

## **Corruption, Service Delivery and Sustainable Development in Kogi State**

<sup>1</sup>SALAMI, Nofiu Olamikulehin, <sup>2</sup>ADENUGA, Asimiyu Olayinka & AGBATO, Moriyó Adefolarin

<sup>1</sup>Department of Political Science, Sikiru Adetona College of Education, Science and Technology, Omu-Ajose, P.M.B 2128, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Political Science, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, P.M.B. 2118, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Department of Public Administration, Gateway I.C.T. Polytechnic, Saapade, Ogun State.

Email address: [anofiumaolana@gmail.com](mailto:anofiumaolana@gmail.com), [apataesolid@gmail.com](mailto:apataesolid@gmail.com), [adenugaao@tasued.edu.ng](mailto:adenugaao@tasued.edu.ng) & [Moriyo.agbato@gaposa.edu.ng](mailto:Moriyo.agbato@gaposa.edu.ng)

### **Abstract**

Political philosophers and scholars believe states exist for good life, but bureaucratic and political corruption in Kogi State, including embezzlement, fraud, bribery, money laundering, and procurement fraud, poses a significant challenge to service delivery and sustainable development. This study therefore, examined the impact of corruption on service delivery and sustainable development in Kogi State. It is descriptive in nature, primarily utilized secondary sources of data and adopted Institutional Theory as the theoretical premise. The study revealed that the misappropriation of funds earmarked for infrastructure development, has led to a deterioration of roads, bridges, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions in the State. It also reveals that the corruption in Kogi State has resulted in the inefficient operation of public utilities, such as electricity and water supply, leading to frequent power outages, poor water quality, and high costs for the citizens. The study concluded that for the achievement of sustainable development in Kogi State, there must be availability of provision of essential services. And for objective realization of sustainable development and its goals, the ugly epidemic of corruption ravaging Kogi State in particular must first be wiped-out with strong determination. The study therefore suggests that as a deterrence measure, the crime of felony and or capital punishment like death sentence should be melted on anyone found of committing either bureaucratic or political corruption.

**Keywords:** Corruption, infrastructural development, Kogi State, service delivery, sustainable development.

### **Introduction**

Political philosophers, such Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, believe that states exist to provide the protection of lives and property, as well as the wellbeing of citizens. But bureaucratic and political corruption in Kogi State, including embezzlement, fraud, bribery, money laundering, and procurement fraud, poses a significant challenge to service delivery and sustainable development. Corruption is the abuse of public office for personal benefit, usually departing from societal norms. It entails the abuse of power for personal benefit, which usually involves the exchange of goods or services for an unfair advantage. Corruption can cause poor service delivery, underdevelopment, and greater inequality. It can also discourage foreign investment, erode democratic institutions, and cause a loss of trust in the government and its institutions. Corruption can occur at all levels of society, from households to minor traders, and is induced by factors such as poverty, weak institutions, a lack of transparency, and an environment of impunity. For this paper we look at the bureaucratic and political corruption in Kogi State. The paper examines corruption in Kogi State and its effects on service delivery and sustainable development. It is broken into eight sections, including the introduction part, which provides a synopsis of the work. Conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, overview of corruption in Nigeria, trends and factors that promote corruption in Kogi State, tracing corruption back to pre-colonial, colonial, and post-

independence periods, and the impact on service delivery and sustainable development in Kogi State. It simply looks at corruption patterns, its adverse impact on welfare, and the efforts made by stakeholders to combat corruption. The concluding part which indicates that corruption still exists in Kogi State, compromising service delivery through embezzlement, fraud, bribery, money laundering, and procurement fraud; and lastly the recommendation section.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

Based on the Yoruba school of thinking, which maintains that "*elanioro, ti a koba la kii ye ni*". If taken literally, this suggests that concepts need to be defined or clarified in order to provide readers a better understanding of how they are employed in the work. However, depending on a range of factors, including their level of experience, exposure, comprehension, and area of specialization, scholars have different definitions for the same concepts. Because of this, separate concepts will always be defined differently by different people, but explanations are eventually required for improved communication.

### **Corruption**

Corruption has been defined as the use of public office for personal gain at the expense of the public good (Kaufman, 2019). Also, corruption is described as the abuse of entrusted power and or authority for private gain, generally including the exchange of money, goods, or services for an unfair benefit. (Bhandari, 2023). In addition, it is also defined as the distortion of the decision-making process of a political institution by the influence of private interests (Lessig, 2020). More so, corruption is the exploitation of the state for private profit, either by individuals or private groups, with the result that the state does not serve the common good but is captured by the interests of those with sufficient wealth or power to subvert its proper functions (Rashbrooke, 2022). Likewise, corruption was viewed as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain (Transparency International (TI), as cited in Williams, 2021).

From the variety of definitions given above we can therefore define corruption as the immoral exploitation of authority for personal advantage which often deviate from societal standard or accepted practice. The ones we are referring to here are at the government or public offices which are perpetrated in many forms, such as embezzling funds, bribery, extortion, fraud, nepotism, awarding contracts to friends and family, among others. However, among other negative impacts of corruption is that it always leads to poor service delivery and underdevelopment. It also encourages misallocation of resources, which can lead to increased inequality. Consequently, corruption is capable of reducing economic growth, discouraging foreign investment, and weakening democratic institutions and loss of trust in government and institutions. Interestingly, corruption can occur at all levels of society, from household, petty traders, that is it occurs in both private and public spheres. Whereas, there are many factors that are often adduced by scholars as causes of corruption, some of which include: poverty, weak institutions, lack of transparency, and a culture of impunity. However, Dance, Amehojo, and Sani, (n.d.), identified three types of corruption which include: bureaucratic corruption, political corruption, electoral corruption. For the purpose of this study, attention was paid to both the bureaucratic corruption political corruption in Kogi State.

### **Service Delivery**

Service delivery has been defined as the set of processes and activities through which a service organization provides services to its customers (Bernstein, 2018). Similarly, service delivery is the act of providing goods or services to customers or clients in a way that is consistent with the organization's strategic goals and objectives (Kumar, 2020). Likewise, it is defined as the provision of goods or services by an organization to its customers, with the aim of meeting

their needs and expectations (O'Connor, 2021). Equally, service delivery is the delivery of goods or services to customers in a manner that satisfies their needs, expectations, and preferences (Karanja, 2022). Again, service delivery is seen as the process by which an organization delivers its services to customers, including the design, development, and provision of services in a way that meets their requirements and expectations (Mander, 2023).

