The Impact of Corruption and National Security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

By

Umearokwu Uchenna, Chukwuemeka Ph.D
Department of Political Science and International Relations
University of Abuja, Gwagwalada, F.C.T. Abuja.
Phone: 08035986634
Email: uchenna.umearokwu@uniabuja.edu.ng
&
Ameh Peter Ojonugwa
Department of Political Science and International Relations
University of Abuja, Gwagwalada, F.C.T. Abuja.
Phone: 08023137834
Email: saintpeter.ameh@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper examined the impact of corruption and national security in Nigeria's fourth republic. Corruption poses a significant threat to national security in Nigeria, exacerbating various challenges across social, economic, and political domains. It undermines the effectiveness of government institutions, weakens the rule of law, and erodes public trust in the state, fostering a climate of impunity and political instability. The paper adopts the Resource Curse theory as its theoretical framework. It adopts a survey research design, the area of study is FCT, Abuja. The sample size was 400, it was determined using the Taro Yamaner formula for sample size. Random sampling technique was used to distribute questionnaires to the respondents. 400 questionnaires was distributed, while 387 was retrieved from the respondents. The study adopted a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire in order to give respondents in their respective opinions. It adopted the use of multiple Regression analyses and ANOVA to determine the relationship among variables. The finding shows that there is an inverse relationship between the level of corruption (RBLC) and national security. It also revealed a direct relationship between Socio-economic and political factors impact (SEPFNS) and national security. Above all, the relationships amomg the variable were statistically significant. The paper recommends that; government should prioritize anti-corruption measures as part of broader national security

strategies, adopt a comprehensive approach to security that addresses underlying socio-economic and political challenges and implement robust anti-corruption policies and institutions to tackle corruption at all levels of government and society

Keywords: corruption, national security, security etc.

Introduction

Corruption is a major concern in Nigeria and has widespread consequences for the country's national security. Corruption, characterised as the misuse of authority for personal benefit, is widespread in different areas of Nigerian society including as government, law enforcement, and the judiciary (Transparency International, 2021). This paper delves into the complex connection between corruption and national security in Nigeria, analysing how corrupt activities weaken governmental institutions, worsen social instability, and hinder attempts to address challenges like terrorism and organised crime. Corruption in Nigeria significantly weakens state institutions, impacting national security. Widespread corruption weakens the efficiency and credibility of government institutions tasked with upholding law and order, such as the police and judiciary. Corruption undermines the legal system, allowing criminals to avoid punishment and act without fear of consequences (Yagboyaju, 2023). As a result, citizens lose faith in government institutions, causing a decline in social unity and worsening insecurity. Corruption also enables criminal operations that present substantial risks to national security. Corrupt practices divert governmental finances and resources, providing illicit cash flows to criminal networks involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking, and arms smuggling (Ogundiya, 2010). Corrupt authorities work along with criminal syndicates, allowing them to operate secretly and weaken the state's ability to fight transnational crime. Corruption in law enforcement authorities hinders investigations and prosecutions of illegal activity, leading to a cycle of impunity and instability. Moreover, corruption worsens socioeconomic disparity, which is a fundamental reason for insecurity in Nigeria. Diverting public monies meant for development projects deprives individuals, especially those in marginalised groups, of crucial services including education, healthcare, and infrastructure (Onwuka, Okoh, & Eme, 2009). This imbalance leads to dissatisfaction and disillusionment among the population, which fuels social

unrest and creates favourable conditions for extremist groups and insurgent movements to attract members. Corruption hinders counterterrorism activities in Nigeria. Diverting security budgets and resources weakens the ability of military and law enforcement forces to confront terrorist organisations like Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP). Corrupt tactics in security forces, like selling weaponry and intelligence to terrorist groups, weaken counterterrorism efforts and prolong the insurgency.

Research Questions

1. Is the relationship a between levels of corruption and national security in Nigeria?
2. Does Socio-economic and political factors impact on national security?

Objectives of the study

The broad objective of this study is to examine corruption and national security in Nigeria fourth republic: an Analyses While the specific objectives are to;

1. investigate the relationship between levels of corruption and national security in Nigeria.
2. ascertain how Socio-economic and political factors impact on national security

Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses are expressed in their null forms as follows

H_0: There is no significant correlation between levels of corruption and national security in Nigeria.

