

The Whistle-Blower, ICTs and Good Governance in Nigeria

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Abstract

Many developing countries continue to experience monumental degrees of corruption that has contributed negatively to their development. The active and direct engagement of the citizens becomes more relevant in promoting transparency and accountability in the public sector in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objective of the study is to examine how to promote good governance through the use of the whistle-blowing programme to curb corruption. The research is descriptive and quantitative. Findings show that with the effective use of the whistle-blower, the task of curbing corruption would become bright in Nigeria.

Keywords: Accountability, Corruption, Good Governance, ICTs, Transparency.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Corruption has been described as a major challenge militating against the development of many Third World countries. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which measures the perceived level of public sector corruption in countries and territories around the world, indicates that many African nations, including Nigeria, have persistently assumed a worrisome level on the list of most corrupt countries in the world between (Transparency International, 2013). This position has casts doubts on the continued relevance of anti-graft agencies in the country such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), and Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), going by the high number of corruption cases being prosecuted by these agencies (Ogunbamila, 2014).

Strong public institutions dedicated to their successful implementation need to be conceived, nurtured and sustained (GCPSE, 2015). Therefore, citizens should be encouraged to report suspected cases of corruption for investigation and prosecution. As a way out, the active and direct engagement of the citizens becomes more relevant in promoting transparency and accountability in the public sector for good governance and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2016, the Federal Government introduced the Federal Ministry of Finance Whistle-Blowing Programme (FMF- WBP), to give monetary reward to the whistle-blower that reports corruption by aiding e-governance using information and communication technologies (ICTs). ICTs have the potential to produce effective, transparent and accountable institutions, as key to establishing sustainable development (UNEGS, 2014). This brings about the achievement of broad public participation in decision-making by enhancing access to information and removing barriers to public service (Hongbo, 2014). Unfortunately, many citizens cannot still participate due to administrative bureaucracy embedded in the scheme that is fraught with shortcomings such as non-protection of identity of the whistle-blower and the manipulation of intelligence information while some factors such as inadequate computers, epileptic supply of electricity and high maintenance cost pose serious challenge in making this possible, thus, derailing the aspiration of a nation towards attaining its ICT goals (Kupoluyi, 2017).

Corruption, therefore, brings about a dysfunction in the public service because funds allocated for development are often diverted, misappropriated and stolen. In line with the tenets of the structural-functionalism school of thought, the inability of the various components of the public

bureaucracy to work in tandem would lead to bring about problems, retrogression and setbacks for development. This paper seeks to examine the newly-introduced whistle-blowing programme with a view to curbing corruption and promote good governance in Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Active and direct engagement of the citizens becomes more relevant in promoting transparency and accountability in the public sector for good governance and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2016, the Federal Government introduced the Federal Ministry of Finance Whistle-Blowing Programme (FMF- WBP), a project to give monetary reward to the whistle-blower that reports corruption by aiding e-governance using information and communication technologies (ICTs). Unfortunately, many citizens cannot still participate due to administrative bureaucracy embedded in the scheme that is fraught with shortcomings such as non-protection of identity of the whistle-blower and the manipulation of intelligence information. The paper seeks to examine the place of the whistle-blowing as an important tool in the curbing of corruption in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of study are to:

- i. examine the whistle-blowing programme in promoting good governance in Nigeria.
- ii. identify the challenges facing the whistle-blowing programme in promoting good governance in Nigeria.
- iii. suggest ways to surmount the challenges in achieving good governance using the whistle-blowing programme in curbing corruption in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

The paper seeks to ask the following questions:

- i. How is the whistle-blowing programme promoting good governance in Nigeria?
- ii. What are the challenges facing the whistle-blowing programme in promoting good governance in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the ways to surmount the challenges in achieving good governance using the whistle-blowing programme in curbing corruption in Nigeria?

1.5 Hypothesis

- i. There is significant relationship between respondents' socio-economic characteristics and constraints militating against whistle-blowing.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between respondents' socio-economic characteristics and constraints militating against whistle-blowing.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Corruption

Corruption has become a monster that had stunted various countries' economic growth, political democracy and public administration (Sylla, 2014). Corruption is a serious issue in many sub-Saharan African states. Corruption is not only an African affair but is everywhere and in each society, but it affects them differently. Corruption is the misuse of power for private gains (Transparency International, 2006). Corruption involves the abuse of public office for private or

personal benefit and could come in the form of stealing, conversion, bribery, extortion, fraud and embezzlement (Sylla, 2014). Corruption could involve many public agencies in the government and between private individuals and citizens (Shehu, 1999; Uneke, 2010; & Sylla, 2014). Kupoluyi (2016) while reacting to the statement of a former United Kingdom's Prime Minister, David Cameron, who said: 'first, stop receiving stolen money from Nigerians when it is a simple logic that conversion is promoted when there is a reliable custody to hide stolen resources'. Secondly, help repatriate looted funds that are stashed away in the British economy. Thirdly, support the government in its anti-graft war.