From the foregoing, Service delivery can be defined as the process by which government in addition to their primary responsibility of ensuring security of lives and properties of her citizens also provide goods and services to ensure the welfare and good standard of living of the citizenry. For effective serve delivery by the government, the government must adequately determine the scope, timeline, and resources required. It must be the needs of the citizens, and all that can guarantee happy living. Service delivery has important implications for governance and performance. Consequently, governments are responsible for providing essential services to their citizens, such as health care, education, and public safety.

To be able to deliver, the government must involve the service of the expert, because experience is needed and must be devoid of corruption, ensure accountability and transparency in government and other organizations. This may involve increased monitoring, reporting, and auditing of service delivery activities. Service delivery is not just about providing a service, but also about the overall citizens' satisfaction, including how easy it is to use the service and how satisfied citizens are with it. In recent times through advancement in technology and globalization, service delivery can occur through various channels, such as electronic channels, online platforms, or mobile apps. By and large, Jeremy Bentham principle of utilitarianism is a good barometer that can be used to measure the performance of a good or bad government. These include the numbers of citizens that are happily satisfied, the quality and length of the service provided. The effectiveness of government service delivery has a significant impact on citizen satisfaction, political stability, and economic growth.

### **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development has been defined as reaching a societal and ecological state that is safe, fair, and beneficial for all life (World Commission on Environment and Development as cited in Fischer *et al*, 2023). Likewise sustainable development is also defined as a state or situation in which in addition to survival of human beings there is availability of improved quality of life, in ways that are equitable and environmentally responsible (Sachs, 2020). Similarly, sustainable development has also been defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Raworth, 2018). Equally, sustainable development is about ensuring that our economy, society, and environment are in balance, so that we can enjoy a good quality of life today without damaging the environment for future generations (McGlade, 2020). Another definition of sustainable development is striking a balance between social justice, economic growth, and environmental preservation in order to meet present needs without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to meet their own. (Mensah & Ricart Casadevall, 2019).

From the array of definitions above sustainable development can simply be defined as development that can continue or development that can be maintained for ever or a very long time considering the rate of the present exploration and development. We can also define sustainable development as a process of making provision and giving opportunity for unborn generation while the present generation explores the environment to meet their needs and satisfaction. It can also be refers to as the creation of avenue for better life for the present and future generations while the present generations explore natural resources and creating development to meet up with the reality of the modern world. In summary, sustainable

development is an initiative that aims to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social equity.

However, for a guarantee of sustainable development governments must manage natural resources reasonably and responsibly and as well ensure environmental conservation. Some of the ways the government can guarantee sustainable development includes: reducing pollution, and conservation of natural resources, among others. It is because of this that there is the United Nations Organization introduced what is called sustainable development goals, which revolve around promoting social equity and attempting to reduce inequality. The initiative aims at reducing poverty, promote education and health, and protect vulnerable groups. Sustainable development also demands that while governments and privates individuals or organizations aim to promote economic growth through job creation, they must also ensuring that growth is environmentally and socially sustainable. However, regrettably, corruption can undermine sustainable development by diverting resources away from essential services and investments, and by misappropriation of resources and negatively influence decision-making processes by political actors.

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are several theories to underpin Corruption, Service Delivery and Sustainable Development in Kogi State. However, this study adopted the Institutional Theory as the framework of analysis. The Institutional Theory originated in the work of Émile Durkheim in the late 19th century when he developed the concept of "social facts" and their role in shaping human behavior. Other scholars that wrote about the Institutional Theory are Talcott Parsons, Peter Blau, John Meyer and Brian Rowan, Richard Scott, Barbara Entwistle among others. However, Institutional Theory focuses on the rules, norms, and values that shape the behavior of individuals and organizations within a given social context. The theory argues that institutions shape social outcomes by creating patterns of behavior that become difficult to change over time.

Among the basic assumption of the institutional theory are: it assumes that Institutions shape human behavior. This means that Institutions are viewed as powerful forces that shape the behavior of individuals and organizations. In addition, institutional theory assumes that Institutions are seen as relatively stable and enduring structures that persist over time, even as the individuals and organizations within them change. Likewise, it also assumes that organizations are rational. This means that organizations are rational actors that seek to maximize their resources and minimize costs. Equally, the theory assumes that the culture of an organization or sector shapes its behavior and outcomes. Similarly, it is assumed that organizations seek to maintain their legitimacy in the eyes of key stakeholders, including citizens, state and non-state actors, among others. In the same way, the theory assumes that the specific context in which an organization operates, including the legal, political, and cultural environment, shapes its behavior and outcomes. Also, the theory assumes that institutional change is slow and incremental, as organizations are often resistant to change due to path dependencies and institutional logics. And finally, the theory assumes that power is an important factor in shaping institutional logics, as powerful actors can influence the norms and values of a particular sector or organization.

The Institutional Theory is relevant to Corruption, Service Delivery and Sustainable Development in Kogi State, as it helps to explain the underlying forces of corruption, service delivery, and sustainable development in Kogi State. It helps to understand the role of power in shaping corruption and service delivery in the state, such as the influence of political elites and patronage networks. The theory is relevant in the sense that it helps to understand how

corruption and poor service delivery may undermine sustainable development in the state, as resources are diverted away from essential services and infrastructure. The theory will be helpful in understanding how different factors such as patronage networks and clientelism, may contribute to corruption in Kogi State.

The theory is also relevant to the subject matter because it helps to comprehend why corruption has become entrenched and recognized as part of the political and economic system, making it more difficult to eradicate and reform. This makes it difficult for actors to break free from corrupt behaviors that have gotten entrenched in the system. Notwithstanding its usefulness, some of the criticisms have been leveled against the Institutional Theory, and they include: that it fails to provide a clear causal explanation of how institutions shape political and social outcomes. Instead, the theory tends to simply describe the relationship between institutions and outcomes without explaining how institutions actually influence behavior and decision-making. Another criticism level against the theory is that it focuses too narrowly on formal institutions and ignores other factors that shape social and political outcomes, such as cultural norms or social networks, and the roles of individual actors or other social forces.

