



Understanding Corruption In Nigeria's Fourth Republic- Aristotle's Mean Theory Thesis

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ABSTRACT

Subversion and other forms of corruption still subsist as one of the greatest challenges facing Nigeria. The existence of this phenomenon in virtually all strata of the nation's economic and sociopolitical relations is said to be the major reason why poverty level remains high irrespective of the volume of her commercial activities, particularly, oil earnings in world market. This paper critically assessed and appraised the mean theory with emphasis on the level of corruption in Nigeria. In doing so, it specifically raised two research questions, vis: 1. Would Aristotelian mean theory lead to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria? 2. Could the level of corruption in Nigeria be eradicated by recourse to Aristotelian mean theory? Sequel to foregoing, the study hypothesised that the mean theory of Aristotle would lead to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria, and that the level of corruption in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, could be reduced by the application of the Aristotelian mean principles. Secondary data were generated and analyzed, employing ex-post-facto design. The analysis is built on the mean theory of Aristotle and political economy of Hegel. The study reveals that, Nigeria could experience a level of reduction in corruption, with tenacious application of the moderating principles. The study, therefore, recommends that effective or strong institutional mechanisms should be established and strengthened to enforce codes that moderate corrupt tendencies within the polity, as well ensuring that only individual with unblemished records and proven integrity leads the crusade against corruption.

Keywords: Corruption, Nigeria, Aristotelian mean theory, Taxonomies of corruption and Anti-corruption

INTRODUCTION

Aristotle was the third in order of general philosophy in Greece after Socrates and Plato. He was born in Stagira, Macedonia in a royal court of a physician. Being an outstanding son of a scientist became a philosopher according to the order of Plato, his teacher. At the age of 17, Aristotle attended Plato's Academy for 21 years. Though Aristotle was a student, but because of his deep desire in philosophy, was also a teacher in the platonic Academy. Aristotle share heavily the attributes of his father, at the same time via observation and experience in the political activities of Greece challenged the Plato's idea of knowledge. Aristotle surveyed nearly all human known knowledge in biology, literary theory, physics, logic, zoology and social sciences.

According to Bowel, J & P. Hobson (1974: p. 121), the range of Aristotle's interest was vast, covering most of the sciences and many of the arts, physics, chemistry, biology, zoology, botany, psychology, political theory, ethics logic, metaphysics, literary theory and rhetoric, as well as education. To Aristotle, the mind of the child is like pliable clay which he maintained could be molded into any desired shape, the ultimate goal of human existence should be individual happiness and his education. Aristotle's political

theory rests on empirical observation of what transpired in Athens, Stagira, Macedonia and other city-states in Greece. This accounts the reasons he revisited theories of Socrates and Plato his teacher.

After the death of Plato in Athens in 347 BC and in the subsequent years, Aristotle served at the court of Philip of Macedon as teacher to Plato's son-Alexander the Great. During the period of expansion of territory by Alexander the Great, Aristotle fled back to Athens and opened his Academy, "the Lyceum". Again, during this material time in Aristotle's life, the Athens had a treat to try him for impunity; he fled to Euboea and continued his philosophical life, later on died in 322 BC. Aristotle's interest in medicine, physical sciences, and general sciences was an inheritance from his father

Corruption is a generic phenomenon, and the degree or level of its perpetuation, both in Nigeria and beyond; developed, developing and undeveloped states varies. It is unethical behavior blended in over-materialism, which of course, is the yardstick to measure most social vices in Nigeria.

Alison A. I. (1999: p.12), succinctly mentioned in his monograph entitled, 'Rise and fall of Nigeria', that "power without corruption is not a distant dream". This fact explains the actual reason for this seminar paper. Thus, political power and bureaucratic position in Nigeria seem to be a source of enhancement of public servants instead of opportunity to serve, as prescribed by Aristotle.

The defilement of earth men from the creation was the direct result of corruption (Sin) and God created man, fixed him and his wife in the divine garden of Eden, provided every necessary comfort that was fit for the sustainability of man, and as the commander of the universe, placed restriction on a fruit to preserve his headship, but man in search of material things disobeyed the command of God, thereby threw the entire earth into magnified hardship. When man was plunged into God's anger, man never pleaded for guilty or felt remorse for his wickedness. Metaphysical interpretation and more understanding of this account is in the Holy bible - Genesis, (3: pp. 1 – 24) as documented by Moses. The account of Achan in the holy bible, Ananias and Saphira were all examples of corruption that led them to death. Joshua (8: pp 10 -19. & Act: 5 pp 1 - 10).

As an endemic disease that cut across the entire world and occupies a reasonable scene in political and economic environment of Nigeria, President Nicolas also and his wife in Europe were indicted for corrupt practices, there were corruption charges against Clinton over water gate scandal in America, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana in the early 1980s executed major corrupt politicians due to series of financial and economic crimes committed, Muammar Mohammed Abu Minyara- Gaddafi of Libya was also executed by American troops over series of crimes ranging from autocratic leadership, drug abuse, rape of woman, terrorism, indiscriminate killing of innocent people including women, and children and uncoordinated character of high repute. The diary of Osama Bin Laden's killing on 2nd May, 2011 was captured by Jonathan E. Aliogo in his book, "Rise and Fall of Osamar Bin Laden" (2011: pp. 3-48). Alhaji Omaru Dikko, a former Nigerian Minister of transport in 1984 July 5th was kidnapped in London. Furthermore, on corruption case, Malcolm N. S (2005: pp. 675-677), enshrined in his "International Law", fifth edition that, the Nigerian corrupt leader was placed in a crate to be flown to Nigeria and that the crate was opened at Stanford Airport only to discover the Nigerian former leader in a crate, a shameful and laughable occurrence of high magnitude. Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed due to much request for the rights of the Ogoni people; M.K.O. Abiola's election victory was annulled on 12 June 1993 and finally died in the prison (<https://www.justice.gov>). Dele Giwa was murdered via timed bomb mail because of his publication in media against the military leadership of Nigeria in 1986 with others whose names were not made known to the public because of the attempts to perpetrate themselves in office (source; <https://en.wikipedia.org>).

Achi (2012: p. 67), noted that "the recklessness of Nigerian leaders due to power drunk had influenced the politicians to develop interest in acquiring too much wealth, with little or no regard for the state's constitutional creed and principles". The Crimes Watch magazine had discovered viable approaches to cover up the corruption scourge by Nigeria politicians. One of the major contraceptives of corrupt leaders is to corner the crime dictators; the, lawyers, police, customs, Immigration, EFCC, ICPC, NASS members and courts behind closed doors for secret settlement. In this regards, these institutions at times perform pseudo functions in pretense. The domino effects of corrupt syndrome had resulted to the neglect of oil producing states since 1960. These communities are left in abject condition, yet no serious policy is put in

place to ameliorate or remedy the situation, because the local politicians in the communities who supposed to represent the people are ever ready to grab whatever amount of money towards the execution of the projects in their various communities, thereby denying the people their constitutional dividends, just to acquire wealth on the detriment of others.

Different military regimes alongside civilian dispensation from 1960 till present have not ruled without corruption. Some of these regimes came up with anti-corruption institutions that never checked corruption milieu, yet they end up revolving around the orbit of governance without taken the bull by the horn. For example, the Federal Character Principle was entrenched into Nigeria constitution to check employment, administrative, and political imbalance but the purpose for which it was made never saw the light of the day.

The fact that Nigeria reaps billions of dollars as proceeds from the sale of crude oil and gas does not reflect in the regions that produce the oil, rather, Nigerian leaders mismanaged the proceeds for personal frivolities, thereby systematically neglecting, and impoverishing these states. Most of these communities live the worst conditions of life, as indicated below, because they lack basic amenities, like hospitals, electricity, good roads, portable water etc. and wallow in abject poverty while the governing elites masquerading as leaders amass public good to themselves and conspicuous consumption with serious pillage of money in foreign banks without investing it locally.

Nekabari J.N. (2000: p.20) says that, “democracy presupposes and derives their existence from the generality of the people”. This assertion is very correct, and the point is that most Nigeria leaders decide to eat up the future of the citizens and future of the generations yet unborn. Consequently, due to high level corruption in Nigeria, coupled with Obasanjo’s personal experiences, the fourth republic regime constituted EFCC and ICPC in the year 2000 to check and monitor politicians and public servants via the financial records to improve the economy from economic deterioration and decay.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of corruption in Nigeria since 1960 to date is at the aggregate level. It is indeed a syndrome that requires an intellectual attention. This paper tends to explore and critically survey the good life embedded or factored in the ideal state. Successive political leaders had not properly address the level of corruption in Nigeria like a few country in Africa, and Western world. How can Nigeria eschew corruption when those who enforce the checks are corrupt? The respect for rule of law, reduction to electoral malpractices, upholding of federal character principle and reducing the gaps between the “haves and the have not” forms the basis of the paper.

Eme, E. (2009: p. 14), looked at corruption as a syndrome that had eaten deep into the fabrics of many key socio-political and economic institutions of the state. Peterside, (2007, p.104), x-rayed corruption to include electoral malpractice, mismanagement of public funds, impunity, blatant disregard for rule of law, god-fatherism, bribery, nepotism, human rituals etc. The seminar seeks clearly to address, the various milieu to the point of reducing centrifugal forces in the political engineering of Nigeria. When the economy is vibrant, wallowing in good governance, punishing offenders appropriately, removing economic and political road blocks and the likes, the case of pariah will be reduced in Nigeria, the issue of terrorism will be zeroed and the problem of capital flight will be a thing of the past. We centered to bring to bear the various factors that constitutes a state to possess the real nature of the power of the republic to enable us highlight the ultimate course of Aristotelian proposition. Arising from the above, the study seeks to investigate the potency of the theory on the moderation or possible eradication of corruption in Nigeria by posing the following research questions:

1. Could Aristotelian mean theory lead to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic between?
2. Could the level of corruption in Nigeria’s Republic be eradicated by the application of Aristotelian mean theory?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this paper is to critically assess the level of corruption in Nigerian polity, and various mechanisms of checking it. In specific terms, the study intends to:

1. Determine whether Aristotelian mean theory led to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria during the period under investigation.
2. Ascertain if corruption in Nigeria could be eradicated by the application of Aristotelian mean theory.

Significance of the study

The study has both Theoretical and Practical significance. Theoretically, it will contribute to the scholarly debate on the concept, forms and dimensions of corruption titling towards intractability and its effects on national security in Nigeria. The data provided will enhance a comparative study of mechanisms for moderating and eradicating corruption in Nigeria with other nations of the World and the academia. It will equally test the applicability of different findings in the literature on the impact of corruption on state development.

It also will complement available literature in the field of anti-corruption crusade and the Aristotelian political philosophy, (Mean Theory). Practically, the outcome of the paper will be instrumental to checking the socio-political and economic corruption ravaging the Nigerian state. It will help the policy makers to reposition, complement or change the strategy/ approaches or methods of pursuing corrupt free polity.

Finally, the study would also provide information to the general public and Nigerian government, the pertinent information on credible leaders who will effectively evolve policies that stagnates corrupt practices within the society.

Literature Review

This paper investigates the nexus between Aristotle's Mean Theory, and the level of corruption in Nigeria. The objective of the review is to analyze or examine pertinent literatures, in relation to the major variables, with respect to the proposed or research questions so as to locate the gaps in the literature. This review revolves around the following sub themes:

- i. The Aristotelian Mean Proposition.
- ii. The Level of Corruption in Nigerian polity.

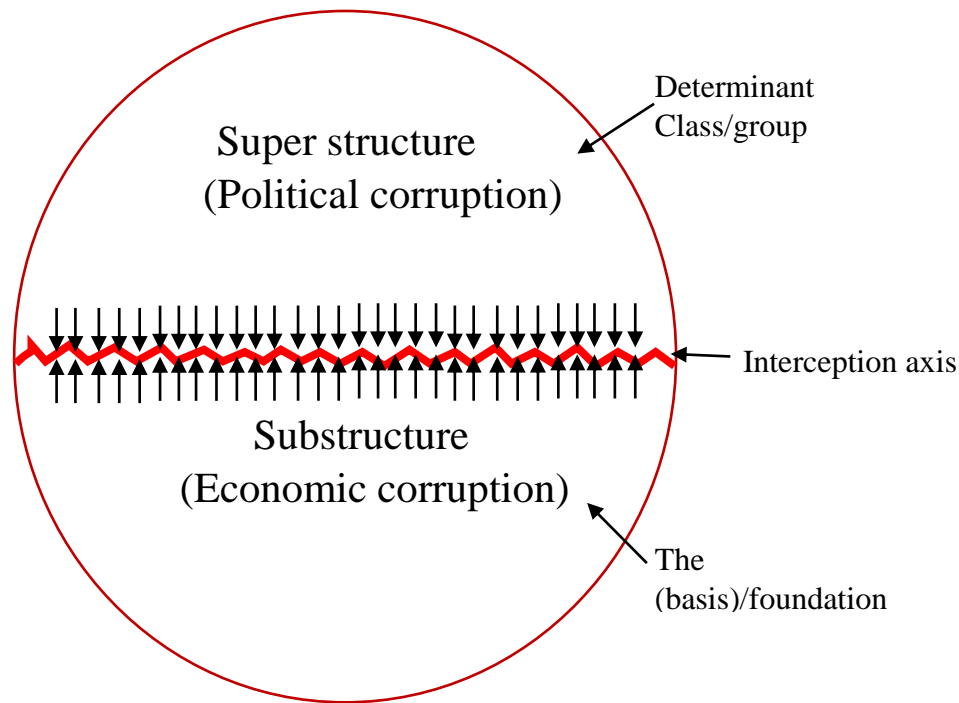
Theme I: Aristotelian Mean Proposition

Aristotle's ethics and the midpoint notion are often linked to contemporary political values such as fairness, balance, and moderation in public affairs. In his treatise, he presented the concept of the golden mean, which shows great concern for proper balance and moderation, Cunningham, B. (1999; p.5), proposed that ethical or right behavior is the balance or "mean" between thinking and acting in extreme ways. He further argued that such cases requires search for the proper balance.

During pre-colonial Nigeria, various regions evolved viable approaches that brought administrative corruption down to the barest minimum, and set workable principles and moral values that guided human relations. Philips & Akpokighe (2014) avers that colonialism introduced systemic corruption on a grand scale across most sub-Saharan Africa, repudiating the indigenous values, checks and balances and pretentiously superimposing align structures, thereby destabilizing the well-run bureaucratic machinery previously in existence across pre-colonial Nigeria.

Corruption is the use of state powers for private interest to the detriment of the public. The menace is manifested in different forms and levels of governance in Nigeria. Several institutions had been put in place to check corruption in Nigeria, yet none could hold water. The Cambridge International Dictionary of English defines corruption as, a dishonest use of one's position or power to one's advantage, especially for money". Whereas Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines corruption as, "dishonest or wicked behavior". We declined that not every wicked behavior could be seen as corruption, though, every corruption is evil, but not every evil is corruption. Chuta (2004 p. 1) noted that corruption is the perversion or abandonment of standard. However, corruptions are in types as shown in the diagram below.

Model 1: A representation of the mechanical relationship between politics and economy in Nigeria



Source: Achi V. A. (2018)

The substructure is the foundation of the economy and all production relations, vis-a-vis determining the base of the economy. Whereas, the super structure anchors on the substructure, which in turn react in line with the behaviors of the former. Hence, the analysis portrays mechanical interactions between the two concepts.

Diversion of projects funds to other states damages the economy. The same is applicable when sound political policies are not put in force or weak political institutions are not reinforced to achieve desired objectives.

Corruption

Corruption leads to excess ownership of private properties. Consequently, most third world countries especially Nigeria is poor due to the fact that, most public office holders have diverted public funds for personal use, thereby impoverishing the masses. Guaba, O.P. (2007: p. 351), believed that, “property or private property denotes possession of material things which are open to personal or selfish use. In the view of Aristotle, the private ownership of property via what he regarded as, “separate sphere of interest”, would eliminate quarrels, other social vices and conflicts. Even if Aristotle championed the private ownership of property, he did so with serious cautions from excess, and this shall be the point of departure in this study. This by implication is subject to the type of constitution that regulates the acquisition of wealth. It is true that the right to property is derived from the general theory of right to property, but this right must not override the property rights of others.

Moderation is deeply rooted in laws of ethics. This theory posits that somewhere in a parallel line lies the mean- the mean itself is used to measure the central point. The mean is not too small or too big; not too good or too bad but fair which is good.

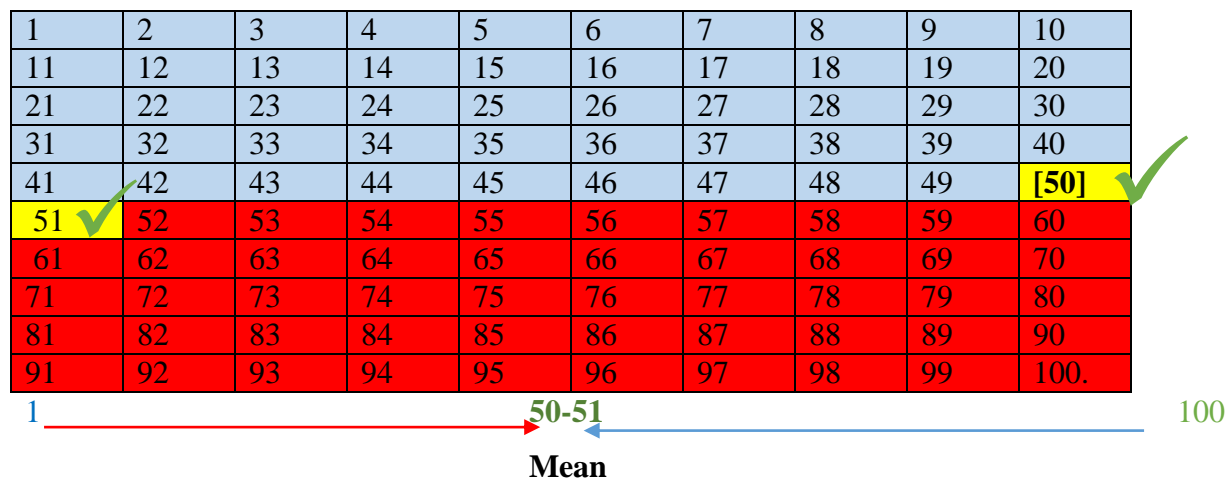
Aristotle in Foster, (1942: p. 11) cited the Ethics (1,106a) by indicating that, the mean is situated in between two extremes. Aristotle says in Foster that;

The equal part is something median between excess and deficiency. By the mean of an entity and a point equidistant from both extremes and this point is one and the same for everybody, by the mean relative to us and, an amount neither too large nor too small.

Extremeness of anything in human relations lack virtue, and virtue itself is good life, while extreme connotes improper way life. Without virtue, it is basically impossible to fear God. Goodness revolves around purity, goodness, sincerity, diligence, knowledge; self-control, kindness etc. are the major instrument of moderation. The epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians; (NKJV 4: vs. 8) says,

....whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.

Model 2: Showcasing the mean in a hundred table



Source: Achi V.A. (2018).

Aristotle's mean (moderation) theory refers to the middling in all human endeavours. To explain this point quoted in Makodi B. N. (2010: p. 335)

The term mean refers to the middle point. In statistical terminology, the mean is the middle value of a set of data (score) rated in order of magnitude. It is the value that lies half way and therefore divides the data set in the equal parts such that in the distribution of score 50% of the frequency lie above or below the frequency. When the data are ranked or arranged in ordinal measurement, in the order of magnitude, half of them will be less than or equal to the mean, while the other half will be greater or equal to it.

He maintained that, the middle value of odd series is usually definite and easy to identify. According to him, when the series are even, the two middle values are divided to obtain the mean. To calculate the mean, the major activities or steps required, ranking in order of magnitude and locating the value in the series.

We observed from the mean philosophy of Aristotle that too much or excess of property gathering breeds corruption. Eme had noted concerning the Aristotelean mean, and advised that the extreme should be jettisoned in every situation and moderation embraced. Aristotle in Eme N. (1998: p.48), stated that;

Of every continuous entity that is divisible into parts it is possible to take, the smaller, or an equal part and these parts maybe larger, smaller or equal in relation to the entity itself or in relation to us. The equal part is something mean between excess and deficiency. By the mean of an entity is an understanding a point of equidistant from both extremes and this point is one and the same for everybody. By the mean relative to us and understand an amount neither too large no too small and this is neither one nor the same for everybody Ethics (1, p. 106).

However, the object in question is the objective mean while the mean is relative to individual which is subjective mean. A life of integrity is a subject to individual choice. Our concern is that the variable characteristics of these choices should not adversely affect a political community; rather, it should accommodate public spheres of interest. Corruption is likened to a disease in any clime. It is a disposition of attitude outside the moral frame of life. When a living organism becomes corrupt, it signifies that multitudes of disease or virus have affected it from being normal, as such, stagnation and further deterioration sets in.

2.1 Theme II: Level of Corruption in Nigeria between 1960 and 2018

Diagrammatic explanation of destructive agents,

Figure 2: Destructive agents of the economy.

Corrupt worms



Economy is destroyed by the corrupt worms
Source: Achi V.A. (2018).



Corrupt worms(Politicians)

The result of abuse of power is corruption. The Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) saw corruption as any illegal use of power by any person(s) for personal arbitrary purpose. Femi (2005: p.20), opined that:

Corruption could denote moral depravity and perversion of integrity through bribery or favour or a conscious or well planned act by persons or groups of persons .It is the act of turning power and authority into ready cash, the diversion of resources for the betterment of the public to use the selfish gain of an individual whose shoulder, power rests .

Corruption is an antisocial behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, which undermines the ability of government to improve the living conditions of the people (Tell magazine, May 2011: 15).

Nigerian politicians at all levels and bureaucratic officers are alleged to be the major glitch in the wheel of progress and development. They divert funds meant for public welfare, covertly and overtly truncate and sabotage the economy through illegal passage of goods and services in the country via seaports, airports, and other forms of illegal routes. Corruption can be equated to canker worm and the destructive effects of rats in homes. We strongly believe that corrupt situations are unethical, illegal, unpolished, uncivilized, unacceptable, abnormal, deviation from management norms, fraudulent, bribery, nepotism, extortion, injustice, immoral, ungodly, evil, maladministration, etc. Corruption is a deadly disease to an economy. Whenever corruption surfaces in an economy, tranquility and peace vanishes, living commotion behind. The only contraceptive to it is self moderation through moral codes in public life.

Eme (2008), explained that;

The perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour or moral depravity: when at least two parties have interacted to change the structure of process of society or the behaviour of functionaries in order to provide dishonest, unfaithful or defiled situation, then corruption has taken place. It, therefore, involves the injection of additional but improper transactions aimed at changing the normal course of events and altering judgment and positions of events

Types of corruption include moral and natural corruptions. From these two forms of corruption sprang other types as stated above in our model 1.1 Natural corruption is when a physical matter is corroded. Human, animal, and plant bodies could be corrupted. The other types of moral corruptions are immorality, due to insatiability and materialistic tendencies, engendered by the erosion of codes principles inherent in weak state.

Thompson (1955: p.90), summated succinctly in Aristotle's ethics that;"moral goodness on the other hand is the result of habit from which it actually got its name being a slight modification of the world ethos". For Aristotle, corruption is like a custom that must not be observed in politics. It is an unruly behavior which requires moderation. Eme, et.al (2017), opined that;

Corruption is necessitated by the delegation of power and authority to control economic resources and to distribute same to all and sundry. Political power creates discretionally opportunity to use that power in monopolistic manner to demand, accept, and offer bribes for economic gains, benefits and award of contracts and placements in public positions where there are more advantage of making money through corruption.

Fraudulent practices in Nigeria strive through coordination and cooperation of state actors, who stifle all efforts at checking it.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is essentially a desk research with reliance on the secondary source of data. Relevant materials were collected in an eclectic manner from official documents, statutes and other published outlets such as books, journal publications, online articles, news reports and newspaper articles. Its scope is limited to issue and content analysis relating to the use of whistleblowing policy as a tool to combat corruption.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Aristotle's Mean Theory. The theory maintained that the function or characteristics of human beings is a way of living, consisting in the exercise of the psyche's capacities in accordance with reason, or at any rate not in opposition to reason. A good person exercises these capacities and performs his activities well. Excellence, then, is that condition which best suits us to perform those activities which are distinctively human. Hence the best life for a human being will involve the active exercise of his psyche's capacities in accordance with excellence, Ethics (1098a).

Bernard .(1985), noted that every virtue of character lies between two correlative faults or vices, which consist respectively of the excess and the deficiency of something of which the virtue represents the right amount. A median of an entity is it's equidistant from both extremes. The median is a quantitative amount neither too large nor too small in degree. Much property and richness which is the ultimate bane of corruption and not in correlation with Aristotle's middling elements in his Ethics (1,106a). Moderation in all human endeavors is the vacate point of Aristotle's mean theory, with this understanding therefore, the Nigerian leaders and top bureaucrats shall be weighed in mean balance to know the true position of the leaders.

Application of the theory

Corruption in Nigeria is aptly explicated through the application of Aristotle's Mean Theory and Ethics. The asymmetrical relations and economic stagnation amongst Nigerians reflects the absence of institutional mechanism, moral codes and principles that regulates official and unofficial conduct amongst individuals in the society.

The Mean theory is a theoretical tool which helps to understand the importance of moderating social lives of citizens in a society. Aristotle's account of ethical excellence or excellence of character, where bodily strength and health are destroyed by excess and deficiency, noted that too much of anything is bad, as food, or too much exercise, are bad for health, just as too little food or exercise are. The same holds in public institutions and bureaucratic settings, where official conducts are not guided by codes and principles that moderate the actions and corrupt instinct prevalence amongst public officials in Nigeria.

The many regimes, stretching from 1960 till present is to a greater extent engrossed with corruption. Some of them came up with anti-corruption institutions that never had any visible effect on the polity, yet, they end up revolving around the orbit of governance without achievement. For instance, the Federal Character Principle was entrenched into Nigeria constitution to check and moderate employment, administrative, and political imbalance, but this agency is only known in theory than real. A dispassionate survey of employment into the public sector since the period under review shows extreme cases and how deep the country swims in corruption. Admissions into Nigerian Military, Police, Customs, Immigration and other government agencies are obviously confounded in high level secrecy without moderation. The culture of probity usually held in high esteem in discharge of public affairs has yielded to a place of graft and the standard of public morality continued to worsen.

The tenets of the theory

- i. Aristotle mean theory is rooted in moderating inter personal conducts. This will ensure the balance of economic and political relations amongst individuals, and set the society on a progressive parts.
- ii. The theory emphasizes the midpoint relationship in management of human of political economy of the polity.
- iii. The fundamental basis of the theory is local in the level of human virtuous life.
- iv. The theory stressed the moderation of public servants in all political and bureaucratic exercise.
- v. It also encourages excellent life style of individuals in the conducts of their personal enterprises.

An Analysis of Taxonomies of Corruption and the Nigerian Fourth Republic Case

Table 1 Terms of disguising corrupt practices

S/N	Institution/Agency	Title
1	University	Sorting
2	Police	Pure water/rogger
3	Secondary school	Bullet, (Nje) for malpractice
4	Civil service	Brown Envelope
5	Oil sector/contractors	Kick back (10%)
6	Politician	Carry go, Ghana must go bag
7	Churches	Seed sowing
8	Chief	Matching grants
9	Internet users	419/Ojoro
10	Community youth	Settlement
11	State	Plea-bargain

Source: Uranta (2015). Arranged by Achi V.A

Table 2: Dimensions of Corruption in Selected Sectors

S/N	Ministry	Forms of Corruption
1	Defence	Diversion of budgetary allocation for security, hence the rate of insecurity.
2	Ministry of external Affairs	Kick backs, ghost workers
3	Education	Kick backs, ghost workers
4	Information	Refusal to report certain matters either due to bribe or in sympathy with the government in power
5	Land and housing	Sale of government property to politicians, elitist approach to the provision of housing.
6	Petroleum	Sharp practices with NNPC funds, impropriety with subsidy, creation of artificial fuel scarcity, collaboration in act of theft and bunkering.
7	Power	Power theft, asking for bill payment without supply of electricity. Allowing reconnection of light with PHCN bill due to bribe.
8	Police	Extortion, brutality, unauthorized road blocs etc.
9	Water resources	Merely existing, no public provision of water
10	Works	Kick backs, inflation of contract cost, poor quality of roadside

Source: Achi V. A. (2017)

As highlighted in tables above, these ploys and system of extortion in virtually all sectors of the economy accounts for the visible stagnation in contemporary Nigerian economy

Budgetary provisions are annually made to these ministries and parastatals with no visible achievements at the end of the service year. The foregoing analysis is replicated in government at all levels. Alapeki H (2005), cited the level of misappropriation of public funds that has bedeviled the ministries, boards and parastatals, see below.

Table 3: Misappropriated Funds by Ministries (2001)

S/N	Ministry	Amount misappropriated
1	Cooperation and integrative in African	₦10,435,601.81
2	Power and steel	₦4,394,649,602.19
3	Work and housing	₦2,262,797,737.01
4	Defence	₦1,785,877,023.15
5	Education	₦265,272,388.99
6	Police Affairs	₦1,209,216,325.05
7	Information	₦664,124,321,46
8	Commerce	₦610,053,177.72
9	Health	₦465,103,959,12
10	Industry	₦356,064,369.12
	Total	₦3,860,73,145.20

Source: Alapiki H (2001).

In the fourth republic, politicians and bureaucrats are deeply rooted in Nigeria. Evidence of bribery, money laundry, financial misappropriation, tribalism, nepotism, gratification and other immoral conducts astronomically increased, with a visible spiral effect on every segment of the society. Corruption and other social vices are now more at alarming rate in Nigeria to the extent that media exposure does not count for these leaders, see table below.

Table 4: High Profile Corrupt Cases, Between 2009 – 2014

S/N	Name	Court	Charge	Amount involved	Judge	Case status
1	Ayo Fayose, former Governor, Ekiti State	Federal High Court, Ado Ekiti	Arraigned on 51 state counts	N1.2 billion	Justice Hobon Adamu	Inherited case filed since 17 th Dec. 2006 (Still in court)
2	Adenike Grange, former minister of health	FCT. High Court, Maltama	In December 2009, a court of appeal sitting in Abuja, in a unanimous verdict, ordered that Professor Grange should not stand further trial. She was discharged from facing prosecution and all charges were quashed.	N300 million	Granted bail by court since 2008 Lifted	Inherited case filed since 2 nd April, 2008. Accused cleared by court of appeal, Abuja.
3	Joshua Dariye, former governor, Plateau State	FCT high Court Gudu	Arraigned on 23 state counts. Plea already taken but defense layer challenged court jurisdiction. Case stalled at HC while on appeal for stay of trail. This is part of calculated attempt to prolong trial.	N700 million	Granted bail by court since 2007.	Inherited case filed since 13 th July 2007.
4	SamiruTuraki, former governor, Jigawa State	FCT High Court, Maltama	Arraigned on 32 state counts. Plea already taken but defence layer challenged court jurisdiction. Case stalled at HC while seeking stay of trail at appeal court. It is part of usual attempt to frustrate and prolong trail.	N36 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008	inherited case filed since 13 th July 2007.
5	Orji UzorKalu, former	Fed. High Court, Maltama	Arraigned on 107 state counts. Plea already taken but defense lawyer raised preliminary	N5 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008	Inherited case filed since 11 th June 2007 (Still

	governor, Abia State		objection against charges. Lost at trial court but has gone on appeal to stay trial. It is part of usual attempt to prolong trial.		*Sentenced by UK court	in court).
6	James Ibori, former governor, Delta State	Federal High Court, Asaba	Arraigned on 170 state counts. Defense lawyer challenged Kaduna Fed. Court jurisdiction, lost at trial court but won at appeal court. Case re-assigned by Cj to Asaba FHC. Without taking plea, suspect applied to quash charges, prosecution opposed application but trial judge quashed the charges Dec. 19. EFCC filled appeal Dec. 23, 2009 and Jan. 8, 2010.	N9.2 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008 *Sentenced by UK court.	inherited fresh charges filed in August, 2009.
7	IyaboObasanjo-Bello	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 56 state counts. Plea already taken but case stalled as defence lawyer filed to challenge charges. Application pending for determination. This is part of frivolous applications to delay trial.	N10 million	Granted bail by court since 2008.	Inherited case filed since April 2, 2008 (Case thrown out for lack of merit).
8	Lucky Igbinedion, former governor of Edo State	Fed. High Court, Enugu	Arraigned on 191 state counts. Applied for plea bargain & Convicted but EFCC has appealed the judgment to seek for stiffer sanctions.	N4.3 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008	Inherited case filed on 23 rd Jan. 2008.
9	Gabriel Aduku, former minister of health	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 56 state counts. Court judgment on no case against suspect under review by EFCC.	N300 million	Case determined	Inherited case filled on April 2 nd , 2008.
19	Jolly Nyame, former governor of Taraba State	Fed. High Court, Abuja	Arraigned on 21 state counts. Plea already taken but case is stalled as defence lawyer challenged court jurisdiction. Lost at HC, Appeal court, now before Supreme Court. This is a typical example of frivolous appeals to buy time and prolong trial.	N180 million	Case determined in 2008	Inherited case filled since 13 th July 2007
11	Chimaroke Nnamani, former of Enugu State	Fed. High Court, Lagos	Arraigned on 105 state counts. Plea already taken but case is stalled as defence lawyer filled to transfer case to another judge on allegation of bias against trial judge even as counsel has again filled to challenge court jurisdiction. This is equally an attempt to prolong trial.	N5.3 billion	Granted bail by court since 2007.	Inherited case filed since 11 th Dec. 2007

12	Michael Botmang, former governor of Plateau State	Fed. High Court, Lagos	Arraigned on 31 state counts. Plea already taken but trial stalled due to suspect's ailment, on dialysis.	N1.5 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008.	Commenced by Waziri on 18 th July 2008 (Granted bail on health grounds).
13	Roland Iyayi, former managing director of FAAN)	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 11 state counts. Plea already taken. Trail on-going Court taking prosecution witnesses testimony.	N5.6 billion		Commenced by Waziri in June 2008.
14	Keeny Martins (Police Equipment Fund)	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 28 amended state counts. Plea already taken and trial on-going. Witnesses under cross-examination. Continuation of trail fixed for Nov. 9	N774 million	Granted bail by court since 2008.	Commenced by Waziri in June 2008 (Accused set free by Federal High Court, Abuja)
15	NyesomWike, former chief of staff to Governor of River State	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on state counts. Court quashed charges. EFCC already appealed judgment. Appeal pending at appeal court.	N4.670 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008.	Commenced by Waziri on Oct. 9, 2008 (case still in court).

Table 4: Corrupt Cases in the Fourth Republic 2009 – 2014

Name	Court	Charge	Amount involved	Judge	Case status
Prof. Bablola, former minister of aviation	FCT High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 11 state counts. Plea already taken and trial ongoing. Prosecution witnesses under cross-examination.	N5.6 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008	Commenced by Waziri in June 2008 (Still in court).
BoniHaruna, former governor, Adamawa State	Fed. High Court, Maitama	Arraigned on 28 amended state counts. Plea taken. Adoption of motion slated for Nov.	N254 million	Granted bail by court since 2008	Commenced by Waziri in 2008.
Femi Fani-Kayode, former minister of aviation.	Fed. High Court, Lagos	Arraigned on 47 state counts. Plea taken but case stalled as a result of trial court's refusal to admit e-print of suspect's statement of account as evidence. EFCC on appeal against the decision. Matter pending at appeal court.	N250million	Granted bail by court in 2008	Commenced by Waziri in 2008 and cleared of charges in 2015.
Prince Ibrahim Dumuje (Police Equipment Fund).	FCT High Court,	Arraigned on 28 amended state counts. Plea taken	N774 million	Granted bail by court since 2008	Commenced by Waziri in June 2008.

	Abuja	and trail on-going. Prosecution witnesses under cross-examination Continuation fixed for Nov. 9			
Bode George, chieftain of PDP	Fed. High Court, Lagos	Arraigned on 68 state counts. Plea taken and trial concluded.	N100 billion	Accused convicted and sentenced to 2 years. Convict on appeal while serving jail term	Commenced by Waziri in Dec. 08 (Acquitted and sentence quashed by Supreme Court) (Dec. 2013).
RasheedLadoja, former governor of Oyo State	Fed. High Court, Lagos	Arraigned on 33 state counts. Plea taken and trial on-going Prosecution witnesses slated for cross-examination in Nov.	N6 billion	Granted bail by court since 2008	Commenced by Waziri.
Nicholas Ugade, serving senator; Hon. Ndudi Elumelu, Hon. Mohammed Jibo, Hon. Paulinus Igwe, serving members of House of Representatives; Dr. Allyu Abdullahi (permanent secretary of the ministry of power); Mr. Samuel Ibi, Mr. Simon Nanle, Mr. Lawrence Orekoya, Mr. KayodeOyedjeji, Mr. A. GarbaJahun (high profile public officers). This is the rural electrification case.	FCT High Court, Abuja	Plea taken while prosecution has filed more charges against suspects. The case has now been quashed by Abuja High court in June 26 2013	N5.2 billion	Remanded in Prison Custody and later granted bail by court in 2009	Commenced by Waziri in May 2009. Abuja High Court cleared them.
Prof. B. Sokan, MolkatMutfwang, Michael Aule, Andrew Ekpanobi (all directors); Alexander Cozman (MD, Intermarket Ltd). This is the UBEC case where high profil public servants connived with an American,	Federal High Court, Abuja	Arraigned on 64 state counts. Plea taken while more charges were filed against suspects due to appearance of Prof Sokan. Matter adjourned to Nov. 9 for suspects to take plea on amended charges.	N636 million	Suspects remanded in prison custody and later granted bail by court in 2009.	Commenced by Waziri on May 19, 2009

Alexander Cozman, to defraud govt.					
Dr. RansomeOwan, Mr. Abdulrahman Ado, Mr. AdulrasakAllmi, Eyoma, Mr. Mohammed Bunu, Mr. AbimbolaOdubiyi (This is the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission case where the chairman and his six commissioners corruptly enriched themselves).	Federal High Court, Abuja	Arraigned on 196 state counts. Plea taken. Trial bail to commence while more charges were filed against suspects. Further hearing slated for Oct 29 Tom Iseghohi, MuhammedBuba, Mike Okoli, (GM & Managers of Transcorp Group Plc).	N1.5 billion	Granted bail by court in 2009	Commenced by Waziri on April 22, 2009.
Dr. Yuguda Manu Kaigama, Chairman, Taraba State Civil Service Commission.	Taraba State High Court 5, Jalingo	Arraigned on 37 state counts. Plea taken and matter adjourned for trail.	N17 billion	Suspect remanded in prison custody. Co- accused YakubuDanjumaTakun.	Commenced by Waziri on Oct. 10, 2009
Dr. (Mrs.) Cecilia Ibru, former CEO, Oceanic Bank Plc)	Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos. Justice Dan Abutu	Arraigned on 25 state counts. Plea taken and case adjourned to Nov. for trail	N160.2 billion	Suspect remanded in EFCC custody, but granted bail on 14/9/09	Commenced by Waziri on Aug. 31. 2009 (convicted and sentenced to 6 months jail term
Francis Atuche, Former CEO, Bank PHB	Federal High Court, Ikoyi Lagos.	Arraigned on a 26- count charge. Plea taken. Suspect challenged charges but court upheld charges. Matter set for trail.	N80 billion	Suspect remanded and later granted bail by court. His assets frozen	Commenced by Waziri on Oct. 28, 2009
AdamuAbudullahi, former governor of Nasarawa State.	federal High Court, Lafia	Arraigned on 149- count charge. Plea taken. Suspect granted bail by court. Case slated for trail.	N15 billion	Suspect on court bail	Commenced by Waziri on March 3, 2010.
AttahiruBafarawa, former governor of Sokoto State	Sokoto State High Court	Arraigned on 47- count charge	N15 billion	Suspect remanded in prison custody and later granted bail by court. Case slated for trial.	Commenced by Waziri on December 16, 2009.

Francis Okokuro, Bayelsa State accountant general.	Fed. High Court, Abuja	Arranged on 6- count charge	N2.4 billion	Suspect remanded in prison custody till April 13	Commenced by Waziri on March 24, 2010 (case adjourned to January 23, 2014).
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Source: EFCC (our Milestone Magazine May, 2010 & Tell (www.tell.org) August 17, 2015 p.21

A sticking point about the dimension of corruption is the involvement of judges, magistrates, lawyers, the police, paramilitary and military organizations in any crime related cases on money laundering, misappropriation of funds, and other corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Achi, V.A.,(2012: p.41), maintained that; Corruption is considered as immoral character, fraud, graft, bribery, dishonesty and debased acts like sexual immorality, or pervasion. Corrupt connotes economic and financial crimes, nepotism, and partiality in allocation of values and decision making.

Corruption thus represents degeneration from the normal, that is, an anti-social behaviour. Okojie and Momoh (2005:p.1), also highlighted that corruption is the use of public office for private gains, political and economic corruption in Nigeria is now likened to what Christian C. O. (2013), described as, an “octopus that devours the wealth of Akpor kingdom”.

For him, Octopus is barbaric in character, selfish, carnivore, and covetous implicating in greed. Nigerian leaders have destroyed the economy because they defaulted from the prescription of Aristotelian moderation in public life. He condemned the attitude and cautioned the people from eminent potential dangers inherent in such crude and uncivilized way of conducting public affairs in Akpor Kingdom. The situation is also exemplified in the politics of Nigeria, where most politicians and bureaucrats behave like the octopus, which has truncated the destinies of the contemporary Nigerians. The print and mass media in Nigeria are daily inundated with crime and crime related issues, which show numerous corruptions in all facets of public and private lives.

This paper is only handling the sample population of crimes committed in Nigeria from her political birth, which represents 1%. The implication of the explanation above is that no single political officer or Head of a bureaucratic organization is said to be crime free. For instance, the university of Port-Harcourt, from its creation in 1978, rewards its staff annually with edible items but was later denied. The denial was sustained by successive administration until an Eckist, V.C- Joseph Ajeyienka, came on board in 2011, to reverse the trend.

Public corruption connotes immoral acts, most time given disguised or special names just to deceive the public. The recent tricks by Nigerian police, such as “show your papers, attention, know your right, show me love etc”, are just a microcosm of the corruption amongst public office holders.

CONCLUSION

The paper studied Aristotle’s mean theory and the level of Corruption in Nigeria, and narrowed the investigation to whether; the mean theory could lead to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria, and if the level of corruption between 1960-2018 could be eradicated by recourse to Aristotelian mean theory.

However, the study hypothesized that Aristotelian mean theory could lead to the moderation of corruption in Nigeria. To properly address the questions raised, the study adopted the mean theory as our theoretical framework. This is informed by its analytical importance to buttress the point that the challenges of corruption in Nigeria, stem entirely from the origin of a weak substructure that gave birth to its superstructure which have proven incapable of self-regulation, thereby defiling all curative measures.

Consequently, the study employed documentary research method in data generation from primary and secondary sources such as classroom discussions and documents. The research tested the dependent variable, the level of corruption in Nigeria by analyzing and synthesizing relevant data. The findings however, revealed that the incidence of corruption cannot be eradicated in Nigeria due to certain structural inhibitive factors, but could be moderated by recourse to Aristotelian mean propositions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is compulsorily necessary to know the current needs of Nigeria, especially now the evils perpetuated by Nigerian politicians are in high stage. This study deemed it relevant to lay it ajar before the readers to encourage Nigerian politicians to cling tenaciously to the Aristotle's mean proposition by providing the following to the governed;

1. a Good governance
2. b Security
3. c Food
4. d Shelter
5. e Technology
6. f Prestige/recognition

Based on the covert and overt effects of corruption on Nigerians, it is evident that previous methods have failed in checking it, and in the light of these, the following recommendations becomes pertinent.

- a. Since it is in nature of man to perpetually indulge in material and none material acquisitions alike, it is, expectedly therefore; that effective or strong institutional mechanisms should be established and strengthened to enforce codes that moderate corrupt tendencies within the polity.
- b. If the war against corruption must be won, only individual with unblemished records and proven integrity should be made to lead the crusade in the fight, because, eradication of corruption is likened to one going to equity with a clean hand.

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