2021, Ajayi (2021), Banko & Onyekachi (2021), Nageri *et al*. (2013), Ogbeidi (2012), and Adeyemi (2011).

Empirical Literature

Adagbabiri (2015) analyzed the challenges of democracy in the fourth republic in his paper. In a descriptive analysis, he found the new democratic dispensation in Nigeria that was launched in 1999 has increased the culture of impunity, heightened political differences, election malpractices, lousy governance, majority tyranny over minority rights, political party indiscipline, abuse of power, constitutional breaches. He opined that these challenges are strongly affecting democratic stability and consolidation. Ihechiliru (2021) examined civil democratic governance and socio-economic development in Nigeria from 1999 to 2021. The paper concludes that Nigeria should have good governance that involves adequate delivery of what the people need and require to be healthy, to make Nigeria a free corrupt nation, boost her country's economy, and reposition the Nigeria security apparatus towards facilitating national security and regional integration. Ajayi (2021) investigated Democratic Government, Corruption Control, and Economic

Development. The paper found a negative impact of democracy on Nigeria's economic development. On the other hand, the quality of the rule of law positively impacts economic development in Nigeria. Furthermore, the study finds a positive impact of corruption control in Nigeria on economic growth, although observable evidence shows that the Nigerian government's anti-corruption institutions are weak.

Long ago, Usman (1980) stated that pervasive corruption has remained a serious obstacle to economic development in Nigeria, saying that corruption inhibits human and social development. Public institutions are only public in name because they are run, in fact, for private accumulation of wealth. Fatai (2022) reported that 23 years of democracy in Nigeria is an illusion of democracy and development. There are issues of leadership, weak institutions and governance, acute corruption, and insecurity. Idris (2013) also examined democracy and development in Nigeria using a qualitative approach to analyze the relationship between democracy and development in Nigeria's fourth republic. The paper argued that, though Nigeria experienced fourteen years of uninterrupted democratic rule, available evidence revealed no clear, direct relationship between democracy and development in the Nigerian context. Bolaji (2023) alleged that corruption is the biggest hindrance to Nigeria's democratic development.

Adegboyega and Arikewuyo (2020) also concluded that successful good governance mechanisms depend on a good legal framework, which is the bedrock for entrenching good governance measures in any country. Usman, Adeyemi, and Kehinde (2014) investigated the impact of democratic dispensation on the performance of the Nigerian economy between 1983 and 2012. The paper divided the period into two (military and democracy, 1983-1998 and 1999-2012). The paper employed descriptive statistics (comparative analysis of major indicators of economic performance in Nigeria through simple averages) and revealed that there was no causation between GDP and democracy in Nigeria. It showed that, on average, GDP is higher during democracy than during the military, unemployment rates, poverty level, and corruption were higher during democracy than during the military, and the inflation rate on average is higher during the military than during democracy. Yagboyaju (2011) critically examined the probable sources and dimensions of the impediments confronting the democratic desires of Nigeria and its people, who often proclaim their preference for democracy. The research methodology was descriptive and analytical, while the analysis framework is eclectic. The paper suggested that the state and its institutions in Nigeria need to be strengthened for democracy to thrive in this country. Ngara, Esebonu, Ogoh, and Orokpo (2014) utilized content analysis spiced with empirical facts; with the aid of Marxist tools of analysis, the paper contends that liberal democracy cannot survive under a certain level of national poverty.

Banko and Onyekachi (2021) examined Corruption and Democratic Governance in Nigeria and found that a lack of transparency breeds corruption. It retards institutional capacity and stalls infrastructural development in Nigeria. Oghuvbu (2021) found out that corruption results in the depletion of much-needed revenue, discourages foreign investments, and consequently slows economic development. It also reveals that corruption weakens domestic financial systems, tarnishes the country's reputation, lowers savings investment, and lowers people's living standards. Ibeogu (2016), in his study on corruption and democratic sustainability in Nigeria, revealed that greed and quests for power to perpetuate self in governance breeds all forms of corrupt acts in government circles. Ogbeidi (2012), examined political leadership and corruption in Nigeria since 1960, he opined that it is an incontrovertible fact that corruption has been the bane of Nigeria's development. He opined that widespread corruption, where government officials looted public funds with impunity and flaunted their wealth with reckless abandon, led to retarded growth and development in Nigeria.

Adewale (2011) investigates the crowding-out effects of corruption in Nigeria, covering the periods from 1996 to 2009; he uses a simulation approach to investigate the economic implications of corruption in Nigeria. He found that corruption retards economic growth in Nigeria that is, corruption has a crowding-out effect on growth. Dike and Onyekwelu (2018), in their paper Corruption and democratic governance in Nigeria, mentioned that the greatest threat to the socio-economic and political development of any nation is corruption as it asserts negatively on the state and the growth of democracy.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted an ex-post facto research design to examine democratic governance, corruption, and economic development in Nigeria. It made use of secondary data obtained from the Annual Statistical Bulletin of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the National Bureau of Statistics annual Abstract of Statistics, textbooks, journals, the Internet, the World Bank, the United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR) and Transparency International (TI) publications. The specific kinds of data required include the following; Human Development Index (HDI), Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate (GDR), Effective Governance Index (EGI), and Corruption Perception Index (CPI)The data were collected for the period 1999 to 2022 and analyzed using descriptive and analytical statistics.

Specification of the model

Following the literature review, this research is anchored on the theoretical framework of Political economy theory (Buchanan, 1951) and the model is formulated following Ajayi (2021) and Ogbeidi (2012). Thus, the study's implicit form of the model is specified as;

i. $HDI = f(GDR, EGI, CPI)$..............................*equation*1

The explicit form of the model is specified as:

$$HDI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GDR + \beta_2 EGI + \beta_3 CPI + U_t)..............................equation2$$

Variables are defined in section 3.1 above. E-- views 10 software was used to estimate the parameters of the model. The a priori expectation is stated as: β_0 is intercept and β_1, β_2 > 0. $\beta_3 < 0$.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

	HDI	GDR	EGI	CPI
Mean	0.469412	6.098824	1.034706	2.070588
Median	0.470000	6.500000	1.000000	2.200000
Maximum	0.510000	10.20000	1.200000	2.700000
Minimum	0.400000	2.430000	0.910000	1.000000
Std. Dev.	0.028167	2.068272	0.090769	0.566530
Skewness	-0.682066	-0.186726	0.710635	-0.487329
Kurtosis	3.224749	2.581111	2.182833	1.856449
Jarque-Bera	1.353887	0.223078	1.903836	1.599182
Probability	0.508168	0.894457	0.386000	0.449513
Observations	24	24	24	24

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)

The summary of the data in Table 1 shows the mean values of the variables to be: Human Development Index (HDI)(0.469), Gross Domestic Product growth rate (GDR) (6.098), Effective Governance Index (EGI) (1.034), and Corruption Perception Index (CPI) (2.070). Given the median values, this shows that the series are close. The deviation from the mean (standard deviation) also exhibited the same feature, but for the series of Gross Domestic Product growth rate and Corruption Perception Index that are relatively volatile. Jarque–Bera (JB) test of normality, with p values that are high and insignificant, indicating that the error term in our sample follows the normal distribution, but keeping in mind that the JB test is a large-sample test, the sample of 24 observations may not necessarily be large.

Unit Root Test

The unit root is conducted to examine the stationarity of the data time series and the ADF test is employed given that the model is linear. The full result of the stationarity test reveals that all the variables are stationary only at first difference 1(1) at a 5% significant level. The result of the stationarity test is presented in Table 2;

Table 2: Stationarity Test Result

Variables	ADF Test Levels	5% Critical Value	Order of integration	ADF test 1st Difference	Order of Integration
HDI	-3.21	-3.06	NS	-4.04	I(1)
GDR	-2.87	-3.06	NS	-5.00	I(1)
EGI	-2.23	-3.06	NS	-5.11	I(1)
CPI	-0.92	-3.06	NS	-5.37	I(1)

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)
NS ; Not stationary

Short Run Analysis

Table 3: Ordinary Least Squares Regression Results

$$\text{HDI} = 0.335 + 0.004\textbf{GDR} + 0.037\textbf{EGI} + 0.032\textbf{CPI}$$

Se ` [0.001] [0.051] [0.008]

t (2.38) (0.73) (3.87)

t critical from the t student theoretical table is 2.13

$R^2 = 0.74$ Adjusted $R^2 = 0.69$ $F_{0.05}$- statistic = 12.88, D-W statistic = 1.37

Note: Standard error in parenthesis, t statistics in bracket.

The result from the Ordinary Least Squares regression shows the short-run effect of the Gross Domestic Product growth rate (GDR), Effective Governance Index (EGI), and Corruption Index (CPI) on the Human Development Index (HDI). The signs and the magnitude of the estimated coefficients indicate that the explanatory variables exert a positive effect on economic development and that the Gross Domestic Product growth rate and Effective Governance Index agreed with a priori, but the Effective Governance Index is not statistically insignificant, and Corruption index is against a priori as it indicates that corruption exerts a positive effect on economic development in Nigeria. But, this is in line with Bolaji (2023), Abdulrasheed (2021, Ajayi (2021), Banko & Onyekachi (2021), and Transparency International computation for Nigeria in various years.

Long Run Analysis

This study relied on the normalized long-run co-integration result for its long-run analysis. Hence, it conducted the Johansen co-integration test and presented the result in Table 4. The test was analyzed via the Trace statistic and Maximum Eigenvalues. The decision rule is that if either is greater than the 5% critical value, we reject the null hypothesis of no cointegration among the variables.

Table 4: Johansen Cointegration Test Result

Null Hypothesis	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Null Hypothesis	Max-Eigen Statistic	0.05 Critical Value
r = 0*	83.45	47.85	r = 0*	45.50	27.58
r ≤ 1*	37.95	29.79	r ≤ 1*	22.04	21.13
r ≤ 2*	15.91	15.49	r ≤ 2	8.83	14.26
r ≤ 3*	7.08	3.84	r ≤ 3	7.08	3.84

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)

*Note: r represents the number of cointegrating vectors. Trace statistic indicates 4 cointegrating equations while Max-Eigen statistic also indicates 2 cointegrating equations. * denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level*

The Trace test indicates 4 cointegrating equations, Max-Eigen value test also indicates 2 cointegrating equations. Thus, the null hypothesis of no cointegrating equation is rejected. This implies that even though the series of the variables are stationary at 1st difference, their linear combinations are cointegrated. This further means that there exists a long-run relationship among the variables at a 5% significance level.

Table 5: Presentation of Long-run Results

HDI = 0.006**GDR** - 0.078**EGI** - 0.024**CPI**

Se [0.001] [0.022] [0.003]

R^2 = 0.74 Adjusted R^2 =0.69 $F_{0.05}$- statistic = 12.88 D-W statistic = 1.37

Note: Standard error in parenthesis, t-test in bracket.

The results show the long-run effect of the Gross Domestic Product growth rate (GDR), Effective Governance Index (EGI), and Corruption Index (CPI) on the Human Development Index (HDI). The signs and magnitude of the estimated coefficients indicate that the coefficients of the Gross Domestic Product growth rate and Corruption index are correctly signed, thereby agreeing with the economic criteria. The coefficients of the Effective Governance Index did not agree with a priori expectations. Despite the signs of the parameter estimates, they are all statistically significant, given the standard error test. The result indicates that real gross domestic product is positive to economic development. But, a cursory examination of gross domestic product growth shows a very low trend that is susceptible to shock such that inclusive growth is elusive in the country. This situation presents an obvious case of non-inclusive growth, as Bolaji (2023) reported.

The result indicates that the effective governance index is negative, negating the a priori expectation, even though it is statistically significant. This shows the political leadership's inability to transform economic growth into economic development. This is due to the political elites' depletion and abuse of Nigeria's institutional capacity. This weakness is found in the government's ineffectiveness in tackling macroeconomic instability, political instability, and insecurity: terrorism and violence, regulatory control, rule of law, and accountability. Finally, the result indicated that Corruption negatively affected economic development. This is in agreement with the economic a priori. This is in agreement with the study Ajayi (2021). Political leadership in Nigeria acts not in the interest of the majority of the populace that voted for them but the minority rent-seeking elites that helped them "work" their way to leadership and power in the country.

The summary statistics showed that the model's estimates are generally robust. The computed coefficient of determination (R2) of 0.74 implies that about 74% of the total variation in HDI is explained by the regressors, with the remaining 16% being accorded factors exogenous to the model but covered by the error term. The coefficient of determination remained high at 69% even after adjustment was made to the degree of freedom. Also, the overall model is statistically significant at 5%, as shown by the F statistics calculated at 12.88. The Durbin-Watson value computed at 1.3 depicts the presence of minimal positive serial autocorrelation. The Breusch complements these observations – the Godfrey LM test and other diagnostics tests.

3.4.3 Applicable Tests

Table 5: Ramsey Reset Specification of Error Test

Test	Value	Degree of freedom	Probability.
t- Statistic	0.468	12	0.647
F-Statistic	0.219	(1, 12)	0.674
Log-likelihood	0.307	1	0.578

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)

This test follows the F-distribution under the null hypothesis that the model is well-specified, our decision rule is not to reject the null hypothesis if the $F_{0.05}$ exceeds the F calculated value at the 5% given level of significance. From the Ramsey RESET, the result showed that F-statistic = 0.468, While, critical $F_{0.05}$ (1, 12) ≈ 9.93. Since F-statistic ≈ 0.468 is less than the critical F ≈ 9.93, we do not reject the null hypothesis of the model is well-specified, we, therefore, conclude that the estimated model is correctly specified at the 5% significant level given the 0.64 level obtained that there is no specification error.

Heteroscedasticity test

The presence of heteroskedasticity does not alter the bias or consistency properties of ordinary least squares estimates. The white's heteroscedasticity test is used to carry out this task. From the result obtained, calculated F = 1.314, while critical $F_{0.05}$ (6, 10) = 5.39. Since calculated F = 1.314 is less than critical = 5.39, we, therefore, do not reject the null hypothesis of homoscedasticity and conclude that the error terms have a constant variance at a 5% level of significance.

Table 6: Heteroskedasticity Test Result

Test Statistic	Value	Degree of freedom	Probability
F-Statistic	1.314	6, 10	0.334
Obs R-Squared	7.49	6	0.277
Scaled Explained SS	34.8	6	0.746

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)

Autocorrelation test

The Breusch-Godfrey (BG) general test of autocorrelation also known as LM-test is used to verify this assumption. From the result obtained, Calculated F = 0.208, While, critical F with a degree of freedom (1, 13) = 9.07. In conclusion, since the calculated F is less than critical F = 9.07, we do not reject the null hypothesis of no autocorrelation and therefore conclude that the error terms in the model are not serially correlated.

Table 7: Breuseh Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test Result

Test Statistic	Value	Degree of freedom	Probability.
F-Statistic	0.208	1,13	0.6556
Obs R-Squared	0.188	1	0.6641

Source: Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)

Multicollinearity Test

A multicollinearity test is carried out to verify the possibility of this assumption using the correlation matrix. It has been suggested that if the pair-wise correlation coefficient is more than 0.8, then multicollinearity is present and may pose a serious estimation problem. The result of the correlation matrix is presented below:

Table 8: Result of the Pair-wise Correlation Matrix

	HDI	GDR	EGI	CPI
HDI	1	0.61	- 0.44	-0.30
GDR	0.61	1	-0.12	-0.86
EGI	-0.44	- 0.12	1	0.07
CPI	-0.30	-0.80	-0.07	1

Source: *Author's Compilation from E-views 10 (October, 2023)*

From the correlation matrix above, we can confirm that there is no pair-wise correlation coefficient that is over 0.80 (Gujarati and Porter, 2006). Hence, the variables cannot be said to be collinear. GDR is 0.61, EGI is -0.44, with CPI having -0.30. Therefore we conclude there is no multicollinearity among the repressors.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Following from the findings in this study, it can be concluded that Nigeria has witnessed increased economic growth through democratic consolidation during the period of the study, but this has been plaque by poor democratic governance of the political elites which has rendered public institutions ineffective in the discharge of their duties to pursue economic development. And if this is not quickly curtailed it will lead the country into a profound case of underdevelopment. As Ebegbulam (2007) aptly observes, "Democracy only thrives where there is good governance, security, and stability".

Because of this, the study makes the following recommendations:

1. Nigeria's political leaders must undergo value reorientation and be re-armed morally to imbibe the ethic of genuine leadership to deliver the dividends of democracy. Leaders must embrace integrity, probity, and a high standard of self-discipline. The citizens must also make leadership accountable for their actions in public life.
2. There should be deliberate policies and regulations that ensure a level playing field among economic agents in the economy; these involve long-term productive activities, and employment generation strategies, combined with short-term direct income redistribution schemes

3. Corruption has become a huge menace in Nigeria, it can be controlled through the enactment of laws and legislation that strengthens the Anti-corruption agencies to adequately enforce the laws by arresting and prosecuting offenders to act as deterrents to other criminal minds in the society.

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