### **Overview of Corruption in Nigeria**

Nigeria, like many other developing countries, that has been grappling with the issue of corruption for decades, corruption in Nigeria has a long and complex history, with roots that can be traced back to pre-colonial, colonial, and post-independence periods. Oral history and traditions of most tribes in Nigeria reveals that in pre-colonial Nigeria, traditional societies were characterized by strong communal bonds, where corruption was largely discouraged. However, the emergence of centralized and hierarchical political systems in some areas, such as the Hausa-Fulani and Yoruba empires, led to corruption and abuses of power (Omachi, 2021).

An example of corruption in pre-colonial Nigeria can be seen in the Hausa-Fulani Empire. Brahmabhatt, (2015) submits that the Hausa-Fulani empire was characterized by a centralized political system, with a Sultan at the top and a hierarchy of officials below him. This system was vulnerable to corruption, as officials often abused their power for personal gain, such as demanding bribes or exploiting the labor of subordinates. Similarly, in the colonial era, there was establishment of a highly centralized and bureaucratic administrative system, which contributed to the growth of corruption in Nigeria (Ezeh & Etodike, 2016). Colonial officials and elites often abused their power for personal gain, while corruption became a common feature of colonial government. An example of corruption in the colonial period can be seen in the practices of the British colonial officials. For instance, Kambani (2019) contended that British officials often demanded bribes from local chiefs in exchange for political favors or preferential treatment. One specific example is the case of the Northern Nigerian Railway Company, which was established in the early 1900s to facilitate the transportation of goods and people across the region. It was revealed that, the British officials who oversaw the company's operations often engaged in corrupt practices, such as awarding contracts to companies that provided bribes or kickbacks.

Likewise, corruption continues after independence in 1960, though, it became more widespread and institutionalized. Political instability, oil wealth, and the absence of strong institutions contributed to the growth of corruption, which became a serious obstacle to economic development and social justice. In contemporary era, corruption in Nigeria is widespread across different sectors, including politics, business, the judiciary, and law enforcement. In politics, corruption often takes the form of bribery, nepotism, vote buying, and other forms of political patronage. In 2021, for example, Abdulrasheed Maina, former chairperson of the

disbanded Pension Reform Task Team (PRTT), was sentenced to eight years in jail on Monday by the Federal High Court in Abuja for money laundering crimes involving N2 billion in pension funds (Ejekwonyilo, 2021).

The National Assembly has also been involved in a number of financial crimes and corrupt acts. One instance was the N2.3 billion (about US\$361.1 billion) automobile scandal involving the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, and other members. There was another bribery controversy involving Femi Otedola, the executive chairman of Zenon Oil and Gas, and Farouk Lawan, the former chairman of the House Committee on Oil Subsidies inquiry, included allegations of \$620,000 in bribery (Alassan, 2019). Similarly, a report revealed that Sambo Dasuki, the former National Security Advisor (NSA) to former President Goodluck Jonathan, was accused of embezzling \$2.1 billion meant to be utilized for the purchase of weaponry for the Nigerian army to combat Boko Haram (Ozigi & Ilevbare, 2020). Diezani Alison Madueke, a former minister in the Federal Ministry of Petroleum, was also involved in the astounding \$20 billion theft ("Nigeria: A year after arrest", 2020).

In the business sector, corruption often involves bribery, tax evasion, and other forms of economic crimes (EFCC, 2020). In 2018, the Nigerian government recovered \$315 million in stolen assets from a former oil minister (Ukpe, 2023). In the judiciary, corruption often takes the form of judicial corruption, such as bribery or the manipulation of court processes. For example, in 2019, a Nigerian judge was dismissed after being accused of receiving bribes from lawyers ("Nigeria dismisses judge over bribery allegations", 2019). Similarly, in law enforcement, corruption often involves police corruption, such as bribery, extortion, and abuse of power. In 2020, the EFCC arrested several Nigerian police officers for bribery and extortion ("Nigerian police arrested", 2020). Likewise in education, corruption in the education sector often involves exam fraud, bribery, and the sale of admission slots among others (Olagboye, 2023).

Corruption has eaten deep into the fabric of the health sector in Nigeria. Corruption in the health sector often involves the diversion of funds, bribery, and poor quality of health care. In 2017, Nigerian officials uncovered a scheme to divert \$2.1 billion from the national healthcare budget (BusinessDay, 2017). In addition, the Agricultural sector in Nigeria is not immune to corruption. In this sector corruption often involves the misappropriation of funds, bribery, and the abuse of subsidized inputs. In 2018, Nigerian officials arrested several government officials for embezzling funds intended for the purchase of fertilizer for farmers ("Nigerian officials arrested", 2018). Furthermore, the 2019 Audit report from the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation verified the claims made by SERAP. The report submits that Federal MDAs failed to account for N323.5 billion in 2019 alone, according to the audit report ("Nigeria Auditor-General report", 2020).

In addition, the anti-graft commission found 257 duplicate projects totaling N20 billion in the 2021 budget, according to the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) (Arowosegbe, 2021). The Buhari government employed a number of people who have been accused of corruption, which diminished the administration's credibility in its efforts to combat corruption. The regime's war on corruption would take a controversial turn when former governors of Taraba Jolly Nyame and Plateau Joshua Dariye were imprisoned; they were later pardoned by the same regime, and another former governor, Orji Kalu of Abia, was released by the courts on corruption charges (Abidoeye, 2022). Although the regime achieved few victories in the cases involving Abdurashheed Maina, former head of the Pension Task Force, and former senator Farouq Lawan; both were sentenced for differing degrees of money laundering and bribery, respectively (Sanni, 2023).

## **Trends of Corruption in Kogi State**

Corruption is a widespread problem in Kogi State and that the EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies have arrested many government officials on corruption-related charges. These arrests are often reported in the media. Ten counts were presented in the modified accusations against Suleiman, fourteen against Joseph Faniyi, eight against Yahaya Abubakar, eleven against Obaro Victor Kayode, eleven against Abiodun Ojo, and eleven against Ropo Asala. According to a count charge, on or around April 3, 2008, in Kogi state, Jimoh Suleiman, the Caretaker and Chairman of Adavi Local Government, and Hon. Tolorunjuwa Joseph Faniyi, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, conspired to forge documents, committing an offense against Section 3 (6) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act Cap. M17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, which is punishable under Section 1 (2) of the same Act. additionally, in a different lawsuit with charge number FHC/ABJ/CR/75/2010, the charges against the quartet of Hon. Tolorunjuwa Faniyi, the Commission for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs; Stephen Asala, the former executive chairman of the Yagba West Local Government Council; Obaro Kayode, the former chairman of the Yagba East Local Government Council; and Samuel Ojo, the Commissioner for Agriculture, were also modified.

Furthermore, it was revealed that on or around June 29, 2009, in Kogi state, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, Stephen Ropo Asala, who was serving as the Executive Chairman of the Yagba West Local Government Council, Kogi state Kayode, the former Chairman of the Yagba East Local Government Council, Hon. Tolorunjuwa Faniyi, the Commission for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, all of Kogi state, converted the sum of N216,000,000.00 (two hundred and sixteen million naira) as the proceeds of an illegal act, namely: criminal misappropriation with the aim of concealing its illicit origin. This offense was therefore in violation of Section 14 (1) (a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition Act) 2004 and was punishable under Section 14 (1) of the same Act (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), (2014).

Gabriel Daudu, former Chairman of the Ogori-Magongo LGA in Kogi State, was accused in 2010 and convicted in 2015 with 208 counts of money laundering and misappropriation of public money. The Supreme Court has dismissed Gabriel Daudu's appeal against his conviction for a N1.4 billion fraud and affirmed the trial court's punishment. At the conclusion of the trial, Daudu was found guilty of 77 charges and sentenced to two years in jail on each count (Corruption Cases Database, n.d.).

In 2012, Joseph Y. Agbo & 2 others were alleged to have converted to their personal use the said amount, being a loan facility obtained on behalf of the Bassa Local Government Council for some projects. Hon. Justice Josiah Majebi, of the State High Court, Kogi, delivering his judgments in 2016, the trial judge convicted and sentenced both Agbo and Ekele to two years imprisonment each on count one- and two-years imprisonment on counts two and three. Adamu was also convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment on count one- and two-years imprisonment on count four (Corruption Cases Database, n.d.).

In addition, Mohammed Dahiru, an employee of the Kogi State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS), was allegedly accused of transferring funds intended for the state government to his personal account (Frederick, 2024). A radio program hosted by Wadata Media and Advocacy Center (WAMAC) and broadcast on Kogi State's Grace FM, a private station, exposed the alleged scam. Numerous indigenes and residents of Kogi state, among them Eunice Tolufashe, the chief executive officer of Health Care Essential Water factory, situated in the OgoriMagongo Area of Kogi state, have purportedly accused Mohammed Dahiru of extorting the business under the guise of revenue collection, with the money purportedly going to his

personal bank account rather than the State Government (Wadata Media & Advocacy Centre (WAMAC), 2024). A few dealers affirmed that the KGIRS group was in charge by Dahiru have been collecting revenue from them in OgoriMagongo without issuing receipt.

Earlier in 2016, a civil society organization based in Abuja, has accused the Kogi State government of massive fraud and urged the relevant anti-corruption organizations, particularly the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to launch an investigation into the claims immediately. The organization claimed that N30 billion in bailout and other statutory money had been embezzled by the administration of Governor Yahaya Bello (Sahara Reporters, 2016). It was discovered that the government received N20 billion in salary and N10 billion for infrastructure. "of the N20 billion, N10 billion is deposited with Zenith Bank, while the remaining N10 billion is deposited with Access Bank for local government salaries. Nonetheless, it is instructive to remember that on July 27, 2016, N912, 648,960.49 million was transferred to AG Vision Construction Nigeria Limited's account at Skye Bank (number 1920001651) from the infrastructure account (number 1010756707 at Zenith Bank) as a portion of the money allegedly paid for the construction of Agasa-Ukpogoro Road, a bogus, non-existent project (the cable, 2016).

Yahaya Bello, the governor of Kogi State, accused Captain Idris Wada, his predecessor, in 2016 of embezzling the N2 billion Youth Enterprise Fund that was collected from the Central Bank of Nigeria (How Wada stole N2billion, 2016). He went on to say that the money from the loan intended to encourage youth commerce was embezzled by the government that came right before by using phony beneficiaries. Again, the EFCC prosecuted six individuals in 2010 for an alleged N1.9 billion scam in Kogi State (The Vanguard, 2010). The six individuals are: Hon. Tolorunjuwon Joseph Faniyi, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs over alleged of N536 million scam; Hon. Obaro Victor Kayode, former Executive Chairman, Yagba East Local Government Council accused of looting N476 million; Stephen Ropo Asala, former executive Chairman, Yagba West Local Government Council, Kogi State over alleged of N424 million fraud. Others are Enesi Jimoh Suleiman, former caretaker chairman, Adavi Local Government Area of Kogi state accused of embezzling N250 million; Hon. Samuel Abiodun Ojo, Commissioner for Agriculture, Kogi state and Yahaya Abubakar, former Chairman, Okene Local Government, Kogi state over the loot of N150million and N104million respectively.

Former Kogi State Deputy Governor Simon Achuba was charged with accepting bribes related to a road construction project. The governor's chief of staff, Edward Onoja, accused Achuba of taking bribes from contractors building some of the area's roads during a town hall meeting on Thursday in the Ibaji Local Government Area in the eastern senatorial district (Ojoye, 2019). He went on to say that the government's inability to deliver on its obligations to the Ibaji people and keep its commitments was the deputy governor's fault. He added to his claim that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has had political support in the region since the start of the Fourth Republic without any evidence of improvements to infrastructure or the advancement of any of their sons or daughters to higher positions in the state.

According to a 2020 article in The Premium Times, ZacchaeusAtte, the state's former commissioner of agriculture, allegedly used his position to embezzle public funds intended for approved agricultural projects and instead used them for his own expenses. As a result, Atte was charged with corruption by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) and appeared before a Kogi State high court in Okene. Funds intended for "the raising and distribution of Oil Palm Sprouted Nuts Seedlings" to cocoa growers in Kogi State were embezzled, according to the ICPC (Adebulu, 2020). The prosecution's case was



found to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt by the court, and the defendant was found guilty of seven of the eleven charges that were filed against him (Sanni, 2020). The defendant was also given sentences of one year in jail for counts 8, 9, 10, and 11, and five years in prison for each of counts 1, 2, and 3, with the possibility of a fine.

Conclusively, there has been an increase in financial crimes, such as embezzlement and fraud, in Kogi State. In 2019, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) recovered over N1.5 billion from alleged corrupt officials in Kogi State. While bribery and embezzlement remain the most prevalent forms of corruption in Kogi State, there has been a shift towards more sophisticated forms of corruption, such as money laundering and procurement fraud.

### **Factors Promoting Corruption in Kogi State**

There are a number of factors that have been identified as encouraging corruption in Kogi State. One of the factors causing corruption in Kogi State is godfatherism. Godfatherism is an instance in which powerful individuals or groups behave as political benefactors. Godfathers frequently utilize their political influence to secure positions for beneficiaries and relatives, regardless of their qualifications. This compromises meritocracy while encouraging corruption in the allocation of public resources and opportunities. Similarly, godfathers frequently protect and shield their protégés from accountability and punishment. This reduces the burden on corrupt officials to be transparent and accountable since they know their godfathers will use their power to shield them from indictment or dismissal. Godfathers frequently wield undue influence over government decision-making procedures, such as contract and budget allocation. This provides opportunity for unscrupulous acts including bribery and embezzlement. And any of their beneficiary that refuse to do their biddings may be removed. For instance, in 2016, the Kogi State House of Assembly impeached the Speaker, Hon. Momoh Jimoh Lawal, allegedly due to his refusal to follow the instructions of his political godfathers (Oluwagbemi, 2016).

Lack of accountability is another factor that promotes corruption in Kogi State. Kogi State like other states in Nigeria has a culture of lawlessness and lack of accountability, making it difficult to hold corrupt officials responsible for their acts. The accountability procedure for political and bureaucratic authorities who exceed the budget and mechanism to hold them accountable are weak allowing them to get away with little or no scrutiny. Therefore, some contracts, procurement components were excessively overpriced, and competitive bidding may be stopped on a regular basis to help a specific company gain contracts. Non-competitive bidding usually leads to increased prices, rushed procurement, potential corruption, and theft, as options analysis may be based on false data or incorrect assumptions.

Another cause of continuous corruption in Kogi State is that performance measures are poorly stated, assessed, or defined. The government performances in terms of provision of essential services are substantially less than anticipated in reality. The citizens' perceived dissatisfaction with service performance. Surveys have revealed that essential services are not delivered as promised or that quality is seriously compromised, that representative and or authorities are less responsive or responsible to the plight of the ordinary citizens, and that the public complain commissions or agencies are less effective and or inefficient in handling complaints of dissatisfied service users. For instance, Kogi State Consumer Protection Agency (KCPA) has been criticized for failing to adequately address complaints from consumers regarding substandard goods and services. The agency has been accused of being slow to investigate complaints and of failing to take effective action against companies that violate consumer rights. As a result, many consumers in Kogi State have reported that their complaints to the

KCPA are not taken seriously, and that they do not receive adequate redress for their grievances (Consumer Protection Council (CPC), 2019).

Ineffective anti-corruption agencies have contributed to corruption in Kogi State. In spite of the efforts of the EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies, corruption in Kogi State has persisted due to a lack of resources and political manipulations. Considering widespread allegations of corruption against Kogi State officials, few cases have been successfully prosecuted. This has been ascribed to a lack of resources and political meddling in the functioning of anti-corruption agencies such as the EFCC. Many corrupt officials in Kogi State are purportedly shielded from punishment because of their political connections. The culture of impunity in Kogi State has led to selective enforcement of anti-corruption agencies, targeting political opponents and overlooking politically connected individuals, and a lack of transparency and accountability, reducing public confidence and making monitoring difficult. A good example of this was in April 2024, when Usman Ododo, the current governor of Kogi State, helped former governor Yahaya Bello escape arrest by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) officers. Ododo's entourage drove away with Bello, while EFCC agents retreated from his residence (Sanusi, 2024).

Kogi State's weak legal system has aided corruption, with numerous trials dismissed or postponed owing to political influence. This has given corrupt officials a sense of impunity, allowing them to engage in corrupt actions without fear of being punished. Protracted court proceedings have allowed corrupt crimes to go unpunished. Despite several corruption charges brought before the courts in Kogi State, only a few people have been convicted. Inadequate anti-corruption courts have caused delays and enabled corrupt officials to exploit legal loopholes.

### **Impact of Corruption on Service Delivery and Sustainable Development in Kogi State**

Corruption in Kogi State has had a number of negative impacts on service delivery and sustainable development. This includes the fact that corruption has contributed to the poor state of health facilities in Kogi State, with inadequate funding for health care, lack of essential medical supplies, and poor working conditions for health care workers. A case in point was recently in May 8, 2024, doctors in Kogi protested low manpower and said they were overworked. Residents' doctors at the Federal Teaching Hospital in Lokoja staged a protest on Thursday against the hospital management's purportedly offensive policies and staffing shortfall. The doctors who were demonstrating had signs that said things like, "We want to work, not work and die." "Please don't murder us," "Federal Teaching Hospital Lokoja doctors are dying, help!" and "Stop no work no pay threat." Some such sayings that were on display were: "Give us call meals." "Cease treating doctors like hired guns," "FG, Mr. President, come to our aide," among others (Odogun, 2024).

Corruption has also affected the education sector in Kogi State, with reports of corruption in the award of school contracts, embezzlement of funds meant for school infrastructure, and poor accountability in the management of schools. Corruption has had a detrimental impact on Kogi State's educational system, causing money intended for education to be misappropriated for private benefit. This has left the state's schools with inadequate infrastructure, under-qualified teachers, and low-quality instruction. The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) accused Kogi State officials in 2019 of embezzling N1.6 billion intended to pay teachers' salaries and benefits. However, in 2021 the Kogi State Union of Teachers called for the prompt restoration of full wage payment in lieu of the percentage payment, specifically for primary school teachers (Odogun, 2021). The union called the situation in which some of its members received N6, 000 per month—"very ridiculous." The Teachers' Union further claims that the

amount given to teachers in Kogi State is questionable because the take-home pay is significantly less than any minimum wage that has been authorized by the government, past or present, and additional benefits have become elusive.

The union leader then lamented the fact that Kogi State's primary school teachers were paid peanuts and begged the federal and state governments in charge of teacher salaries to address the humiliating circumstance. In general, Corruption can lead to the misappropriation of funds earmarked for education, depriving schools and educational institutions of the resources they need to provide quality education. Corruption can also lead to the use of bribes to gain admission to schools or to obtain higher grades, undermining the integrity of the education system.

Corruption has hindered the development of infrastructure in the state, with reports of contract inflation and kickbacks in the award of contracts for roads, bridges, and other public projects. Corruption has contributed to the poor state of social services in the state, such as the lack of functional public housing, inadequate provision of clean water, and a lack of social welfare programs for vulnerable groups. Corruption in Kogi State has resulted in the inefficient operation of public utilities, such as electricity and water supply, leading to frequent power outages, poor water quality, and high costs for the citizens. Corruption in government agencies has resulted in the misappropriation of funds meant for the maintenance and expansion of public utilities, leading to inadequate infrastructure and poor service delivery. Corrupt officials in Kogi State have been accused of diverting resources meant for public utilities to their personal use, leading to poor quality of service and high costs for consumers. Gbadamosi and Olorunfemi, (2016) submitted that the cottage hospital's full potential is hindered by inadequate infrastructure along the Akutupa-Kiri road, including markets, roads, electricity, water sources, and communication networks, which limit health professionals' ability to stay and work in hospitals.

The inability of the government to provide affordable housing for citizens due to corruption has led to a proliferation of informal settlements, characterized by substandard living conditions, lack of basic amenities, and overcrowding. Corrupt practices in the housing sector have resulted in the emergence of shantytowns or slums such as Angwan Sarki in Lokoja, Ogiiji in Lokoja, in Kogi State, where people live in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions without basic amenities. This has exacerbated the poor living conditions in these informal settlements often lead to health problems, such as respiratory diseases, diarrheal illnesses, and infectious diseases, especially among children. Equally, People living in informal settlements often have limited access to social services like healthcare, education, and sanitation, which can perpetuate poverty and inequality. Informal settlements often lack proper waste management systems, leading to the accumulation of garbage and waste in the environment, which can have harmful effects on public health and the environment (Adedunmola & Oshodi, 2019).

### **Stakeholder's Effort at Resolving the Issues Relating to Corruption, Service Delivery and Sustainable Development in Kogi State**

Indigenes and residents of Kogi State have used a variety of methods to address the issues of corruption and service delivery challenges in the state. They have staged rallies and demonstrations to call for improved service delivery and accountability from government authorities. For example, on Friday, March 8, 2024, some Nigerians staged a demonstration at the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) headquarters, calling for accelerated investigations into the alleged N80 billion frauds involving the former Governor of Kogi State and other key officials. The protest emphasized the serious economic implications of corruption

for Kogi State's residents. The protests stressed the predicament of civil servants, who are receiving only a fraction of their actual pay, causing a significant impact on the local economy.

Similarly, in January 2024, dissatisfied residents of Lokoja Local Government Area in Kogi State protested the Abuja energy Distribution Company's inadequate energy supply to the area (Nnakaike, 2024). The protest march was staged around the state capital, with participants chanting "Light up Lokoja" as they moved around the city. They also sent a "Save Our Soul" message to Adebayo Adedibu, the minister of power, regarding their situation. They held signs with messages like "AEDC, give us light," "We are tired of no supply of light in Geregu, Danladi must go," and "Adelabu, please prevail on AEDC to give us regular light," among others.

In a similar vein, Kogi State citizens and Indigenes have made significant use of social media campaigns to raise awareness about problems with service delivery and corruption in the state. They accomplish this by making online petitions and hashtags. To increase awareness of corruption and service delivery difficulties in the state, indigenous people have developed hashtags on Twitter and Facebook, such as #KogiMustWork and #EndCorruptioninKogi. Additionally, they have started online petitions on websites like Change.org to urge government representatives to take action.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offenses Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) are investigating corruption in Kogi State, including embezzlement, bribery, and abuse of office. In 2022, the EFCC arraigned Ali Bello and another defendant, Sulaiman, for a N10 billion fraud (Sanni, 2022). They face 10 charges of misappropriation and money laundering. The defendants are accused of fraudulently withdrawing over N10 billion (N10, 270,556,800), from the Kogi State treasury, which they allegedly delivered to a bureau de change operator, Rabi Tafada, in Abuja, to keep or change to foreign currencies for personal gains. Bello and Sulaiman were remanded in prison pending bail conditions.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations have contributed to increasing awareness about corruption and service delivery concerns in the state, as well as advocating for good governance and accountability. NGOs and civil society organizations have performed several studies and issued reports on corruption and service delivery concerns in the state, emphasizing the impact on citizens and advocating for action from government officials. Similarly, in terms of advocacy efforts, NGOs and civil society organizations have conducted public events to raise awareness about corruption and service delivery challenges in Kogi State, as well as to hold government officials accountable.

Kogi State's media outlets have exposed corruption and service delivery issues, raising public awareness and pressuring government officials. They have conducted investigations, exposed stories, and provided opinion, advocating for action. Reporters have used investigative journalism techniques to uncover corruption and issues, sometimes risking their personal safety. Media organizations have also interacted with communities to understand the impact of corruption and call for action. However, Kogi State continues to face corruption, with high levels of bribery and embezzlement still prevalent. Despite efforts to address the issue, the state was listed as one of Nigeria's top 10 most corrupt states in 2018 (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2019).

The private sector has been involved in efforts to improve service delivery and sustainable development in the state through partnerships with government agencies and civil society organizations. For instance, The Kogi government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with investors from China on a security project for the state ("Kogi partners with

Chinese”, 2022). The project, said to be worth \$60 million, is expected to provide more than 600,000 job opportunities when actualized. It was reported that the project will involve the use of digital technology for real-time surveillance activities across the state in order to prevent attacks.

In addition, private companies in Kogi State have been instrumental in supporting the construction of schools, healthcare facilities, and other infrastructure, often in collaboration with government agencies and civil society organisations. They have also contributed to improving service delivery and sustainable development in the state, such as by sponsoring broadband infrastructure and digital services. A noteworthy example is Cyberspace Limited, a private company, which has also contributed to education, ICT/youth empowerment, and public service through donations and scholarships. The company has extended its arm to address crucial challenges affecting various sections of the community through giving back, with a focus on education, ICT/youth empowerment, and public service. Some of these include the donation of a 30-seater coaster bus to Kogi State University. Kogi State College of Education in Lokoja received a donation of a 10-seater SUV. Endowment for two categories of best students in several departments at Kogi State Polytechnic. Kogi State Polytechnic receives a 30-seater coaster bus donation. 60 KVA Generator, Kogi State Polytechnic among others (Cyberspace, n.d.).

## **Conclusion**

The study reveals that corruption in Kogi State, including embezzlement, fraud, bribery, money laundering, and procurement fraud, remains prevalent and hinders service delivery. To achieve sustainable development, essential services like roads, education, healthcare, housing, and water must be provided by government, private companies, and individuals. However, despite efforts to address corruption, it persists, with Kogi State ranking among Nigeria's top 10 most corrupt states in a 2018 survey. Despite increased awareness, the issue remains a challenge to achieve sustainable development goals.

## **Recommendations**

To salvage the situation therefore, it is recommended that:

- i. The government should design the state's current legal system so that anyone found guilty of political or bureaucratic corruption faces the death penalty or capital punishment. Anyone found wanting should be charged with a felony as a criminal in order to deter others from corruption.
- ii. The government should establish a non-partisan, independent body in Nigeria to enforce moral standards and codes of conduct, insulated from political influence. Led by respected individuals, including civil society and religious leaders, the body should investigate and sanction violations of ethical standards.
- iii. The citizens should make an effort to select candidates with strong financial, administrative, political, and bureaucratic track records. This helps to avoid recycling criminals and those without conscience into political positions.
- iv. To deter others from defending themselves against such crimes, the state should review its justice system for corruption and execute officials in public.
- v. The indigene and residents of Kogi State should challenge political leaders and hold them accountable, rather than praying to God, as no one has proven God's assistance in providing essential services or making living conducive for citizens.

## References

- Abidoye, B. (2022, April 14). Buhari pardons ex-Governors Dariye, Nyame serving jail terms for corruption; 157 others. Premium Times. Retrieved from [www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/523946-buhari-pardons-ex-governors-dariye-nyame-serving-jail-terms-for-corruption-157-others.html](http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/523946-buhari-pardons-ex-governors-dariye-nyame-serving-jail-terms-for-corruption-157-others.html)
- Adebulu, T. (2020, January 24). Ex-Kogi commissioner bags 19-year jail term over N24m fraud. *The Cable*. Retrieved from [www.thecable.ng/ex-kogi-commissioner-bags-19-year-jail-term-over-n24m-fraud/](http://www.thecable.ng/ex-kogi-commissioner-bags-19-year-jail-term-over-n24m-fraud/)
- Adedunmola, A. O., & Oshodi, S. (2019). Exploring the Spatio-Temporal Dynamics and Resilience of Informal Settlements in Lagos, Nigeria. *Urban Studies*, 56(4), 744-763.
- Alassan, M. (2019). Corruption in the Nigerian National Assembly: A case study of the Bankole led house. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 4(2), 46-58.
- Arowosegbe, T. (2021, January 29). ICPC discovers 257 duplicate projects in 2021 budget, decries poor budget implementation. *Daily Trust*. Retrieved from <https://dailytrust.com/icpc-discovers-257-duplicate-projects-in-2021-budget-decries-poor-budget-implementation>
- Bernstein, M. (2018). *Service delivery: A framework for improvement*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1032&context=theses>
- Bhandari, M. P. (2023). The corruption a chronic disease of humanity: causes, effects and consequences. *ASEJ-Scientific Journal of Bielsko-Biala School of Finance and Law* 27(1) ISSN: 2543-9103 ISSN: 2543-411X (online). Retrieved from [www.the\\_corruption\\_a\\_chronic\\_disease\\_of.pdf](http://www.the_corruption_a_chronic_disease_of.pdf)
- Brahmbhatt, D. (2015). Colonialism and the African experience: Problems of power, problems of perspective. *African Historical Review*, 47(2), 237-261.
- BusinessDay. (2017, October 3). *Nigerian court probes \$2.1bn fund diversion in health sector*. Retrieved from <https://www.businessday.ng/news/article/nigerian-court-probes-2-1-billion-fund-diversion-in-health-sector/>
- Consumer Protection Council (CPC) (2019). Annual Report 2018. Abuja, Nigeria: CPC. Retrieved from <https://cpc.gov.ng/download/2018%20Annual%20Report.pdf>
- Corruption Cases Database. (n.d.). FRN vs Joseph Y. Agbo (Director, Local Government and Head of Service, Kogi State) & 2 others. Retrieved from [www.corruptioncases.ng/cases/frn-vs-joseph-y-agbo-director-local-g](http://www.corruptioncases.ng/cases/frn-vs-joseph-y-agbo-director-local-g)
- Cyberspace. (n.d.). Corporate social responsibility. *Cyberspace Limited*. Retrieved from [www.cyberspace.net.ng/csr/](http://www.cyberspace.net.ng/csr/)
- Dance, A. M., Amehojo D., & Sani, S. (2022). Effect of corruption on socio-economic development of Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria from 2015-2021. *Gusau Journal of Business Administration (GUJOBA)* 1(1). Retrieved from <https://gujoba.com.ng/index.php/gujoba/article/download/5/5>
- Dance, A. M., Amehojo, D., and Sani, S. (n.d.). Effect of corruption on socio-economic development of Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria from 2015 - 2021. *Gusau Journal of Business Administration (Gujoba)* 1(1).
- Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). (2014, April 9). *N476m Fraud: Ex-Council Chairman breached due process- Witness Tells Court*. Retrieved from [www.e](http://www.e)

[fcc.gov.ng/efcc/news-and-information/news-release/826-n476m-fraud-ex-council-chairman-breached-due-process-witness-tells-court](https://www.efcc.gov.ng/efcc/news-and-information/news-release/826-n476m-fraud-ex-council-chairman-breached-due-process-witness-tells-court)

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). (2020, August 20). *EFCC uncovers \$40 million bribery scheme* (Press release). Retrieved from <https://efccnigeria.org/news/efcc-uncovers-40m-bribery-scheme-involving-government-officials>

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). (2024, April 23). *Alleged N80.2 fraud: EFCC serves Yahaya Bello his charges*. Retrieved from [www.efcc.gov.ng/efcc/news-and-information/news-release/10000-alleged-n80-2-fraud-efcc-serves-yahaya-bello-his-charges](http://www.efcc.gov.ng/efcc/news-and-information/news-release/10000-alleged-n80-2-fraud-efcc-serves-yahaya-bello-his-charges)

Ejekwonyilo, A. (2021, November 8). Court sentences Maina to eight years in jail for N2 billion pension fraud. Premium Times. Retrieved from [www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/494090-updated-court-sentences-maina-to-eight-years-in-jail-for-n2-billion-pension-fraud.html?tztc=1](http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/494090-updated-court-sentences-maina-to-eight-years-in-jail-for-n2-billion-pension-fraud.html?tztc=1)

Ezeh, L. N., & Etodike, C. E. (2016). Corruption in Nigeria organizations: Theories & implications. In *Proceedings of the on Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustained Development through Psychology at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria*. Retrieved from [www.researchgate.net/publication/341025754\\_Corruption\\_in\\_Nigeria\\_Organizations\\_Theories\\_and\\_implications](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/341025754_Corruption_in_Nigeria_Organizations_Theories_and_implications).

Fischer, M., Borthen, G., Bulone, E., Hellenberg, D., Martinez de Albeniz, M., Mulder, C., Ormachea, D., & Querner, C. (2023). The Concept of Sustainable Development. In *Sustainable Business* (pp. 17-32). Cham: Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25397-3\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25397-3_2) retrieved from [www.link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-25397-3\\_2](http://www.link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-25397-3_2)

Frederick, O. O. (2024, March 25). How KGIRS staff allegedly diverted tax payers' money to personal account. *Fresh Angle*. Retrieved from [www.freshangleng.com/32993/how-kgirs-staff-allegedly-diverted-tax-payers--money-to-personal-account](http://www.freshangleng.com/32993/how-kgirs-staff-allegedly-diverted-tax-payers--money-to-personal-account)

Gbadamosi, K.T., & Olorunfemi, S. O. (2016). Rural road infrastructural challenges: An impediment to health care service delivery in Kabba-Bunu Local Government area of Kogi State, Nigeria. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 5(2). E-ISSN 2281-4612 ISSN 2281-3993 Doi:10.5901/ajis.2016.v5n2p35

How Wada stole N2billion-Bello. (2016, May 30). *Daily Post*. Retrieved from [dailypost.ng/2016/05/30/how-wada-stole-n2billion-bello/](http://dailypost.ng/2016/05/30/how-wada-stole-n2billion-bello/)

Jannamike, L. (2024, April 29). *Recover our stolen wealth, Kogi group tells EFCC*. Retrieved from [www.vanguardngr.com/2024/04/recover-our-stolen-wealth-kogi-group-tells-efcc/](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/04/recover-our-stolen-wealth-kogi-group-tells-efcc/)

Kambani, K. (2019). Colonialism and corruption in Nigeria: A historical perspective. *African Journal of Political Science*, 24(1), 1-16. Retrieved from <https://www.omicsonline.org/colonialism-and-corruption-in-nigeria-a-historical-perspective-2161-9926.1000e232.php?aid=30048>

Karanja, R. (2022). *Measuring service delivery performance: A Review of the literature*. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15298868.2021.1882802>

- Kaufman, D. (2019). *Corruption: A typology*. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Retrieved from <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-277>
- Kogi partners with Chinese firm on statewide digital surveillance for improved security. (2022, November 30). *The Cable*. Retrieved from [www.thecable.ng/kogi-partners-with-chinese-firm-on-state-wide-digital-surveillance-for-improved-security/](http://www.thecable.ng/kogi-partners-with-chinese-firm-on-state-wide-digital-surveillance-for-improved-security/)
- Kumar, V. (2020). *Improving service delivery: A review of the literature*. Retrieved from [http://s://academia.edu/37829597/Improving\\_Service\\_Delivery\\_A\\_Review\\_of\\_the\\_Literature](http://s://academia.edu/37829597/Improving_Service_Delivery_A_Review_of_the_Literature)
- Lessig, L. (2020). *The Law of corruption and constitutional corruption*. *Harvard law review*, 133(7), 1767–1844. Retrieved from <https://harvardlawreview.org/2020/04/the-law-of-corruption-and-constitutional-corruption/>
- Mander, P. (2023). *Service delivery strategies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A review*. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366086473\\_Service\\_Delivery\\_Strategies\\_for\\_the\\_21st\\_Century\\_A\\_Review](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366086473_Service_Delivery_Strategies_for_the_21st_Century_A_Review)
- Manjo, Y. G. (2024). *Corruption phenomenon in Nigeria (1960-2023): Patterns, trends, causes, effects & strategies to prevent and control corruption for sustainable development in Nigeria*. Retrieved from [www.researchgate.net/publication/377695776\\_CORRUPTION\\_PHENOMENON\\_IN\\_NIGERIA](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/377695776_CORRUPTION_PHENOMENON_IN_NIGERIA)
- McGlade, J. (2020). Sustainable development goals: Advancing the agenda. *Earth System Governance*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esgo.2020.100013>
- Mensah, J., & Ricart Casadevall, S. (2019). Sustainable development: Meaning, History, principles, pillars, and implications for human action: Literature review. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 5 (1). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2019.1653531>
- Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2019). