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CORRUPTION AND ITS EFFECTS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GHANA

BY

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DECLARATION

I confirm that this long essay is my own work, and does not include any work completed by anyone other than myself, unless referenced. I did it in accordance with guidelines and directives from the Department of Research of Ghana Institute of Journalism and within the time limits set by the department. I am willing to make myself available for further clarification of my work, if the need arises.

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SUPERVISOR’S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this project work has been supervised by me according to the guidelines on supervision of project works as laid down by the Ghana Institute of Journalism.

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DR. FOSU MODESTUS

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this long essay to the LORD JESUS CHRIST for His guidance and protection throughout my stay in school. It is again dedicated to my Mum (BERTHA) for giving me the roots to grow; and my siblings, Raymond, Bernice, Rebecca who supported me. I cannot do without mentioning Gifty Mawusi Kabutey who gave me some support when the going was tough.

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ABSTRACT

The importance of a stable, effective and accountable governance system cannot be over emphasized in the development of any sovereign state. Good governance and national development are seen as firmly related concepts. Numerous studies have demonstrated that sound governance bolsters economic development by advancing the proficient utilization of resources and by making conditions that pull in both local and foreign investments to enhance economic development. Similarly, good governance adds to sustainable development possibilities of nations, improved economic sustainability of countries and institutional amendments that accompany it offers the fundamental premise to improved governance in people in general and the private sector (Dhaoui, 2019). In the political realm, Atuobi (2007) suggests that by contravening or even sabotaging formal processes, corruption undermines democracy and good governance. Be that as it may, the recent issue of corruption, and particularly how to control it has reappeared as a focal issue in the discussion on and projects of African and Ghanaian restoration and continued development. The paper audits how the issue of corruption in the African and Ghanaian body politic, governance and regulatory frameworks hampers the efficiency of public service, leadership structures and governance and equally how this issue is being resolved in recent times. Similarly, it attempts to examine how successful such resolution has taken shape. In conclusion, the paper investigates what can be done to realize greater effectiveness in the efforts to eradicate or curb the evils of corruption in Ghana now and in time to come within the context of the concurrent quest for democracy, accountability and good governance.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Governance and corruption are two interdependent concepts, mutually ensconced in one another. The general assumption in political science is that corruption is one of the various indicators of the level of governance in any state and this includes Ghana (Mitra, 2009). Ghana is a West African country along the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean spanning a land mass of 238,535 km² (92,099 sq mi). The country Ghana is bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east, and the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean in the south. Ghana is considered as one of the more stable countries in West Africa since its transition to multi-party democracy in 1992. Ghana became the first sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence and became a republic in 1957. Ghana's post-colonial life has witnessed the consolidation of the country's economy, and, in the past two decades, it has taken major strides toward democracy under a multi-party system (Oxford Business Group 2017; World Bank 2018).

In the words of Kaunain (2018), corruption exists in all branches of the Ghanaian government, and there is often a lack of accountability. The culprits often enjoy impunity and the judiciary and police are viewed or perceived as the most corrupt institutions (Kaunain, 2018). This situation has resulted in corruption having a dire consequence on the Ghanaian society. The overwhelming effect of this, has led to increased interest in the quest to find lasting remedies to this cankerous phenomenon through research and numerous social debates. Likewise, these are usually accompanied by an extreme absence of government pellucidity and accountability of the public service which has developed into major global issues, especially with developing countries such as Ghana. The Commonwealth Expert

Group (2000) established through their work the corrosive nature of poor governance and corruption on economic and social development of countries. One requirement for national development is good governance hence corruption can be seen as a symptom of poor governance as it undermines economic and general national development.

Furthermore, the last decade has seen an upsurge of the subject of corruption and good governance as it has taken a center stage in global development discourse shaking the foundations of nations and affecting every sector (Olufemi 2012). It is therefore necessary for the citizenry, governments, social groups and other stakeholders to be actively involved in demanding accountability from individuals holding public offices so as to curb the evil of corruption.

The purpose of this paper is to assess the canker of corruption and its effects on the various sectors of society in terms of finance, agriculture, security, health, and education. It will equally analyze the constituents of good governance and how these can be improved upon as a measure to mitigate the adverse effect of corruption. This study is conducted to find answers to the questions asked thereby contributing to literature on the relationship between corruption and good governance in any developing state.

1.2 Problem Statement

Corruption in the country has been a common practice since independence in 1957. Since 2006, Ghana's score and ranking on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index has improved only slightly. Specifically, Ghana scored 41 points out of 100 on the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. There is a growing perception in Ghana that government-related corruption is on the rise, ranked 64th in 2012, tied with Lesotho. Even though corruption in Ghana is relatively low when compared to other countries in Africa, businesses frequently quote corruption as an obstacle for doing business in the country (Ghana Corruption Report, 2016). Corruption occurs often in locally funded contracts: companies are subject to bribes when operating in rural areas (LeVine, 1975). The Ghana Police Service that is deemed to enforce the law is perceived to be the most corrupt institution in the country (Business Anti-Corruption Portal, 2015). Even the Judiciary is not left out in Ghana from the fallout of Anas Expose'.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the insights above, the research questions that are worth asking and answers proffered to are:

1. What are the negative effects of corruption on good governance?
2. How do we manage or curb corruption in Ghana?
3. What are some of the major instances of corruption in Ghana?

1.4 Justification of the Study

Corruption has a debilitating effect on all aspects of the Ghanaian economy. A study by IMANI Ghana (a think tank based in the country) found that Ghana loses more than US \$3 billion a year to corruption each year. Kaunaian (2018) affirms that corruption exists in all branches of the Ghanaian government, and there is often a lack of accountability in cases of

violence against women and children, and this increases the potential to increased activities that promotes personal gain at the expense of general public good. Even though Ghana ranks 81 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the negative effect of corruption is evident and the perception is equally high (Transparency International 2018).

If corruption persist in the country, this will mean that resources that will otherwise have gone into the development of other sectors of the economy will go into individual hands at the expense of the entire country.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Corruption is a corrosive force that hits the poor and the vulnerable the hardest, and its effects are very real. Corruption stops medicine and drugs from reaching the sick, stops schools from being built, leads to roads washing away in the rain, and empties the public coffers. Most importantly, corruption breaks the trust between the citizens and the state that is critical for development to work. This study makes readily available information on the effects of corruption on the Ghanaian economy so that actors can be aware. The study will also add to existing knowledge and literature on corruption in Ghana; it will aid anti-corruption agencies propose possible solutions that could reduce corruption in the country.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews relevant literature that has direct relation to corruption in general and its effect on good governance in Ghana. Specifically, the study reviewed literature on the following areas: history on corruption, definition of corruption, the concept of good governance, instances of corruption cases in Ghana, effect of corruption on good governance viz-a-viz its effect on the various sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Furthermore, literature was reviewed on the strategies and theoretical framework that could be adopted to curb or stop the practices of corruption in Ghana. The theoretical review guided the framework of the study and aided in the clarity of the study perspective. A conceptual framework is also presented based on the study's objectives to explain the relationship between dependent and independent variables being considered in the study.

2.2 Brief History on Corruption

The notion of corruption has a long undeniable existence in human history. It dates back to circa 300 BC when a minister in ancient India wrote to his king to protect trade routes within the province from harassment by courtiers, thieves, government officials and frontier guards (Kaufman, 1997). Corruption is currently a household name in every society and the negative impact it has on the socio-economic and political setting of a country can hardly be over emphasized (Olufemi, 2012).

Brioschi, et. al. (2017), the politician's craft (corruption) is commonly listed, along with prostitution, as one of the world's oldest professions. This longevity is no doubt largely attributable to the darker aspect of the political trade, that is, the realm of corruption, whose history is as long and twisted as that of mankind's attempt to live by the rule of law. Various tolerated or fought, depending on time and place, the very definition of corruption

has shifted frequently, as practitioners of corruption have encountered the ideas, laws, and customs of different peoples.

According to Brioschi, et al., (2017), a new Olympiad began in Athens in 324 B.C., and that same year the scandal of Harpalus's gold erupted. Demosthenes, renowned for his orations against Philip II of Macedon, was accused of having taken possession of the sums deposited on the Acropolis by Alexander's treasurer. Demosthenes was convicted and had to flee. This is certainly one of the best-known scandals of ancient Greece.

The acronym r.o.m.a.—standing for *radix omnium malorum avaritia*, “Greed is the root of all evil”—probably dates from the fourth century A.D., but in the political life of ancient Rome, corruption had already taken on quite a considerable scale before then. Yet the structures of the Roman state stood solid for many centuries before being gravely undermined. Notoriously, the great Julius Caesar (100–44 B.C.) made use of all and any means—not merely violence but also financial means—to attain the consulate, dismiss the corrupt Senate, and become the founder of a new Rome (Brioschi, C., et. al. (2017).

According to John Noonan, the author of *Bribes, the Genuine Era of Corruption*, understood as reciprocity and the exchange of favors in order to carry on relations with one's neighbors or the powerful, ended with the spread of Christian morality and, in particular, with the centuries that came on the heels of the end of the Roman empire: the “age of the barbarians” and the Early Middle Ages (fifth to tenth century). And yet the mechanism of reciprocity continued to serve as a glue for social relations later as well (Brioschi, C., et. al. (2017).

Just as there exist in every society, behaviors which are detested in the course of relational interactions or group dynamism by virtue of their legal, ethical or moral implications, what

encapsulates all these loathed attitudes as they are inimical to behavioral ideals is corruption Omoluabi (2007).

2.3 Definition of Corruption

According to the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center of the CHR Michelsen Institute, corruption cuts across the public and private sectors or institutions in the country from the highest levels to the lowest stages. Corruption in any nation starts from the top, as high as in the presidential political parties known as grand and political corruption, down to the lowest levels in government institutions referred to as petty or bureaucratic corruption (Byrne, 2009). These forms of corruption are fraud, bribery, extortion, embezzlement and nepotism. A clear example of corruption starting at the highest level of an institution was during the Nkrumah regime of Republic of Ghana.

According to Rose-Ackeman (2005), there is an identifiable difficulty in establishing clear-cut boundaries between what is legal and illegal, and between merit and kickback. Over the years, many individuals and social groups have attempted to provide an encompassing definition of the concept of corruption. Philip (1997) reiterates this when he suggested that corruption as a concept is one of the most contested in the history of political thought and is still is even in recent times.

Begovic, (2005) defines corruption as the intentional non-compliance with the arm's-length principle aimed at deriving some advantage for oneself or for related individuals from this behavior. Onuoha (2005) equally depicts corruption as an illegal demonstration, which includes incitement as well as unnecessary impact of individuals either in the open setting or

the private circle to act in opposition to the surviving rules and guidelines which typically direct a specific procedure. Transparency International on the other hand defines corruption as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain” (Kolstad et al., 2008). It can be said to refer to the misuse of resources or power for private gain. Otite (2000) further indicates that corruption rises above bribery however incorporates treasury looting and furthermore the conscious twisting of rules of the framework to support companions or hurt adversaries. It can likewise be depicted as the cognizant endeavor or conscious diversion of resources from the fulfillment of the general benefit to that of self (individual) interest (Mitra, 2009).

2.4 The Concept of Good Governance

Governance has been characterized as the utilization of political position and exercise of authority over society and the administration of its resources for social and financial turn of events. It envelops the idea of working of a state's institutional and basic courses of action, dynamic procedures, strategy plan, usage limit, data streams, viability of initiative and the idea of the connection among rulers and the controlled (Doig, 1995).

Ogundiya (2010) suggests that when resources must be circulated to elevate disparity or to accomplish individual or group objectives, the substance of governance which matches with the quintessence of governmental issues and pith of the state is vanquished. Along these lines, resources must be conveyed capably, impartially and reasonably for the acknowledgment of the pith of the state.

The UNDP defined good governance as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels. It is a crucial right in a vote-based system and it suggests straightforwardness and responsibility. Good governance involves an organization that is delicate and receptive to the necessities of the

individuals and is compelling in adapting to rising difficulties in the public eye by surrounding and actualizing proper laws and measures. Good governance guarantees that political, social and monetary needs depend on wide agreement in the public arena and that the voices of the least fortunate and the most defenseless are heard in dynamic over the designation of advancement resources (Richardson, 2008).

According to Keping (2018), good governance refers to a set of institutions and actors that are drawn from but also beyond the government. Corruption challenges the authority of the State or the government in the traditional sense and maintains that the government is not the only power center of a state. As long as the power exercised by a public or private institution is recognized by the public, it is possible to become a power center at a specific level.

According to Ogundiya, (2010), the genuine test of good governance is how much it conveys on the guarantee of human, social, financial, political and social rights. It guarantees that corruption is limited, the perspectives on minorities are considered and that the voices of the most helpless in the public eye are heard. It is likewise receptive to the present and future needs of society and the country on the whole. Governance is good when it can accomplish the ideal goal of the state characterized as far as equity, value, assurance of life and property, upgraded residents' cooperation, conservation of rule of law and improved expectation for everyday comforts of the people. According to Leftwich (2007), aside the existence of competitive economies, promotion of open markets and support for democratization and improvement of human rights, good governance is one main requirement for contemporary western aid to any country in the world.

2.5 Instances of Corruption in Ghana

2.5.1 Mahama Ford Saga

The previous Mahama-government faced a number of high-ranking and highly publicized cases of corruption in office, which shaped its public image and contributed to its downfall (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2018). During the campaign of 2016, a widely shared video showed Mahama allegedly “buying votes” by handing out money to women at a market (Cheeseman, Lynch and Willis 2016).

2.5.2 Mahama Vote Buying Scandal

A report by the CHRAJ cleared President Mahama from allegations of bribery after then President Mahama received a car from a construction firm from Burkina Faso bidding on a lucrative government contract in Ghana. The firm later secured the road-building contract. The President Mahama denied the corruption allegations, claiming that the vehicle was a gift and that it was added to the government car pool. Although the CHRAJ cleared the President Mahama of bribery, it found him guilty of breaching government rules (Business Day 2016; GAN Integrity 2018).

2.5.3 Youth Employment Agency Payroll Scandal

In 2017, the Youth Employment Agency announced that an internal audit discovered payroll fraud of approximately GHC 50 million (US\$11.1 million). However, by the end of the year, there was no indication of the government holding anyone accountable for the fraud (Kaunain, 2018).

2.5.4 Election Commissioners Fraud Case

Also, in 2017, the Election Commission (EC) was entangled in a corruption scandal, as senior members of the commission accused each other of fraud and mismanagement, including the unlawful awarding of contracts, misappropriation of funds and political bias (Freedom House

2018; Koswe 2018). After the launch of a probe by Economic and Organized Crime Office investigating allegations that senior EC officials had misappropriated funds in 2012 and 2013, Osei, the EC chairperson, and two of her deputies were removed by the President in 2018 for corruption and incompetence (Koswe 2018).

2.5.5 Anas Expose on Judges

Anas conducted a two-year undercover investigation of the judiciary in Ghana and brought out audio and video evidence of alleged corruption taking place. Following the exposé, 22 circuit court judges and magistrates were suspended and 12 High Court judges were also under investigations. The investigations resulted in the sacking of twenty magistrates and judges who were found guilty of bribery (BBC, 2015).

2.5.6 GFA/Kwesi Nyantakyi Corruption Scandal

An investigative piece by Anas Aremeyaw Anas revealed widespread corruption in football in Ghana. Several match referees were caught receiving bribes in order to favour certain teams. In many instances, match officials and football administrators engaged in match-fixing deals and influenced who was called to feature for the national team or who got to play in a particular match. In all, 77 Ghanaian referees and 14 Ghana Football Association officials were caught in various acts of corruption. The documentary also showed three individuals who rejected the bribes that were offered. The Anas' 'Number 12' exposé brought serious consequences to the persons captured perpetrating untoward acts, especially Kwesi Nyantakyi. FIFA banned him from all football related activities for life. In addition, he was also been fined an amount of about GHS 2.4million by FIFA.

2.6 Influence of Corruption on Governance

Countries in Africa can be said to be typical examples of cases in the world where economic development has been impeded by the threat of corruption. There have been cases of misappropriation of public funds for private use, public officials demanding bribes before performing their functions or taking favorable decisions, public officials are appointed not on merit but party affiliation and personal relationships, inflation of cost even when developmental projects are being undertaken, etc. According to Thomson (2000), in many cases, individuals who now make use of public services have internalized this such that they recognize only a minute difference between bribes, gifts and official fees. Corruption is sometimes voluntarily committed and other times imposed on people when it has been normalized in the society in which one resides (Aisha, 2017). The effect of corruption on the state, the citizenry and institutions within the state are grave and marred development of any democratic state.

2.6.1 Cost of Corruption

Corruption is deemed as costly to the state in diverse ways. Many scholars have encountered the difficulty in defining a major assessment tool in the determining the effect of actual and perceived corruption on the resources of the state. Despite the above, it has been established that through corruption, services which should be free of charge to the citizenry tend to have a price tag creating uncertainty and reducing business investment which is harmful to the state (Department for international Development, 2015). According to a report on published on myjoyonline by Ablorh in 2015, financial irregularities and embezzlements by public officials as disclosed by the Auditor - General's reports in Ghana are estimated to be about 8 percent of GDP. Gyimah-Brempong, et al, (2006) additionally reiterated that a unit increase in corruption reflects a 0.75 percentage decrease in economic growth hence it being

detrimental to any state. Stevenson (2005) also reiterated that; corruption is costly to the state as so citizenry voluntarily indulge in the act other than other economic activity based on its apparent profitability deepening its negative effect on economic growth.

2.6.2 Effect of Corruption on Inequality

The 1998 IMF working paper suggests that corruption affects the poor by increasing income inequality hence taunting economic growth. It is revealed that the low-income population and businesses, pay high levels of their income to corrupt officials in the form of bribes and extortions than any other social class becoming more of a regressive tax on the poor (Bhargava et. Al. 2004). The poor are seen as weak and vulnerable and even in some cases ignorant hence officials in governing institutions exploit this lower social class, examples being some police official's extortion activities on our roads, local assemblies' corrupt activities in the form of unwarranted levies and charges on the lower income earners such as petty traders, etc (Kaunain, 2018). Transparency International (2009) revealed in one of its publications in a survey that, the percentage of people in the lower income quintile paying bribes for services far surpasses that of those who belong in the higher quintile paying bribes. In the words of Gyimah-Brempong (2002), "the combined effects of decreased income growth and increased inequality indicates that corruption affects the poor the most in African countries. This effect of corruption impedes good governance which is to ensure fairness and equity within the state.

2.6.3 Effect of Corruption on Public Services

It can be identified that the existence of corruption creates a negative perception which deters people from honoring their tax obligation leading to reduce revenue which in turn mars the effective delivery of public services. The populace by temperance of the apparent corruption

in the nation, lose trust in public administrations and public systems henceforth withdrawing patronage of these services (Kaufman et al, 2005). Anderson et al. (2003) suggests that whereas some believe corruption decreases the level of confidence and trust in public institutions, other researchers also argue the reverse that a decreased trust in public institutions increases corruption activities within the country. Decrease in trust of public institutions results in decreased respect of the legitimacy of the powers of these institutions and hence an increase in the use of violence and crime to achieve one's end. The citizenry thus, takes the law into their own hands because they believe the police is corrupt, the judicial system is impartial and all other public service officials are only there to enrich themselves leading to increased crime within crime. The adverse effect of this is a reduction in revenue from these institutions leading to a reduction of investment in these institutions. Uslaner (2007) suggested that, countries that demonstrate a higher level of citizenry trust in state institutions are more capable to control corruption.

2.6.4 Effect of Corruption on Trade and Foreign Investment

Before any investor decides to place funds in any sector, proper cost benefit analysis is undertaken to assess the possible returns on investment. The investor will assess the long-term profitability juxtaposed the cost of corruption within the state or country in which they wish to invest. Most often than not, these foreign investors are deterred by the mere perception of corruption hence reduced investment. According to Alemu (2012), an increase of a unit in corruption perception leads to a reduction of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) by 9 to 14 percentage points. Additionally, Al-Sadig (2009), the decision for FDI location is dependent on factors such as quality infrastructure and local investment in public services, healthcare, and income inequality and the absence of these will decrease the likelihood of foreign investors decision in placing substantial funds in businesses within such countries.

This is because they perceive through their cost-benefit analysis a higher cost of investment where bribes have to be paid in order to acquire licenses and other governmental permits to conduct business. The adverse effect of this is a decrease in profitability as these funds are mostly undefined and undetermined hence deterring investment. The fear of latter prosecution as in the case of the Airbus bribery case by other authorities equally deter investors from engagement in perceived corrupt countries.

2.6.5 Effect of Corruption on the Environment

Studies have revealed the negative effect of corruption on pollution and environmental degradation in the form of increasing rates of deforestation, high toxic emissions, depletion of natural resources, etc. (Cole, 2007). This effect on environment comes about as a result of the adverse effect on governance. Corruption weakens the governing systems as people fail to recognize and trust the institutions involved, weakening compliance on protection laws. As in the case of Ghana, the increased levels of galamsey and deforestation is as a result of corruption within state agencies. The equipment used in these activities find their ways through border officials and numerous road checkpoints into the forest and waterbodies where there are used. Even the perception of the involvement of some government officials and political actors in the act encourage others to do same and engage in such land degradable activities knowing very well its consequence to the greater population. Cavanagh (2012) supports the above with a case study analysis in Lesotho, Mexico, Cambodia, Russia and Uganda.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter involves the methods used in carrying out the research. It describes the means of informational gathering including analytical tools employed to address the objectives of the study. Method of data collection, and estimation procedures for the parameters in the study are also presented.

3.2 Research Methods

The study employed mainly desktop research to gather already existing literature on corruption; hereafter, this literature was reviewed, and summarized in order to find answers to all the research questions of the study. The secondary data employed this study include research materials published in research reports.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a conclusion of the study based on its findings from literature on the effects of corruption on good governance in Ghana. From the foregoing, the following conclusions are reached from the study.

4.1 Management of Corruption in Ghana

Matters of corruption is a very sensitive and therefore complex in Ghana; as a result, there is no single strategy that one can proffer to tackle this menace.

Mbaku (2000) In: Pabia (2013) chronicles four types of strategies which he termed as traditional approaches to dealing with corruption. These approaches are the societal approaches, legal approach, market strategies and political approach. The societal approach is the strategy which searches for a common standard of morality which can be used to determine if behavior is corrupt. This is very much dependent on what the society view as corruption. On the other hand, Legal strategies for corruption control are supposed to work through the activities of the courts, police, media and members of society. Market strategies for corruption control are based on the argument that there is a relationship between market structure and the incidence of corruption. Government intervention in the marketplace creates opportunities for individuals to engage in corruption. Political strategies for controlling corruption emphasize governmental decentralization. The argument is that corruption arises from the concentration of political power at the centre and in the hands of a few individuals. Thus, a process which improves citizen access to the political process will significantly reduce levels of corruption in the country.

Gyimah-Boadi, (2002) opines that remedying the problem of corruption begins from an awareness of prevalence, recognition that corruption is a serious problem, and a commitment to tackle corruption. Confronting corruption in a sustained manner would require comprehensive and integrative approaches that combine preventive, public education and punitive elements. He outlined several ways by which corruption can be controlled in the Ghanaian society.

Firstly, offenders must be frequently exposed and severely punished. To do so would require the strengthening of law enforcement mechanisms, which in turn requires strengthening the independence and credibility of the judiciary. It requires insulating judicial and quasi-judicial bodies and processes from the executive. For this reason, serious consideration must be given to the idea of separating the Attorney-General's position from the politically partisan position of Minister of Justice, or at least insulating the prosecutorial function from political manipulation, so that decisions to prosecute cases of corruption involving members of government are not subjected to a strict partisan political test.

Secondly, reform of administrative procedures and policies and elaboration of administrative law must feature prominently in efforts to control corruption. Comprehensive anti-corruption legislation - encompassing a "reasonably comprehensive and unambiguous definition of bribery and corruption," credible access to information and whistle-blower encouragement and protection laws, and clear guidelines on conflict of interest is also crucial.

Furthermore, the independence and capacity of constitutional and statutory oversight bodies should be significantly enhanced. In most cases, this would require enhancing the

constitutional, operational, and financial independence of anti-corruption commissions, and insulating them from the very institutions and officials they are set up to oversee. For a start, the practice in Ghana whereby ministers, judges, and MPs serve on the boards of state-owned-enterprises, including enterprises they are supposed to oversee, must cease. It would also require that we place legal and constitutional limits on how long leaders of oversight agencies such as the Serious Fraud Office and the Audit Service could serve in those positions in an “acting” capacity and without confirmation. Insecurity of tenure surely undermines self-confidence and independence.

It is also important to establish equitable party financing arrangements in order to strengthen multi-party competition, enhance the prospects of vibrant opposition parties, and reduce the rampant corruption associated with multi-party elections. It is equally important to enforce party finance regulations and penalize parties that flout such regulations. In the case of Ghana, this would require a more effective and consequential auditing of political party accounts by the Electoral Commission (EC). In short, the auditing of political parties by the EC must lead to sanctions where violations are detected.

4.2 Conclusion

Evidently as expressed above, the adverse effect of corruption in Africa specifically Ghana cannot be undermined. It limits the countries tapping of good governance benefits as it creates a state of inequality, underdevelopment, and reduces revenue generated internally to undertake government projects. It costs the country a substantial revenue which could have been used for developmental projects to enhance the living standards of its citizenry making the country less attractive to foreign investment as infrastructural development is usually low. Ghana was seen as the second most corrupt country in Africa as a result of numerous

accusations among political actors and increased attention from media, politicians, stakeholders and civil society organizations (Starrfmonline ,2015). Knowing the negativity of the concept of corruption, the country through successive governments, in a bit to tackle the menace and mitigate its adverse effect on governance, through policy initiatives such as the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), establishment of CHRAJ, established an office for a Special Prosecutor, passing of the RTI bill, establishment of EOCO, empowering of the Auditor-General, Public Account Commission hearings, etc. Despite these interventions, the country still faces daily scandals on corruption and its effects still being experienced.

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