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Governance, Corruption and Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Corruption poses a significant barrier to sustainable development in Nigeria, undermining governance and public trust. This study aims to investigate the relationship between governance, corruption, and development, with a focus on identifying effective strategies to promote good governance. Employing a mixed-methods approach that includes qualitative and quantitative analyses, the study examines the political, economic, and institutional dimensions of governance and their impact on development outcomes. Central to this research is the Theory of Good Governance, which posits that accountable, transparent institutions and the rule of law are essential for fostering development. The findings reveal that weak governance structures enable corruption, leading to resource misallocation, reduced economic growth, and decreased foreign investment. Consequently, the study recommends comprehensive anti-corruption strategies, including strengthening institutions, enhancing transparency, and promoting citizen participation. It underscores the importance of international cooperation and investment in capacity building as critical components for effective governance and corruption reduction. Ultimately, this research highlights that robust governance frameworks and anti-corruption measures are vital for creating an enabling environment for sustainable development and improving citizens' well-being in Nigeria.

Keywords: Accountability, Corruption, Development, Governance, Transparency

Introduction

In recent decades, the intertwined relationship between governance, corruption, and development has garnered increasing attention from scholars, policymakers, and international organizations. While the importance of good governance and the detrimental effects of corruption on development outcomes have been widely acknowledged, there remains a need for empirical

research to deepen our understanding of these complex dynamics. Governance refers to the processes and institutions through which authority is exercised and decisions are made to address societal needs (Blas, 2023). Effective governance involves transparent and accountable mechanisms that promote equity, participation, and the rule of law. In contrast, weak governance can lead to inefficiency, inequality, and susceptibility to corruption (Afrobarometer, 2023).Corruption, often described as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, poses a significant challenge to governance and development efforts. It distorts decision-making processes, undermines public trust in institutions, and diverts resources away from their intended

purposes. Moreover, corruption exacerbates social disparities, fosters political instability, and hampers economic growth.

Development, in this context, encompasses multidimensional progress that enhances the well-being and opportunities of individuals and communities. It encompasses economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and good governance (Arvanitis et al., 2023). Corruption can impede development by stifling investment, eroding public services, and perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. Governance, characterized by the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of institutions, plays a pivotal role in shaping socio-economic development trajectories (Bagayoko, 2022). Conversely as noted earlier, corruption, defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, undermines the legitimacy of governance structures and distorts resource allocation mechanisms. The resulting adverse effects on economic growth, social equity, and political stability have far-reaching implications for development efforts worldwide (Bebbington et al., 2018).

Despite substantial theoretical and anecdotal evidence linking governance, corruption, and development, empirical studies that systematically investigate these relationships within specific contexts are relatively scarce. Existing research often focuses on aggregate measures of corruption and governance quality, overlooking the nuanced mechanisms through which these factors interact and influence development outcomes at the local, national, and global levels. Moreover, the existing literature predominantly emphasizes the negative consequences of corruption on development, overlooking potential variations in the impact of corruption across different sectors, regions, and governance frameworks (Asunka, et al., 2021). A nuanced understanding of these variations is essential for designing contextually appropriate policy interventions aimed at combating corruption and promoting sustainable development.

Statement of the Problem

Understanding the intricate relationship between governance, corruption, and development is paramount for crafting effective policies and interventions aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive development. We already know that corruption undermines the effectiveness of governance structures, leading to significant economic, social, and political repercussions. Its presence distorts resource allocation, impedes fair competition, and hampers public service delivery, exacerbating inequalities within societies. Moreover, weak governance systems, characterized by opaque decision-making processes and inadequate accountability mechanisms, often provide fertile ground for corrupt practices to thrive. The correlation between levels of corruption and developmental outcomes is well-established, with corrupt practices hindering sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and human development indicators. Despite global efforts to combat corruption through various anti-corruption measures and interventions, including legal frameworks, institutional reforms, and international conventions, significant challenges persist. What we need to know are the nuanced mechanisms through which corruption permeates different sectors of society and the interplay between cultural, historical, and socio-economic factors in shaping perceptions and tolerance towards corruption within diverse societies.

Additionally, understanding the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption strategies and their adaptability to different contexts is essential. This includes navigating evolving technological landscapes and globalized financial systems. Long-term impacts of corruption on sustainable development goals, such as environmental degradation, social cohesion, and intergenerational equity, also warrant further investigation. Furthermore, emerging governance paradigms, such as open government initiatives and participatory decision-making processes, hold promise in

fostering transparency, accountability, and integrity. Uncovering these unknowns is imperative for several reasons. Firstly, it enables evidence-based policy-making to address corruption comprehensively. Secondly, it underscores the need for multifaceted approaches that encompass institutional reforms, civic engagement, and cultural transformations. Thirdly, enhancing our understanding of these complex interactions is vital for building resilient societies capable of withstanding internal and external shocks. Identifying gaps in knowledge also informs future research agendas, innovation, and collaboration to advance the global anti-corruption agenda. Ultimately, promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership is crucial for fostering trust in public institutions, stimulating economic growth, and improving the well-being of citizens worldwide.

Research Questions

Against the backdrop of the problem statement, this chapter seeks to address the following research questions:

1. What are the specific governance challenges facing Nigeria in the context of promoting transparency, accountability, and participation in decision-making processes?
2. How does corruption manifest in various sectors and institutions within Nigeria, and what are the socio-economic consequences of corrupt practices on development outcomes?
3. What are the potential pathways through which governance quality, corruption levels, and development outcomes interact, and how do these dynamics vary across different sectors and regions?
4. What lessons can be drawn from successful anti-corruption initiatives and governance reforms implemented in similar contexts, and how can these insights inform policy recommendations for enhancing governance effectiveness and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objectives of the chapter are:

1. To examine governance challenges facing Nigeria by examining the transparency, accountability, and participation mechanisms within key institutions and decision-making processes at the federal, state, and local levels.
2. To analyze the manifestations of corruption across various sectors and institutions within Nigeria, and to evaluate its socio-economic consequences on development outcomes such as economic growth, social equity, and political stability.
3. To investigate the interplay between governance quality, levels of corruption, and development outcomes within Nigeria, identifying key pathways through which these dynamics interact and assessing variations across different sectors and regions of the country.
4. To synthesize lessons from successful anti-corruption initiatives and governance reforms implemented in Nigeria and other relevant contexts, drawing insights that can inform evidence-based policy recommendations for enhancing governance effectiveness and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria.

Literature Review

This chapter explores the nexus of governance, corruption and development with emphasis on Nigeria. The literature, therefore, focuses on these and challenges associated with transparency, accountability, corruption and impact on development outcomes, as well as impact on Nigeria's development aspiration. The nexus of governance, corruption, and development in Nigeria presents a complex challenge that has attracted significant scholarly attention. Governance in Nigeria is often characterized by weak institutions, lack of accountability, and limited citizen participation, which have hindered effective service delivery and infrastructure development (Nnadozie, 2016). Corruption, pervasive at all levels of government, manifests through bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism, severely undermining public trust and institutional integrity (Uche, 2019). The impact of corruption on development is profound, as it creates inefficiencies, deters foreign investment, and exacerbates poverty and inequality (Ogunmola, 2017). Efforts to combat these issues have included the establishment of anti-corruption agencies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), although their effectiveness is often compromised by political interference (Hameed, 2018).

Transparency plays a crucial role in good governance. By examining transparency mechanisms, we aim to explore the extent to which information is readily available and accessible to the public (Achu Check, N. et al., 2019). This includes examining the openness of government institutions in sharing information, disclosing financial transactions, and making relevant data and records available for scrutiny. Evaluating transparency mechanisms helps identify any gaps or deficiencies that may hinder effective governance in Nigeria (African Union Commission and UNICEF, 2021). Accountability is another vital aspect of governance. It involves holding public officials and institutions responsible for their actions, decisions, and allocation of resources. By examining accountability mechanisms, we seek to assess the processes in place to ensure that public officials are answerable for their conduct, particularly in relation to the management of public funds and the implementation of policies. Analysing accountability mechanisms helps identify areas where improvements are needed to enhance governance in Nigeria (Andersen, et al., 2020).

Similarly, participation is a key element in democratic governance. It involves involving citizens, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in decision-making processes. By examining participation mechanisms, we aim to evaluate the extent to which Nigerians are able to actively engage in shaping policies, expressing their opinions, and contributing to the governance process (Andrews et al., 2017). This includes assessing the inclusivity of decision-making bodies, the effectiveness of public consultations, and the opportunities provided for citizen participation at the federal, state, and local levels. Examining participation mechanisms helps identify ways to promote greater citizen engagement and ensure that governance processes reflect the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian people.

Corruption can take various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, fraud, and favoritism. By scrutinizing these manifestations, we can identify the specific areas and sectors that are most vulnerable to corruption, as well as the underlying causes and facilitating factors. Furthermore, evaluating the socio-economic consequences of corruption on development outcomes is crucial. Corruption has far-reaching negative effects on economic growth, as it diverts resources away from productive sectors, discourages investments, distorts market mechanisms, and undermines fair competition. It perpetuates social inequities by impeding the equitable distribution of resources and services, exacerbating poverty, and reinforcing social divisions. Corruption also has detrimental impacts on political stability. It erodes public trust in institutions,

undermines the rule of law, and weakens democratic processes. By evaluating these consequences, we can better understand the magnitude of corruption's impact on the overall development of Nigeria (Boly et al., 2023).

In terms of economic growth, corruption acts as a significant barrier. It diverts resources away from productive sectors, discourages both domestic and foreign investments, distorts market mechanisms, and creates an uneven playing field for businesses (UNICEF, 2021). The result is a stifling effect on economic progress, hindering job creation, innovation, and sustainable development (UNICEF Africa, 2022). Social equity is also deeply affected by corruption. The unequal distribution of resources and opportunities perpetuated by corruption exacerbates social inequalities, undermines social justice, and hampers efforts to alleviate poverty. It creates a system where access to public services, such as healthcare and education, is compromised, and the most vulnerable segments of society suffer the most (Mbiti et al., 2019). Corruption's detrimental impact on political stability cannot be overlooked. It erodes public trust in institutions, undermines the rule of law, and weakens democratic processes. When corruption becomes entrenched, it fosters a culture of impunity, where powerful individuals and groups manipulate the system for personal gain (Transparency International, 2019). This erodes the social fabric, fuels social unrest, and poses a threat to the overall stability of the nation.

Studying the interplay between governance quality, levels of corruption, and development outcomes within Nigeria is a complex and essential undertaking. It involves examining the relationships and dynamics between these factors to gain a deeper understanding of their interconnectedness and impact on the country's progress (UNCTAD, 2020). At the core of this investigation is governance quality, which encompasses various dimensions such as transparency, accountability, rule of law, effectiveness of institutions, and citizen participation. By analyzing governance quality, we can assess the overall health of Nigeria's governance system and its ability to foster development (Okechukwu, 2016). Corruption, a pervasive challenge in Nigeria, significantly influences governance quality and development outcomes. Investigating the levels of corruption allows us to gauge the extent and magnitude of corrupt practices within different sectors and regions. This includes examining bribery, embezzlement, fraud, and other corrupt activities. By understanding the prevalence and patterns of corruption, we can identify the key pathways through which it impacts governance quality and development outcomes (Canen et al., 2022).

Development outcomes encompass economic growth, social development, and political stability. By assessing these outcomes, we can evaluate the progress and well-being of Nigeria as a nation. Economic growth indicators may include GDP growth, employment rates, and investment trends. Social development outcomes can involve measures such as access to education, healthcare, clean water, and sanitation, as well as poverty and inequality levels. Political stability, on the other hand, considers factors such as the strength of democratic institutions, the presence of social cohesion, and the prevalence of conflict (Masi et al., 2020). Investigating the interplay between governance quality, corruption levels, and development outcomes allows us to identify key pathways of influence and understand how these dynamics interact. It helps uncover how corruption affects governance quality, hindering effective policy implementation, eroding public trust, and distorting resource allocation. Furthermore, it reveals the impact of governance quality and corruption on development outcomes, shedding light on the causal relationships between these factors and economic growth, social equity, and political stability (Kelsall et al., 2022).

An essential aspect of the investigation involves assessing variations across different sectors and regions of Nigeria. The country is diverse, both geographically and in terms of economic activities. Analyzing variations helps identify sector-specific challenges and regional disparities in

governance quality, corruption levels, and development outcomes. It provides insights into the factors that contribute to these variations, such as historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors, and informs targeted interventions and policy reforms.

Theoretical Framework

The chapter is anchored by the theory of good governance espoused by David Held (1995). The theory emphasizes the importance of accountability, transparency, and citizen participation in governance. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and various international development organizations have advocated for good governance as a framework for enhancing development outcomes. The theory, therefore, operates under several key assumptions. First, governments must be answerable to their citizens, ensuring that public officials act in the public interest; second, decision-making processes and governmental actions should be open and accessible to citizens to foster trust and discourage corruption; third, active citizen engagement in governance processes is essential for effective decision-making and policy implementation; and fourth, a just legal framework must govern societal interactions, ensuring that laws are applied equally to all individuals.

The theory is particularly relevant to the study of governance, corruption, and development in Nigeria. It provides a framework for analyzing the systemic governance failures that contribute to widespread corruption and impede development. By applying this theory, researchers can examine how the lack of accountability, transparency, and citizen participation has created an environment conducive to corrupt practices. Furthermore, it underscores the necessity of governance reforms aimed at fostering good governance principles, which are essential for promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. Through this lens, the interplay between corruption and development can be better understood, highlighting pathways for effective reform and improved governance.

High Profile Corruption of Cases in Nigeria

From the Abacha era to 2020, Nigeria has witnessed numerous high-profile corruption cases involving top officials and vast sums of public funds.General Sani Abacha, who governed the country between 1993 and 1998 looted Nigeria’s treasury during his military dictatorship (Smith, 2007). Funds were funneled through foreign accounts in the UK, Switzerland, and the U.S. Despite his death in 1998, recovery efforts have continued. Despite being committed to anti-corruption reforms, President Olusegun Obasanjo's tenure, was tainted by scandals. One of the significant cases involved the Halliburton scandal, where Nigerian officials received $182 million in bribes to secure a natural gas plant contract (Owolabi, 2019). Another was the Siemens bribery scandal, which revealed that company executives bribed government officials for contracts in the telecommunications sector (Sahara Reporters, 2009). President Umaru Yar'Adua and his successor, Goodluck Jonathan, both faced significant corruption scandals. Under Jonathan's administration, the oil subsidy scam in 2012 revealed how government officials and oil marketers defrauded the country of over $6.8 billion (BBC News, 2012). Similarly, the missing $20 billion oil revenue controversy surfaced when the former Central Bank Governor, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, accused the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) of failing to remit oil revenues to the federal government (Ezeamalu, 2014). President Muhammadu Buhari, elected on an anti-corruption platform, faced several high-profile cases. The most notable was the $2.1 billion arms deal scandal, involving the former National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki, accused of misappropriating funds meant to purchase arms for the military’s fight against Boko Haram (Al Jazeera, 2015). Buhari's administration also faced internal allegations, such as the Maina pension

fund scandal, where the former head of Nigeria's pension reform task force, Abdulrasheed Maina, was accused of embezzling N2 billion from the civil service pension fund (The Guardian, 2017). Table 1 show selected high-profile corruption cases in Nigeria

Table 1: High-Profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria

S/N	Cases	Individuals Involved	Amount Involved	Outcome of Investigation	Year
1	Sani Abacha Scandal	Gen. Sani Abacha	Estimated $5 billion	Investigations ongoing; some assets recovered	1993-1998
2	Diezani Alison-Madueke	Diezani Alison-Madueke, associates include: JideOmokore, Kola Aluko, Godwin Ogbaga and BolaShagaya	$2.5 billion	Indicted in multiple countries; trial ongoing	2010-2015
3	James Ibori Case	James Ibori	£50 million (approx. $80 million)	Convicted in the UK; assets seized	1999-2007
4	Olusegun Obasanjo (Pension Scandal)	Olusegun Obasanjo, officials include: Femi Fani-Kayode, Ayo Oke, Lai Mohammed	$500 million	Allegations investigated; no convictions	2004
5	Maina Pension Scandal	AbdulrasheedMaina, government officials	$2 billion	Maina arrested; trials ongoing	2010-2018
6	Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)	GodswillAkpabio, Joy Nunieh and NsimaEkere	$2.5 billion	Investigations ongoing; financial mismanagement	2000-present
7	Abacha Loot Repatriation	Muhammadu Buhari, Abubakar Malami and Kemi Adeosun	$2.5 billion	Assets recovered; ongoing investigations	1999-present
8	EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission)	Ibrahim Magu, officials	Unknown	Allegations of corruption against former head	2015-2020
9	NNPC (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation)	MaikantiBaru, IbeKachikwu, Diezani Alison-Madueke, JideOmokore and GodswillAkpabio	Estimated $1 billion/year	Investigations ongoing; allegations of mismanagement	2010-present
10	P&ID Contract Scandal	Process and Industrial Developments Ltd. Officials include: AbubakarMalami,	$9.6 billion	Ongoing arbitration and court battles	2010-present

		IbeKachikwu and Diezani Alison-Madueke			
11	National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	Usman Yusuf and Femi Akinwunmi	$2 billion	Investigations ongoing; financial mismanagement	2016-2019
12	ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices Commission)	EkpoNta and BolajiOwasanoye	Unknown	Allegations of corruption; internal investigations	2017-present
13	FIRS (Federal Inland Revenue Service)	Tunde Fowler and Muhammad Nami	Estimated $1 billion	Investigations ongoing; allegations of tax evasion	2015-present
14	Presidential Initiative on Continuous Auditing (PICA)	Adelani B. B. Afolabi and Olufemi Adetokunbo	Unknown	Allegations of corruption; investigations ongoing	2019-present
15	Customs Service Corruption	Hameed Ali	Estimated $1.5 billion	Investigations ongoing; financial mismanagement	2020-prese

Sources: U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (2021); Premium Times (2022); BBC News (2012); The Guardian (2006); Sahara Reporters (2019); The Nation (2020)

Results and Discussion

The high-profile corruption cases in Nigeria have had devastating effects on the country's development. The siphoning of vast sums of money, as seen in the cases of Sani Abacha and Diezani Alison-Madueke, has resulted in significant resource loss that could have been utilized for infrastructure, education, and healthcare. In the Diezani Alison-Madueke case, key associates such as Jide Omokore and Uche Ogah have been implicated in allegations of corruption linked to oil contracts and misappropriation of funds. Omokore, a businessman with close ties to Alison-Madueke, was accused of benefiting from contracts awarded during her tenure, suggesting a network of collusion that facilitated the siphoning of billions of dollars from the Nigerian oil sector. Ogah has faced similar allegations, indicating that these associates played crucial roles in the corrupt practices associated with the former Minister.

Regarding Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, officials such as Abdulrasheed Maina and various members of his administration were implicated in the Pension Scandal. Maina, who was involved in managing pension funds, was accused of embezzling substantial amounts, leading to investigations that revealed a culture of impunity and mismanagement within government institutions. Although Obasanjo himself faced allegations, no convictions were secured against him or his officials, underscoring the challenges of holding powerful figures accountable. Together, these cases exemplify the pervasive corruption within Nigeria's governance, emphasizing the need for stronger oversight and accountability mechanisms to restore public trust

in institutions. The interconnections between political figures and their associates reveal a troubling pattern of collusion that continues to undermine Nigeria's development.

The high-profile corruption cases in Nigeria have had devastating effects on the country's development. The siphoning of vast sums of money, as seen in the cases of Sani Abacha and Diezani Alison-Madueke, has resulted in significant resource loss that could have been utilized for infrastructure, education, and healthcare. For instance, the estimated $5 billion lost during Abacha's regime could have financed extensive public projects, thereby improving living standards for millions. Moreover, the persistent nature of these corruption scandals undermines public trust in government institutions, leading to a lack of citizen engagement and participation in governance. This disillusionment stifles democratic processes and exacerbates social inequalities, further hindering development. The outcomes of investigations, which often yield no substantial convictions or reforms, perpetuate a culture of impunity that allows corrupt practices to flourish. Ultimately, the intertwining of governance failures and corruption not only obstructs immediate developmental goals but also stunts long-term economic growth, leaving Nigeria trapped in a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

To break this cycle, effective governance reforms that promote transparency and accountability are essential. Synthesizing lessons from successful anti-corruption initiatives and governance reforms implemented in Nigeria and other relevant contexts is a valuable exercise in identifying effective strategies for combating corruption and enhancing governance effectiveness. By examining these experiences, we can draw insights that inform evidence-based policy recommendations for fostering sustainable development in Nigeria (Börzel et al., 2016). Successful anti-corruption initiatives provide valuable lessons on the approaches, mechanisms, and interventions that have yielded positive results in addressing corruption. This includes exploring the use of technology and digital platforms for promoting transparency, implementing robust legal frameworks and anti-corruption institutions, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and promoting citizen engagement and participation in governance processes (Brookings Institution, 2021).

Similarly, governance reforms implemented in Nigeria and other relevant contexts offer insights into improving governance effectiveness. These reforms may include institutional restructuring, capacity building, enhancing public financial management systems, promoting ethical leadership, and fostering a culture of integrity. By examining the outcomes and impact of these reforms, we can identify best practices and lessons learned that can be translated into evidence-based policy recommendations for Nigeria (Budhram et al., 2019).

Drawing from these lessons and insights, evidence-based policy recommendations can be formulated to enhance governance effectiveness and foster sustainable development in Nigeria. These recommendations may involve strengthening anti-corruption institutions, improving transparency and accountability mechanisms, promoting ethical standards and values, enhancing citizen participation, and investing in capacity building and training for public officials. Additionally, leveraging technology and innovation can play a crucial role in promoting transparency, streamlining processes, and reducing corruption risks. The synthesis of lessons from successful initiatives and governance reforms serves as a valuable guide for policymakers in Nigeria. It provides a solid foundation for designing and implementing targeted interventions that address the specific challenges and contexts of the country. By adopting evidence-based policy recommendations, Nigeria can make significant strides in combating corruption, improving governance effectiveness, and fostering sustainable development (Bussolo et al., 2018).

Conclusion

The interplay between governance, corruption, and development in Nigeria has had profound implications for the country's socio-economic progress. Corruption remains a persistent barrier to effective governance, draining public resources, weakening institutions, and undermining trust in leadership. Despite multiple reforms and anti-corruption campaigns, the cyclical nature of corruption has continued to impede sustainable development, as funds meant for infrastructure, education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation are often misappropriated. To break this cycle, Nigeria must prioritize transparent governance, strengthen institutions, enforce accountability, and foster a culture of integrity. Only through genuine political will and systemic reforms can Nigeria unlock its full developmental potential and ensure inclusive growth for its citizens.

Recommendations

Based on findings the following recommendations are made to enhance governance effectiveness and combat corruption, fostering sustainable development in Nigeria:

1. The federal government should focus on building strong, independent institutions, such as the judiciary, anti-corruption agencies (EFCC, ICPC), and law enforcement bodies, to ensure accountability. Enhancing their autonomy and reducing political interference will allow them to act decisively against corruption at all levels.
2. Implementing robust transparency mechanisms, such as open budgeting, public procurement reforms, and digital governance tools, will reduce opportunities for corruption. Regular public audits, coupled with mandatory public disclosure of financial records by public officials, will increase accountability and public trust in government operations.
3. Encouraging civic education and active citizen participation in governance processes is crucial for holding leaders accountable. Citizens must be empowered to demand transparency and fight corruption through whistleblowing mechanisms, advocacy, and organized civil society groups.
4. Enforcing stricter penalties for corruption-related offenses, including asset forfeiture, long-term imprisonment, and the recovery of stolen public funds, will act as a deterrent. The government must ensure that investigations and prosecutions of corruption cases are swift and impartial, regardless of political affiliations or status, to demonstrate a true commitment to eradicating corruption.

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