H_0: Socio-economic and political factors do not significantly impact on national security.

Literature Review and theoretical Framework

Corruption

Corruption, a complex subject, has been extensively studied and debated over numerous years. In fact, the phrase does not have a widely accepted definition. The root cause is the apparent discrepancy regarding the exact meaning of corruption. Defining words in the social and management sciences has been

challenging due to their focus on behaviour. This also pertains to the concept of corruption. Scholars have varying perspectives on the subject based on their orientation. Onwuka, Okoh, and Eme (2009) define corruption as anomalous behaviour. They proceed to describe it in the following manner:

> "A departure from the official responsibilities of a public position due to the financial exercise of specific forms of private regarding influence (personal, close family, or private clique) is known as corruption. This covers actions like nepotism, which is the hiring of someone based on a close relationship rather than qualifications, bribery, which is the use of rewards to influence the opinion of someone in a position of trust, and misappropriation, which is the unlawful use of public resources for private purposes.

The previous definition is difficult to analyse, mostly because of the choice of phrases or sentence structure. The utility of this definition lies in categorising corruption as a deviation from societal standards, motivated by financial profit, encompassing bribery, favouritism, and misappropriation of public resources for personal gain. Corruption is the deliberate abuse of power or authority by an individual in a position of trust to obtain an unfair advantage that contradicts their duties and the rights of others.

Corruption is defined as any divergence or inaccuracy from what is pure or proper. Corruption is the act of obtaining money, resources, contracts, employment, position, celebrity, authority, or gratification through illegal and unethical methods such as bribery, fraud, abuse of power, or theft. In Onwuka et al. (2009), corruption is defined by Bello-Imam as the improper use of public office by private individuals who provide bribes to obtain an unjust advantage and financial gain. Aside from bribery, public position can also be exploited for personal benefit through practices like patronage and nepotism, which involve stealing official assets or diverting governmental resources. The description is general, and there is a correlation between corruption and progress that is unfavourable. This entails circumventing established policies and protocols for personal advantage, where the official position, which relies on trust, is abused and used for self-serving purposes through the misappropriation or diversion of

public resources. Ijiwere & Dunmade (2014) cited in Alimi & Isiramen (2016) defines corruption as the "impairment of virtues, morals, principles, and a deviation from the established rules for personal gain." Ogbuke & Enojo (2007) describe corruption as dishonest and illegal activity, especially by those in positions of authority, or the act of influencing someone to move from moral to immoral norms of behaviour. This perspective emphasises the importance of ethical and behavioural considerations in the anti-corruption campaign, suggesting that without a foundation of strong moral standards based on enduring cultural values and practices, efforts to combat corruption may be ineffective, particularly in a nation like Nigeria. The writers said definitively that high-level corruption is frequently managed by covert networks and encompasses a range of irregular behaviours such as abuse of power, conflict of interest, extortion, tribalism, nepotism, or fraud.

Ibietan (2013) categorises corruption into different arenas: Political, Economic, Bureaucratic, Judicial, and Moral. Political corruption can manifest through actions involving elections and succession, such as manipulating people and organisations to maintain power or status. Economic corruption involves undermining institutional regulations and bypassing procedures to gain undeserved benefits. Bureaucratic corruption goes beyond obtaining financial benefits. The issues of cronyism, favouritism, nepotism, and related problems should be eliminated to improve recruitment, promotion, and motivation of employees. These issues contribute to low productivity, inefficiency, and poor service delivery in the public sector. Judicial corruption refers to the distortion of justice, compromising the ethical stance of law enforcement officials and agencies, as well as many problems and preventable human errors in the court system.

Moral corruption is consistently and knowingly engaging in ethically reprehensible activities. Corruption is a significant issue in Nigeria. Although present to varying degrees in public and private sector organisations, it should not be attributed to the managers of these enterprises. This is primarily due to it being an environmental issue. Nigerians are accustomed to politicians who denounce corruption but end up engaging in corrupt practices themselves. Adagbabiri & Okolie (2016) found that the anti-corruption strategy implemented during Obasanjo's administration was aimed at targeting political opponents or party

members who challenged his governing style and anti-third term objective. President Mohammadu Buhari's well praised anti-corruption stance has been deemed selective. Bishop Simeon Okah stated that President Mohammadu Buhari's anti-corruption efforts would lack credibility if his cabinet members accused of embezzling large sums of money for the 2015 general elections were not being prosecuted.

Causes of corruption in Nigeria

Many reasons have been put forward as probable causes for the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria. This includes the following:

Cultural Factors

The corrupt culture in Nigeria, characterised by a focus on quick wealth, extravagant living, low civic values, and a distorted moral system, has led to widespread corruption. Dike (2003) as cited in Alimi & Isiramen (2016) described this as a deteriorated culture with weak values, making it challenging to establish a corruption-free society. The society's emphasis on rapid wealth accumulation fosters corrupt behaviour, driven by excessive greed and a desire for shortcuts to prosperity.

Weak Penal Institutions

The unethical culture promoting rapid wealth, lavish lifestyle, poor civic values, and peculiar societal norms have contributed to the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria. Dike (2003) as referenced by Alimi & Isiramen (2016) described the scenario as a culture and value system of society that has worsened, making it challenging to establish a society free of corruption due to its underdeveloped culture. Hard labour, compassion, and patriotism are scarce due to a culture that has normalised illicit activities (Alayomi, 2013). The society's strong desire for instant wealth leads to the prevalence of corrupt behaviour. Excessive greed, desire for quick gain among the general populace, lack of strong national loyalty, and traditional rulers granting chieftaincy titles to corrupt persons are factors that contribute to widespread corruption in Nigeria (Alimi & Isiramen, 2016).

i. The prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership
ii. The incursion of politics into the administration.

iii. Weak institutions of government and informal structure.
iv. Perception of political office as the primary means of gaining access to wealth. Conflict between changing values and moral codes.
v. The weakness of social and governmental enforcement mechanism.
vi. The absence of a strong sense of national commitment and national focus.
vii. Dysfunctional legal system.
viii. Ineffective government works with slow budget procedures.
ix. Lack of probity, transparency, responsibility and accountability.
x. The great inequality in the distribution of wealth.
xi. Poor salaries and poor working conditions, with few incentives and rewards for effective and efficient performance.
xii. The influence or pressure of polygamous household and the pressure to meet family obligations which are more in less developed nations.
xiii. The culture and weired value systems of the Nigeria society.

Agbafe (2005) stated that corruption in Nigeria has grown significantly and solidified the country's reputation as one of the most corrupt in the world. He lists some perceived sources of corruption in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. Notably, the causes include the following;

i. A fundamentally flawed structured of the Nigerian state government and politics and absence of functioning government systems.
ii. Increasing institutionalized inequality in resources distribution.
iii. Conflict between changing values and moral codes.
iv. Inefficient enforcement of existing laws, absence of the rule of law and a culture of offering preferential treatment to certain individuals.
v. Nepotism and tribalism in the administration of justice, running of government and conduct of business.
vi. Reckless expenditure of public funds, including unnecessary foreign trips by public officials and inadequate accountability mechanisms infringement, monetization of politics and public life.
vii. Politics office as the source of access to riches.
viii. Political instability as well as the weakness of social and government mechanism inadequate and inefficient police structure.

ix. Nigeria state government monopoly of the economy, over concentration of resource at the culture of excessive federal involvement in corporate business enterprises.

Ngwube & Okoli (2013) revealed that the causes of corruption in Nigeria ranges from

> "non-conformity to religious tenets, imparted values ideas and ideas alien to our culture, ethnicity which encourages favouritism and nepotism, a weak legal system which is honoured in the breech than observance. Other reasons of corruption are: poverty, illiteracy, get-richmania, statism, and improper approach to public property, absence of a welfare plan which cushions effect of unemployment, retirement, large families, and drive for power, double standards and low degree of patriotism".

These are crucial in themselves; it does appear that poverty is the most import single element that supports the wide spread of paying and taking bribes i.e illegal cash inducements in the country. As respects features of corruption, the most common according to Ngwube & Okoli (2013) are:

i. Giving and receiving bribes;
ii. Inflation of contracts;
iii. Kick back and payment upfront;
iv. Abuse of public property;
v. Lodging government fund in private accounts;
vi. Examination malpractices;
vii. Adulterated food or hazardous drugs;
viii. Misappropriation and embezzlement of fund;
ix. Money laundry by public officers;
x. Using proxy names to buy property.

Nwaobi (2004) stated in Ngwube & Okoli (2013) that Nigeria is one of the rare countries where a man's income source is not important to his neighbours, the public, or the government. Corrupt wealthy individuals are consistently sought

after and respected by communities, religious organisations, social clubs, and other private groups. Therefore, individuals who receive advantages from these dishonest individuals hardly inquire. In Nigeria, whereas traditional practices of offering gifts and tributes to leaders may result in what BrowsBerger (1983) describes as "polite corruption," the extent of this corruption is little. Jimo (2001) attributed corruption in Africa's public administration to centralised authority, restricted media freedom, impunity of well-connected officials, lack of transparency in public fund management, clientelism, and low salaries. The fast increase in population in Nigeria has exacerbated the situation. Family planning programmes have not been completely successful. Lower-class employees, without alternative forms of recreation, engage in sexual activity leading to an increase in the number of families. This exacerbates the problem. As compassionate parents, they would not want their children to suffer from hunger and live in poverty and extreme vulnerability.

Effects of Corruption on National Security in Nigeria

The relationship between corruption, economic and social development, and security has been a topic of debate for a long time. Recently, there has been a discussion about how corruption affects the stability and vulnerability of states, particularly in Nigeria where insecurity is a significant issue. Corruption has severely weakened the security architecture of the country. National security, which involves protecting the survival of a nation, can be viewed as the ability and willingness to defend the nation. Ray (1987) discusses the importance of preserving a state's borders and the ability to uphold a government's sovereignty inside its territory. Goldstein (1999:79) discusses the challenge of addressing challenges to peace in society (Hare, 1973).

The defence sector is prone to corruption due to a culture of secrecy and lack of accountability, which hinders efficiency and effectiveness of the armed forces. This can lead to lower troop morale, inadequate equipment, and higher casualties, posing a risk to national security. Corruption undermines the credibility of the armed forces in national and international operations. It affects various aspects of defence and security, including personnel management, financial management, procurement, surplus equipment utilisation, military operations, and defence personnel involvement in economic activities. Rãzvan Hoinaru et al. (2019).

Transparency International (TI) points out that corruption can occur in the security sector through security policies, the relationship between defence and national assets, oversight of intelligence services, and the development of planning and policy procedures like a National Security Strategy, especially when done without respecting legal limits. Corruption impacts security and defence personnel at many levels through theft, extortion, bribery, influence networks, lack of transparency, inadequate oversight mechanisms, and absence of proper norms and regulations. Resources obtained by corrupt means are frequently converted into economic and political power, ultimately undermining democratic institutions and perpetuating corruption.

Analysing instances of corruption that threatens National Security in the Fourth Republic

The Nigerian Army is facing numerous cases of corruption and corrupt behaviour among military commanders and personnel, which are believed to contribute to the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria. Two specific cases will be studied based on available literature and time constraints.

Issues of unpaid allowances

The prompt emphasises the crucial necessity of timely disbursing salary to employees, especially in delicate industries such as the military, where delayed payments can result in a range of problems, including demotivation, alienation, and corruption. An example is shown in a case study involving Nigerian troops who protested against underpaid allowances during a UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia, demonstrating the repercussions of such neglect (Iweoba, 2017). 28 soldiers from Owena Barracks in Akure, Ondo State protested due to delayed payment of allowances, resulting in mutiny charges being filed against them. The troops' protest, albeit against military traditions, was motivated by irritation about unpaid allowances rather than disloyalty. However, all were found guilty, save for one soldier who was cleared of charges (Taiwo, 2009).

Femi Falana's legal actions and public indignation from human rights advocates resulted in the soldiers receiving presidential amnesty and being released in 2010. Yet, the consequences of their discharge presented difficulties. These troops, who were discharged without retirement benefits, could pose a threat to national

security since dissatisfied ex-military members may resort to criminal activities (Yagboyaju, 2023).Dealing with security concerns gets complicated when ex-soldiers, disenchanted by unjust treatment, resort to criminal activities. Ensuring prompt payment of salaries and allowances is essential for preserving discipline and security in military ranks, not merely for welfare purposes. (Yagboyaju , 2023).

Arms Procurement Scams and the Issue of Poor Equipment

The Nigerian Army is under high operational pressure and needs a range of supplies, like as munitions and weaponry, to address security challenges such armed robbery, insurgency, and kidnapping. The defence budget sharply increased to around $6 billion in 2015 and maintained an average of $2.0 billion year from 2015 to 2022. Criticism emerged owing to the misallocation of cash, such as the discovery of $9.3 million in a Nigerian private aircraft in South Africa in September 2014, which was connected to armaments procurement. Top officials, such as former National Security Adviser Sambo Dasuki, were implicated in weaponry purchases amounting to $2.9 billion, revealing substantial abuse of security funding. This has led to internal security challenges, including as increased audacity from organisations like Boko Haram, worsening operational and strategic inefficiencies inside the Nigerian security system. Moreover, cases of corruption and wrongdoing inside NA staff exacerbate internal security issues (Malaquias, 2015; David, 2023; Trading Economics, 2023).

The Nigerian Correctional Service

The two selected sources of threats to Nigeria's internal security, which are linked to abuse by certain personnel of the Nigerian Correctional Service are the problem of reoffenders and prison attacks and/or jailbreaks.

Problem of Reoffenders

Recidivism among convicted criminals is a major concern to Nigeria's internal security. Efforts to use jails and correctional centres for rehabilitation have been hindered by corruption. Unsuitable hiring methods, such as nepotism and incompetence, have resulted in a shortage of skilled staff, impeding successful rehabilitation endeavours. Inadequate equipment and facilities worsen the situation, as vocational programmes lack essential tools and sports and health facilities are frequently non-operational. Corruption in the system makes inmates

vulnerable to maltreatment and strengthens criminal tendencies. Insufficient social and physical infrastructure, caused by corruption, obstructs rehabilitation initiatives and deters inmate involvement. This hinders the objective of rehabilitating offenders into law-abiding members of society and increases the likelihood of reoffending. Furthermore, the stigma towards former convicts in Nigerian society exacerbates the problem, hindering the successful reintegration of rehabilitated individuals and raising the risk of them committing crimes again, which in turn poses a threat to internal security (Saheed, Owonikoko, & Ashindorbe, 2019; Ayitogo, 2021; Oyewo, 2021).

Prison assaults and escapes

Between 2015 and 2022, Nigeria experienced 20 jailbreaks, raising considerable security concerns. Contributing factors to these instances consist of infrastructural deficiencies, overcrowding, lengthy trials, insufficient money, inadequate personnel compensation and equipment, lack of technology, and corruption within the jail system. The prison population rose from 44,450 in 2000 to 73,248 by May 2020, revealing a lack of resources since there were no equivalent enhancements in infrastructure and human capital. Allocations to the Ministry of Interior, which includes the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), have risen throughout time, underscoring their significance in upholding internal security. None of the projects included in budget presentations were completed effectively from 2018 to 2022, indicating institutional difficulties. Many prisoners, particularly those awaiting trial, frequently reside in inadequate conditions, breaching their human rights and jeopardising internal security. Medium-security prisons such as Koton Karfe, which hold dangerous criminals awaiting trial, have been attacked, resulting in the forceful release of detainees, including members of the Boko Haram terrorist group. Corruption among prison personnel, involving collusion and dereliction of duty, worsens the issue by enabling dangerous offenders to connect with external gangs and fostering unethical behaviour within jails. Despite multiple jailbreaks, there has been little accountability, suggesting a lack of penalties for security breaches (Ogunyemi, 2007; Obioha, 2011; Rotimi, 1982; Yagboyaju, 2023; Abiola, 2017).

Theoretical framework

This paper adopts the Resource Curse theory was propounded by Jeffrey Sachs, Andrew Warner (1995), Richard Auty (1993), and other scholars. The Resource Curse argument suggests that nations abundant in natural resources, such as oil, gas, and minerals, often face reduced economic growth, heightened poverty, political instability, and elevated corruption. This paradoxical phenomena arises from variables such as wealth concentration among a select few, commodity price volatility, and the weakening of governance institutions. The Resource Curse idea is pertinent to analysing corruption and national security. Nigeria possesses plentiful natural resources, especially oil, which contributes significantly to government income. However, the utilisation of these resources has frequently resulted in negative outcomes rather than promoting economic growth and improving national security.

Corruption is a key factor in sustaining the Resource Curse in Nigeria. Government officials' mismanagement and misappropriation of oil money have deprived the country of essential resources for development, worsening poverty, inequality, and socio-economic inequities. Corruption in the oil business has exacerbated conflict and violence in resource-rich areas like the Niger Delta, where locals feel marginalised and exploited. The Resource Curse dynamics significantly impact national security in Nigeria. Disparities in wealth and resources, along with prevalent corruption, lead to social instability, insurgency, and militancy. The illegal redirection of oil profits to fund criminal activity and armed groups destabilises and presents major obstacles to law enforcement and security forces. Combatting corruption and its connection to the Resource Curse is essential for improving national security in Nigeria. Advocating for transparency, accountability, and good governance in natural resource management can reduce the adverse impacts of the Resource Curse. Investing in socio-economic development programmes in resource-dependent regions might help resolve grievances and lower the chances of conflict and insecurity.

Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design, the area of study is FCT, Abuja. Abuja represents the political and administrative hub of the country. It houses key governmental institutions, including the presidency, legislature, judiciary, and

various ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), Policymakers and Government Officials, Civil Servants, Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs, Activists, Academics, and Civil Society Organizations. The population of Abuja is 4,026,000 based on NPC, projected population for 2024. The sample size was 400, it was determined using the Taro Yamaner formula for sample size. Random sampling technique was used to distribute questionnaires to the respondents. 400 questionnaires was distributed, while 387 was retrieved from the respondents. The study adopted a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire in order to give respondents in their respective opinions. It adopted the use of multiple Regression analyses and ANOVA to determine the relationship among variables. The study also adopted content validity as all content stated in the questionnaire were in conformity with the adopted variables and the reliability test result was given at 6.9 using Cronbach Alpha and SPSS, 26.0

The specified model is expressed as:

NSCURT = $\beta 0 + \beta 1$ RLCNS + $\beta 2$ SEPFNS + Ut ---------- (1)

Where NSCURT = National Security

RBLC = the relationship between levels of corruption

SEPFNS = Socio-economic and political factors impact

Ut = error term

Test of hypothesis

$H0_1$: Level of Corruption has no significant impact on national security

$H0_2$: Socio-economic and political factors do not significantly impact on national security.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.973[a]	.946	946	.29837

a. Predictors: (Constant): SEPFNS, RBLC

The model summary as indicated in table above shows that R Square is .946 this implies that 63.5% of variation in the dependent variable (national security) were explained by the Independent variable (corruption) while the remaining 94.6% is due to other variables that are not included in the model. This mean that the regression (model formulated) is useful for making predictions since the value of R2 is close to 1.

ANOVA[a]

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	446.750	2	223.375	2509.181	.000[b]
Residual	25.283	284	.089		
Total	472.033	286			

a. Dependent Variable: National security
b. Predictors: (Constant): SEPFNS, RBLC

The table above summarized the results of an analysis of variation in the dependent variable with large value of regression sum of squares (446.750) in comparison to the residual sum of squares with value of 446.750 (this value indicated that the model does not fail to explain a lot of the variation in the dependent variables. However, the estimated F-value (2509.181) as given in the table above with significance value of 0.000, which is less than p-value of 0.05 ($p<0.05$) which means that the descriptive variable elements as a whole can jointly influence change in the dependent variable (national security).

Coefficients[a]

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-.267	.107		-2.490	.013
RBLC	. -1.077	.102	-.767	-10.516	.000
SEPFNS	2.115	.090	1.716	23.511	.000

a. Dependent Variable: National security

Interpretation

The dependent variable as shown in the table above was National security. This was used as a yardstick to examine the relationship between the variables (i.e. SEPFNS, RBLC). The table shows that there is an inverse relationship between RBLC and national security. This indicates that as corruption levels decrease, national security tends to improve, and vice versa. In simpler terms, high corruption is linked to weaker national security, while low corruption is linked to stronger national security.

According to the result in the table above RBLC t-test coefficient is -10.516 in absolute term and the P-value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05 (i.e. P<0.05). These factors are statistically significant at a 5% significance level. Statistical analysis has confirmed the connection between corruption and national security. High amounts of corruption can significantly threaten national security. Corruption can weaken governmental institutions, compromise law enforcement agencies, and undermine the rule of law, facilitating criminal organisations, insurgents, and other dangers to operate without fear of punishment. Corruption can negatively affect the economy by reducing government revenue, misallocating resources, and decreasing foreign investment. The economic repercussions might indirectly impact national security by fueling social unrest, poverty, and inequality. Corruption diminishes public trust in government institutions and weakens faith in the state's capacity to ensure security and safeguard its population. Distrust can exacerbate grievances and dissatisfaction, potentially resulting in civil unrest or conflict. There is a clear and direct correlation between SEPFNS and national security, as shown in the table. It is evident that SEPFNS is a significant predictor of national security. Changes in socio-economic and political elements have a direct impact on national security results. Changes in socio-economic and political situations have a direct impact on national security, either enhancing it or diminishing it.

According to the result in the table above SEPFNS t-test coefficient is 23.511 in absolute term and the P-value is 0.000 which is less than 0.05 (i.e. P<0.05). These factors are statistically significant at a 5% significance level. Socio-economic problems including unemployment, poverty, inequality, and access to basic amenities can directly affect national security. Elevated rates of unemployment

and poverty can result in social unrest, criminality, and extremism, ultimately destabilising society and creating security risks. Political variables like governance quality, political instability, corruption, and human rights abuses have a direct impact on national security. Weak governance, political instability, and corruption can weaken state institutions, lead to power vacuums, and generate situations that promote conflict and instability. Various socio-economic and political elements might impact a nation's susceptibility to external security risks. External actors may exploit socio-economic gaps and political discontent to destabilise a country or damage its security interests.

Decision Rule

As a result of the outcome, in hypotheses one, the Null Hypothesis (H_{01}) is rejected on the basis that the p-value is less 0.05. Hence the alternative hypothesis is accepted, this implies that there is a significant correlation between levels of corruption and national security in Nigeria. Also in hypotheses two, the Null Hypothesis (H_{01}) is rejected on the basis that the p-value is less 0.05. Hence the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This indicates that Socio-economic and political factors significantly impact on national security.

Conclusion

Corruption in Nigeria significantly impacts national security by weakening institutions, governance structures, and creating an environment favourable to criminal activities such as terrorism, insurgency, and organised crime. Socio-economic and political factors worsen these issues, further jeopardising national security. Tackling corruption is crucial for improving national security and stability in Nigeria.

Recommendation

1. The government should give precedence to anti-corruption measures within comprehensive national security strategy. To tackle corruption effectively, actions may include bolstering institutions, enforcing transparency and accountability measures, and advocating for good governance practices.
2. The federal government should implement a holistic security strategy that tackles fundamental socio-economic and political issues. This may include

enacting measures to stimulate economic growth, diminish disparity, bolster governance, and improve political steadiness.

3. The government should establish strong anti-corruption policies and institutions to address corruption at all levels of government and society. This involves imposing severe consequences for corrupt behaviours and improving the transparency and responsibility of public organisations. Additionally, prioritise socio-economic development programmes focused on alleviating poverty, inequality, and unemployment.
4. The government should promote a political atmosphere that is democratic, upholds the rule of law, and respects human rights. Encourage political inclusivity and conversation to resolve issues and foster trust among various society groupings. Undertake thorough security sector reform to improve the capability, professionalism, and accountability of security personnel. Establish appropriate training, equipping, and oversight systems to efficiently address security concerns while upholding human rights.

References

Abiola, T, ((2017). 'Prison Types and Inmates Psychosocial Profiles: A Comparison between Medium and Maximum Security Prisons', *Journal of Forensic Science and Medicine*, 3, 3

Adagbabiri, M. M. & Okolie, U.C. (2016). "Corruption and national development: An examination of Nigeria's foruth republic*". Journal of Strategic & Development Studies*, 1(1).

Adagbabiri, M. M., & Okolie, U. C. (2018). Corruption and the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria's fourth republic. *Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research*, *4*(3), 41-56.

Agbafe, E.O. (2005). "Deregulation and globalization in Nigeria: Issue and perspectives". Nigeria: Ambrose Alli University Press.

Agbakor, E.Z. (2010). "An appraisal of punishment in combating corruption in Nigeria". An unpublished master Thesis, Benue State University.

Ajie, H.A. & Wokekoro, O.E. (2012). "The impact of corruption on sustainable economic growth and development". *Research and Investment Journal*, 3(1).

Alayomi, M.B. (2013). "Corruption and democratization process in Nigeria's fourth republic". International Journal of Politics and Good Governance, 14(2).

Alimi, M.K.O. & Isiramen, E. I. (2016). "National development and the challenges of corruption in Nigeria". Journal of Strategic & Development Studies, 1(1)

Alimi, M.K.O. & Isiramen, E. I. (2016). "National development and the challenges of corruption in Nigeria". Journal of Strategic & Development Studies, 1(1

Ayitogo, N (2021) "Analysis: Why jailbreaks have become commonplace in Nigeria", Premium Times Nigeria. https://www/premiumtimesng.com/new/analysis-why-jailbreakshave-become-commonplace-in-Nigeria/.

Brownsberger, W.N. (1983)."Development and Governmental Corruption-materialism and political fragmentation in Nigeria", *Journal of Modern Africa Studies*, 21:215 -233.

Economics, T. (2022). Coal. Trading Economics.

Hare R.M .(1973) Applications ofMoral philosophy. Los Angeles: University ofCalifornia press,P.86 – 89

Hoinaru, R., Buda, D., Borlea, S. N., Văidean, V. L., & Achim, M. V. (2020). The impact of corruption and shadow economy on the economic and sustainable development. Do they "sand the wheels" or "grease the wheels"?. *Sustainability*, *12*(2), 481.

Ibietan, J. (2013). "Corruption and public accountability in the Nigerian public". *European Journal of Business and Management*, 5(15).

Iweoba, P, I, ((2017), 'Non-payment of Salaries: The Implication on the Legal, Economic and Social Rights of Workers in Nigeria', Public Policy and Administration Research, 7, 1

Jimo, H., Sy, T., & Wade, D. (2001). West and West-Central Africa. *Global corruption report*, 81-94.

Joseph, O, E (2021). 'Prison Overcrowding Trend in Nigeria and Policy Implications on Health', Law, Criminology and Justice, 7, 1124-139;

Kwasau, M.A. (2013). "The challenges of democratic consolidation in Nigeria's fourth republic". *European Scientific Journal*, 9(8).

Malaquias, A (2015). Corruption: A Major Threat to Military Effectiveness (Washington DC: Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 2015), 2.

Ngwube, A. & Oko0li, C. (2013). "The role of the economic financial crime commission in the fight against corruption in Nigeria". *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences*, 4 (1).

Nwaobi, G. C. (2004). Corruption and Bribery in the Nigerian Economy: An empirical investigation. *Available at SSRN 531402*.

Nwaobi, G. C. (2004). Corruption and Bribery in the Nigerian Economy: An empirical investigation. *Available at SSRN 531402*.

Obioha, D, (2011). 'Challenges and Reforms in the Nigerian Prisons System', Journal of Social

Ogundiya, I.S. (2010). "Corruption the bane of democratic stability in Nigeria". Journal of Social Sciences, 2(4).

Ogunyemi, D, (2007). "Nigeria: Agodi Prisons Conditions Bad-Rights Group; Daily Champion.

Onwuka, C. C., Okoh, C., & Eme, O. I. (2009). Corruption in Nigeria: Nature, forms and challenges before anti-corruption agencies. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*, *1*(8), 114-132.

Oyewo, O, (2021).Prison Management, Vocational Training Infrastructure and Inmate Rehabilitation Policy in the Nigerian Correctional Service, Oyo State Command (PhD Thesis, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, 2021).

Ray James (1987.). Global Politics 3rd edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, P.248 – 249

Rotimi, A, R, (1982). 'Prison Administration in Modern Nigeria', International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, 6, 1 73–83.

Saheed, A, Owonikoko, A & Ashindorbe, K, (2019) 'Nigeria Prisons Service and Internal Security Management in Nigeria', in OO Oshita, IM. Alumona & FC. Onuoha (eds.), Internal Security Management in Nigeria (Switzerland: Springer, , 501–511.

Sciences, 27, 2 95–109.;

Transparency International(2015). Corruption perception Index,

Yagboyaju, D. A. (2023). The Implication of Corruption to Nigeria's Internal Security: Insights from Selected Security Agencies. *Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies*, *51*(1), 129-150.

Zumve, S., Ingyoroko, M. & Akuva, 1.1. (2013). "Terrorism in contemporary Nigeria: Latent function of official corruption and state neglect". *European Scientific Journal,*