Corruption is a big problem in many countries of the world, most especially, in Africa, where many public officers see themselves as being all in all and the 'untouchables' while Girling (1997) argues that corruption is 'illegal behaviour' that is associated with abuse of an office. He further argues that corruption may be a legal but an illegitimate behaviour in which an office holder may not directly be involved in corrupt practices but creates its possibilities (Girling, 1997). Corruption has resulted from an unbecoming behaviour and disrespect for the public services and institutions because many people that were found to have engaged in corrupt practices are never apprehended and punished to serve as deterrent to others. This brings about impunity that is also another form of corruption and the circle of lawlessness goes on and on. Kupoluyi (2015) also notes that corruption is not only limited to the politicians and that many people engage in the practice directly or indirectly, saying it is a social problem that should be curbed with the co-operation of all and sundry because the government and the anti-graft agencies cannot do it alone. Kupoluyi (2014) that there should be adequate pay packet for public servants and other court personnel because poor remuneration invariably leads to poor

motivation and the level of commitments of these officials, while it is also clear that the process of gaining power in Nigeria is either by force or the influence of money.

2.2 Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Electronic governance or e-governance can be regarded as the communication process between the government and the people, using information communication technologies (ICTs), to deliver public services and the existence of such services to the people. ICTs have always influenced the evolution of man in the society (Eneanya, 2016). According to Adebayo (2013), ICTs refer to the technology that supports activities involving the creation, storage, manipulation, communication of information using microelectronic and telecommunications tools such as laptops, computers, computer networks, Internet digital printers and mobile technology that are used by the administrator to record, store, process, retrieve and transmit information (Kokt & Koelane, 2013). (Magni, 2009) agrees that the integration of ICTs into general administration has brought about increased efficiency and optimal resource utilisation (Hasan *et al*, 2007) while Akpan-Obong (2010) observes that the adoption and applications of ICTs often proceeds from a systemic level by concentrating on the actions of states and their agencies. Therefore, good governance rests on the pillars of knowledge by decision-makers, driven by digitisation process using ICTs in the delivery of services and more importantly, changes that are induced in such a way that citizens are able to actively interact and participate in governance (Eneanya, 2016).

2.3 The Whistle-Blowing Programme

Whistle-blowing has been described as an act of disclosure by members of an organisation of illegal and immoral acts perpetrated by the organisation and members that may bring about

change (Rehg, Miceli, Near & Van Scotter, 2008). According to Reed (2015), whistle-blowing is the disclosure by organisation's members of illegal, immoral or illegitimate practices under the control of their employers, to persons or firms that may be able to affect action. Whistle-blowers are people, who disclose information about organisation members' illegal, immoral, or illegitimate practices to someone who may be able to effect action (Near & Miceli, 1985). From another perspective, the whistle-blower could mean what the police officers do by blowing their whistles to alert the public of a crime (Bjorkelo, 2013). Oakley and White (2006) submit that anti-corruption campaigns may not be successful without effective whistleblowing while the people are more likely to whistle-blow if they have convincing evidence of the wrongdoing, if they were directly affected by the wrongdoing, and if the whistle-blower perceived the wrongdoing to be severe (Miceli & Near, 1985).

How does it work? According to the Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Finance's official website: <http://whistle.finance.gov.ng>, the whistle-blowing programme is designed to encourage anyone with information about a violation of financial regulations, mismanagement of public funds and assets, financial malpractice, fraud and theft to report it. The FMF-Whistle is a secure, online portal, through which information, bordering on economic and financial crimes that are deemed to be in the interest of the public can be disclosed. The portal also permits the person disclosing the information to perform a status check on matters that have been reported on the whistle-blowing portal (Bulusson, 2017). A whistle-blower responsible for providing government with information that directly leads to the voluntary return of stolen or concealed public funds or assets may be entitled to anywhere between 2.5 per cent and 5.0 per cent of amount recovered.

In order to qualify for the reward, the whistle-blower should provide government with information it does not already have, and could not otherwise obtain from any other publicly available source to the government. violation of government's financial regulations, such as failure to comply with the Financial Regulations Act, Public Procurement Act and other extant laws, mismanagement/misappropriation of public funds, assets, vehicles, information on stolen public funds, information on concealed public funds, financial malpractice, fraud, theft, collecting/soliciting bribes, corruption, diversion of revenues, under-reporting of revenues, conversion of funds for personal use, fraudulent and unapproved payments.

The actual recovery must also be on account of the information provided by the whistle-blower (Bulusson, 2017). Although, whistle-blowing is associated with some risks that which may discourage whistle-blowers from reporting corrupt acts. The present study has found that the stress associated with being a witness to corrupt acts was another risk to whistle-blowers. However, fear of being attacked and fear of being implicated were not regarded by most of the respondents as discouraging factors in whistle-blowing such as the fear of attack or being implicated might be an issue only when whistle-blowers disclose their identities. Before this time, the Federal Government had spelt out the benefits awaiting whistle-blowers. The reward for any amount between one and five billion naira would be five per cent for the first N1 billion, and four per cent of the remaining N4 billion, with any amount over N5 billion attracting 2.5 per cent reward.

Whistle-blowing is unique because the normal institutional mechanisms put in place to check corruption have not be effective (Oakley & White, 2006) even though, lack of support from

others institutional mechanisms tend to slow down the policy (Rehg *et al.*, 2008). Whistle-blowing has some limitations such as the adverse effects on the public confidence in the profession of the corrupt person (Oakley & White, 2006). Whistle-blowing may also have adverse effects on the whistle-blowers' access to work-related benefits (Rehg *et al.*, 2008) while employees found those engaging in whistle-blowing as traitors (Chassang & Miquel, 2012; Near, Rehg, Van Scotter & Miceli, 2004). Despite these observations, Kupoluyi (2016) believes that institutions such as the public service that had served as conduit to siphon funds would be stripped of all trappings that have bred corruption over the years, warning that such cleansing should only be carried out within the ambit of the law and due process.

2.4 Good Governance

Over the years, there has been an increasing discourse on politics and development across the globe has resulted in constant definitions and re-definitions as to what really constitutes good governance (Doornbos, 2003; Suchitra, 2004; Gisselquist, 2012). Despite the contentions surrounding the concept, good governance has assumed an entrenched position as an indicator for measuring the development progress of any nation as well as a central factor for development. Oburota (2003) argues that politically, people may disagree about the best means of achieving good governance, but they quite agreed that good governance is absolutely imperative for social and economic progress.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines good governance as striving for: rule of law, transparency, participation, equity, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision in the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority (UNDP, 2002). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), defines good

governance as having eight major characteristics of a government in terms of being: participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable, inclusive and follows the rule of law. Good governance also assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making (OECD, 2000). According to Madhav (2007), as quoted in Ogundiya (2010), it has much to do with the ethical grounding of governance and must be evaluated with reference to specific norms and laid down objectives.

The Nigerian 1999 Constitution (as amended), under Section 16 (2) acknowledged that the essence of the Nigerian state is to promote the common good. The implication of this is that the common good stands in opposition to the good of rulers or of a ruling group. It implies that every individual, no matter how high or low, has a duty to share in promoting the welfare of the community as well as a right to benefit from that welfare. Common, implies that the word 'good' is all inclusive. In essence, the common good cannot exclude or exempt any section of the population. If any section of the population is in fact excluded from participating in the life of the community, even at a minimal level, then that is a contradiction to the concept of the common good (Eboh, 2003). The above explanations capture the view of Ogundiya (2010), who maintained that governance is good provided it is able to achieve the desired end of the state that is defined in terms of justice, equity, protection of life and property, enhanced participation, preservation of the rule of law and improved living standard of the population.

Similarly, Nigeria's Vision 2020 document defined good governance as a means of accountability in all its ramifications. It also means the rule of law and an unfettered judiciary; that is freedom of expression and choice in political association. Good governance means that

processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. Effectiveness and efficiency means that state institutions are functioning optimally according to the rule of law, thus tremendously enhancing the overall effectiveness of government.

There is the need for collaboration between and among the various levels of government in Nigeria. Collaboration is the co-operative arrangement in which two or more parties sharing of know-how work mutually towards common goal. Collaboration is effective when the parties have compatible goals. The major areas of collaboration are: fiscal allocation, projects and programme planning, policy determination, project and programme distribution, as well as implementation. These choices are jointly made to ensure that all groups have an impact of national presence in their communities in accordance with minimum national standard (Ikelegbe, 2004; Aiyede, 2005) as the federal system derives the advantage of cost savings, fiscal easement, personnel easement, experimentation, lower political risk, image enhancement, greater leverage, emergency management, cost clarification, and economic development (Henry, 2007).

2.5 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, as the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2000, eventually ended in 2015 (Jaiyesimi, 2016). The SDGs have adopted an all-inclusive approach, taking on board challenges faced by all nations and promoting the co-operation between the private and public sector in the execution of the goals (Jaiyesimi, 2016). SDGs provide opportunities and challenges for developing countries, as the cost of its implementation

will be high though it can bring long-term benefits. Nations are different and have their peculiarities and different perspectives.

It is important that each nation should translate each relevant SDG into National Plans of Action. This must be borne in mind when creating plans and policies for Africa (Jaiyesimi, 2016). Four major challenges that need to be addressed for achieving the SDGs in Africa are financial, maintaining peace, measuring progress and accountability. They comprise 17 goals and 169 targets. The SDGs is expected to take a more inclusive and diverse For the SDGs, a number of normative attributes and goals have been agreed such as rule of law, accountability and participation. These are elements of the 'good governance' characteristics, as promoted and demanded by the World Bank and other financial institutions in development co-operation that brings improved governance (Mueleman & Niestroy, 2015).

2.6 Theoretical Framework

Structural-functionalism makes it possible to compare political systems in terms of functionality, state-capacity and good governance (Ogundiwin, 2015). It tries to explain the state and the political system with reference to equilibrium-seeking functioning of the structural parts. Structural-functionalism, according to Gabriel A. Almond (1965), a system tends to perform functions that are similar to David Easton's input-output functionality (Ogundiwin, 2015). In otherwords, the output is a function of the input. This can be likened to the whistle-blowing programme, such that the success of the anti-corruption drive (output) is directly proportional, or is a function of the input (whistle-blowing).

Hence, when the input equals to output, equilibrium is established and this is germane for good governance and development in a political system. Structural-functionalism has been the main theoretical model in use for explaining corruption (Lovseth, 2001). However, the main criticism of this theory is that it assumes that a system would live on as long as its structures function in such a way as to achieve its goal (Taylor, 1967). In reality, this may not be feasible because nothing really lives forever as events and phenomena unfold and change from time-to-time.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study area is Ogun State, South-West, Nigeria. This research was designed in a qualitative and quantitative terms. One Hundred and Forty-five (145) Nigerians, cutting across the six geopolitical zones, were randomly selected from the estimated study of population 1,500 and stratified on the basis of age, gender, religion, marital status, educational level and profession/occupation. Sources of data were both primary and secondary. Primary data were obtained using the instruments of structured questionnaires while relevant books, journals and government publications constituted the secondary sources. Relevant hypotheses were tested and the data obtained were presented using tables and percentages while Chi-Square and ANOVA statistical tools were used to analyse the data. A checklist of questions was raised in a well-structured questionnaire, to elicit information from the respondents (Kindly see the appendix for sample questionnaire).

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Result in Table 1, shows that more than half (53.8 per cent) of the respondents were between the ages of 21 and 40. Majority of the respondents were married (81.4 per cent), also majority (83.5 per cent) of the respondents had tertiary education in their various fields and disciplines.

Results also shows in Table 1 that most of the respondents were male (60 per cent) and majority of the respondents were civil servants (71 per cent).

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents n=145

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Less than 20	36	24.8
21-40	78	53.8
41-60	9	6.2
Above 60	22	15.2
Gender		
Male	90	62.1
Female	55	37.9
Religion		
Christian	43	29.7
Islam	86	59.3
Traditional	16	11.0
Marital Status		
Single	118	81.4
Married	27	18.0
Educational Level		
Primary	7	4.8
Secondary	17	11.7
Tertiary	121	83.5
Profession/Occupation		
Civil servant	103	71.0
Farmer	4	2.8
Trader	25	17.2
Student	9	6.2

Table 2: Respondents' Attitude Towards Reportage n=145

Variable	Frequency (%)
Are you part member of a political party	
Yes	33 (22.8)
No	112 (77.2)
How often do you listen to the news	

Regularly	72 (49.7)
Leisure	40 (27.6)
Rarely	33 (22.8)
What part of news do you listen to mostly	
Entertainment	58 (40)
News	50 (34.5)
Crime & politics	37 (25.5)
Which is your best news medium	
Television	32 (22.1)
Internet	95(65.5)
Newspaper	6 (4.1)
Radio	12(8.3)
Are you computer-literate	
Yes	128 (88.3)
No	17 (11.7)
How often do you surf the Internet	
Often	54 (37.2)
Regularly	65 (44.8)
Leisurely	20 (13.8)
Rarely	6 (4.1)
Why do you surf the Internet	
During personal work	41(28.3)
To search for latest news	50 (34.5)
Official work	7 (4.8)
For leisure	47(32.4)

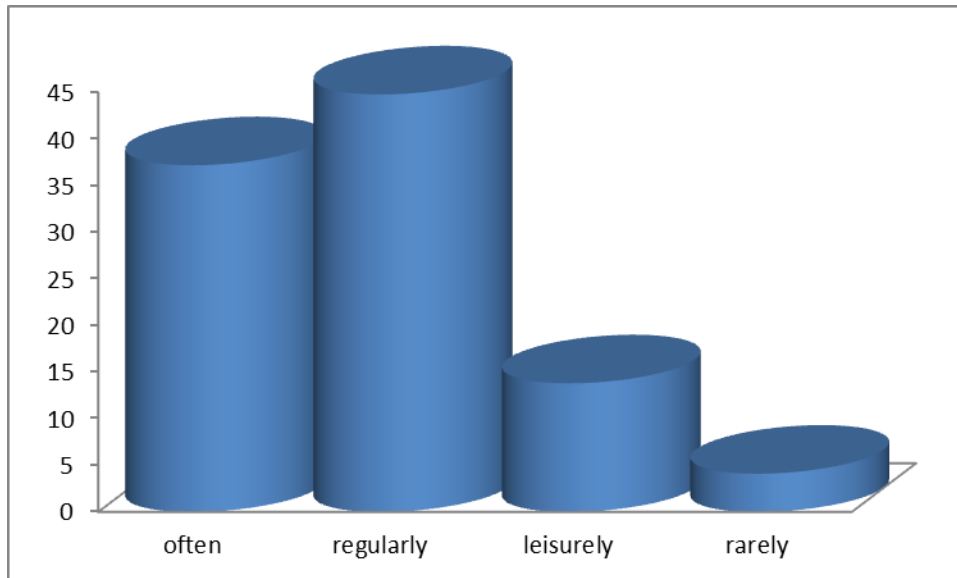


Figure 1: How Often Do You Surf the Internet?

Result from Figure 1, shows that majority (88.3 per cent) of the respondents were computer literate, out of the one hundred and forty-five respondents (145) interviewed on the listed medium for getting information. 65.5 per cent of the respondents revealed that they get information mostly, when they surf the Internet. 49.7 per cent of the respondents indicated that they surf the Internet regularly and listen to news while 32.4 per cent revealed that they surf the Internet during their leisure time, to search for news.

4.3: Awareness on Whistle-Blowing Programme in Nigeria

Result in Table 3 shows that the respondents' awareness on anti-corruption agencies was (84.1 per cent) and from the listed anti-corruption agencies, majority (78.6 per cent) of the respondents indicated they were aware of EFCC and 39.3 per cent of the respondents rate the performance of the agency as good. More than half (50.3 per cent) of the respondents revealed that the anti-corruption agencies could be one-sided/biased in their judgement, while 27.6 per cent of the respondents were not sure if the anti-corruption agencies could be one-sided or not.

Most (66.9 per cent) of the respondents revealed that they have heard of whistle-blower programme, as a means of curbing corruption. Less than half of the respondent revealed that they were willing to whistle-blow and 31.7 per cent of them revealed they do not abhor fear of whistle-blowing while 48.3 per cent of the respondents revealed they were not willing to whistle-blow and 38.6 per cent of them revealed they do not abhor fear in whistle-blowing.

Less than half (46.9 per cent) of the respondents indicate the whistle-blowing programme cannot be retained/sustained for long in Nigeria. More than half (57.9 per cent) of the respondents revealed that they know the website to visit on whistle-blowing, but most of the respondents revealed they do not trust government officials on the use of intelligence information given to them through whistle-blowing. Less than half (45.5per cent) of respondents said that the identity of the whistle-blower is not secured.

Table 3: Level of Awareness on Whistle-blowing Programme in Nigeria

Variable	Frequency (%)
Are you aware of the anti-corruption programme	
Yes	122 (84.1)
No	23 (15.9)
How long have you been aware	
Less than a year	42 (29.0)
Less than 5 year	10 (11.0)
Between 6-10 years	29(20.0)
Over 10 years	58(40)
Which of the anti-corruption is most common	
EFCC	114 (78.6)
ICPC	23 (15.9)

CCB	4 (2.8)
Others	4 (2.8)

How long do you rate the agencies

Excellent	42 (29.0)
Good	57 (39.3)
Average	41(28.3)
Poor	5 (3.4)

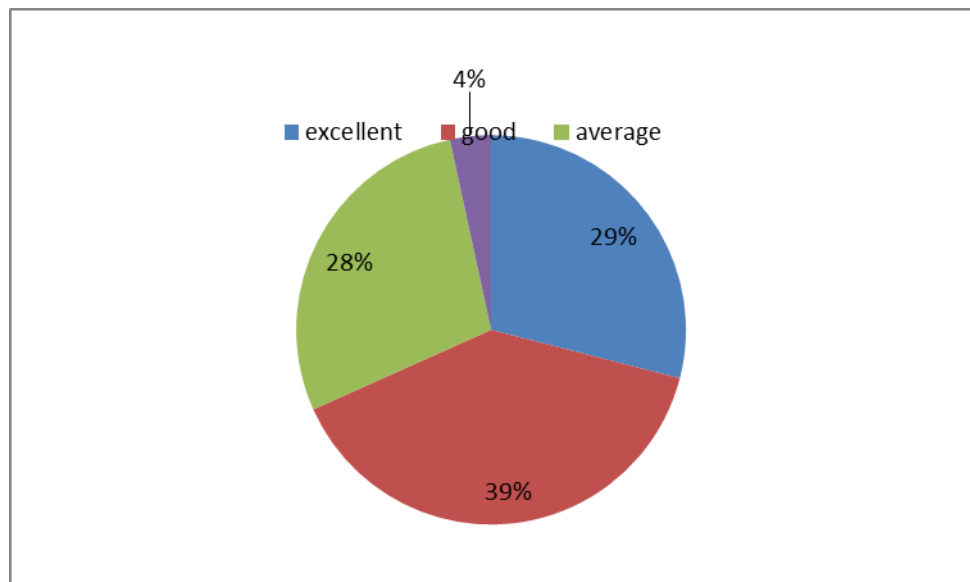


Figure 2: How Do You Rate the Agencies?

Which of the agencies do you know well

EFCC	109 (75.2)
ICPC	28 (19.3)
Others	8 (5.5)

Do you think anti-corruption fight is one-sided/biased

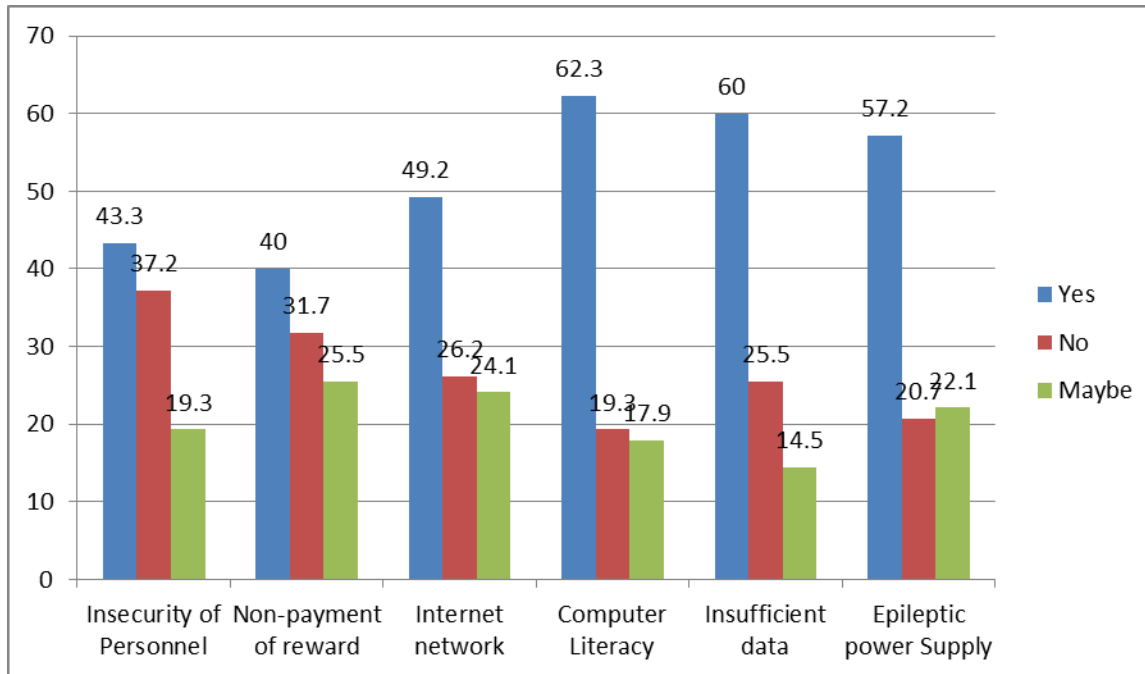
Yes	73 (50.3)
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No	24(16.6)
Maybe	40 (27.6)
Undecided	8 (5.5)
Have you heard of the whistle-blower programme before	
Yes	97 (66.9)
No	46 (33.1)
Are you willing to be a whistle-blower	
Yes	62 (42.8)
No	70 (48.3)
Undecided	9 (6.2)
Never	4 (2.8)
Do you abhor/ have fear to be a whistle-blower	
Yes	46 (31.7)
No	56 (38.6)
Undecided	32 (21.4)
Never	12 (8.2)
Do you think whistle-blowing would curb corruption	
Yes	54 (37.2)
No	53 (36.6)
Undecided	33 (22.8)
Never	5 (3.4)
Could this policy be sustainable	
Yes	46 (31.7)
No	68 (46.9)
Maybe	28 (19.3)
Undecided	3(2.1)
Do you know whistle-blowing website	
Yes	61 (42.1)

No	84 (57.9)
Do you think ICT facilities used cannot be compromised?	
Yes	46 (31.7)
No	57 (39.3)
Maybe	41 (28.3)
Never	1 (0.7)
Do you trust Government official with whistle-blower information	
Yes	45 (31.0)
No	87 (60.0)
Not sure	13 (9.0)
Do you think financial reward being given is encouraging	
Yes	71 (49.0)
No	63 (43.4)
Not sure	11 (7.6)
Is the whistle-blower identity secure	
Yes	58(40)
No	66(45.5)
Not sure	21(14.5)
Do you think the policy is sustainable	
Yes	64 (44.1)
No	46 (31.7)
Not sure	35(24.1)

4.4: Constraints Mitigating Against Whistle-Blowing Programme in Nigeria

In Table 4, result revealed that 62.3 per cent of the respondents agreed that the level of knowledge; computer literacy among Nigerian could affect the whistle-blowing programme, as more than half (57.2 per cent) of the respondents indicate that epileptic power supply was a major constraint to whistle-blowing, while less than half of the respondent (37.2 per cent) indicated that insecurity of the personnel manning the facility was not a constraint to whistle-blowing in ensuring that citizens are able to actively interact and participate in governance (Eneanya, 2016). This is the thrust of structural-functionalism in explaining that the equilibrium-seeking functioning of the structural parts makes the system to perform functions that are similar to input-output mechanism (Ogundiwin, 2015; Almond, 1965).



Hypothesis of the Study

4.5: There is Significant Relationship between the Respondents’ Socio-Economic Characteristics and Constraints Mitigating Against Whistle-Blowing

In Table 5, result showed that there was significant relationship between the respondents’ religion, educational level, profession/occupation and constraints militating against the whistle-blowing programme.

Table 5: There is No Significant Relationship Between the Respondents’ Socio-Economic Characteristics and Constraints Mitigating Against Whistle-Blowing

Variable	Chi-square	Df	P-value	Decision
Gender	0.991	2	0.609	NS
Religion	31.033	2	0.000	S
Marital status	2.994	1	0.084	NS
Education	12.673	3	0.005	S
Profession/Occupation	26.918	9	0.001	S

5.0 CONCLUSION

The paper has successfully examined the whistle-blowing programme by identifying the various challenges facing the policy and suggesting ways to surmount the challenges in achieving good governance. It concludes that with the adequate use of ICTs by the whistle-blower, the task of curbing corruption would receive a boost in Nigeria.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends as follows:

- i. The whistle-blowing programme portends high tendency to curbing corruption in Nigeria and should be sustained.
- ii. The government should ensure that enabling law is put in place to give legal backing to the programme.
- iii. There should be more accountability and transparency on the amount realised and the way and manner proceeds are to be administered.
- iv. Mutual trust between the government and the governed should be significantly improved by being open and sincere in public administration.
- v. ICT facilities should be made available and affordable for many Nigerians to participate in the programme.

7.0 APPRECIATION

I sincerely wish to express my profound appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE), for awarding me the Travel Grant that made it possible for me to participate in ICPP 3. Thank you!

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Whistle-Blower, ICTs and Good Governance in Nigeria

Dear Respondent,

Many developing countries have experienced monumental degrees of corruption that has contributed negatively to their development. However, little success has been recorded as more cases of corruption have been reported in greater magnitude and dimension, in spite of the series of programmes and projects implemented to curb corruption in such nations, including Nigeria. Hence, there is the need to adopt a different approach to curb this malaise. As a way out, the active and direct engagement of the citizens becomes more relevant in promoting transparency and accountability in the public sector for good governance and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objective of the study is to promote citizens participation, transparency and accountability through the use of ICTs by the whistle-blower, to bring about good governance that can actually be measured. How can things be done differently to achieve better accountability outcomes? How can this be achieved efficiently and effectively? And how can such policy be sustained?

Please, read carefully and tick (✓), or fill appropriately. All information gathered will be used purely for research purposes and be treated with utmost confidentiality. Thank you.

SECTION A

(Socio-Economic Characteristics)

1. Age: Less than 20 () 21-40 () 41 - 60 () 60 and above
2. Gender: Male () Female ()
3. Religion: Christian () Islam () Traditionalist ()
4. Marital status: Single () Married ()
5. Educational Background: () Primary () Secondary () Tertiary ()
6. Profession:

SECTION B

(Attitude Towards News Reportage)

7. Are you part/member of a political party? Yes () No ()
8. How often do you listen to the news? a. Often b. Regularly c. Leisurely d. Rarely
9. What part of news do you listen to mostly? a. Entertainment b. News highlight c. Crime and politics
10. Which is your best medium of listening to news? a. Television b. Internet c. Newspaper d. Radio
11. Are you computer literate? a. Yes b. No
12. How often do you surf the Internet? a. Often b. Regularly c. Leisurely d. Rarely
13. Why do you surf the Internet? a. During personal work b. To search for latest news c. For official work d. For leisure

(Level of Awareness on Whistle-Blowing Programme in Nigeria)

14. Are you aware of anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria? a. Yes b. No
15. How long have you be hearing about them? a. Less than a year ago b. Less than 5 years c. Between 6-10 years d. Over 10 years ago
16. Which of the anti-corruption agencies are you very conversant with? a. EFCC b. ICPC b. CCB d. Others
17. How do you rate the agency? a. Excellent b. Good c. Average d. Poor
18. Which of the agencies do you think is most effective?.....
19. How would you rate anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria in general? a. Fair b. Good c. Bad d. Worst
20. Do you think anti-corruption agencies are one-sided/biased in their duties? a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Don't know
21. Have you heard of the whistle-blower programme in Nigeria? a. Yes b. No
22. Are you willing to be a whistle-blower if opportune? a. Yes b. No c. Undecided d. Never
23. Do you abhor fear to be a whistle-blower? a. Yes b. No c. Undecided d. Never

24. Do you think whistle blowing would curb corruption in a country or organisation? a. Yes
b. No c. Undecided d. Never
25. Could this policy be sustained for long? a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
26. Do you know the website address or process involved in whistle-blowing? a. Yes b. No
27. Do you think the ICT facilities used for whistle-blowing cannot be compromised? a. Yes
b. No c. Maybe d. Never
28. Do you trust government officials in implementing the policy? a. Yes b. No. Not sure
29. Do you think financial reward being given is enough to encourage whistle-blowing? a a.
Yes b. No c. Not sure
30. Do you think the identity of whistle-blower is protected enough? a. Yes b. No c. Not sure
31. Do you think the whistle-blowing programme is sustainable in Nigeria? a. Yes b. No c.
Not sure

(Constraints to Whistle-Blowing Programme in Nigeria)

32. Insecurity of personnel a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
33. Non-payment of reward to whistle-blowers a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
34. Non-implementation of given information by government a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d.
Never
35. Network challenges a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
36. Low level of computer literacy a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
37. Insufficient data to surf the Internet a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never
38. Epileptic power supply to listen to news update a. Yes b. No c. Maybe d. Never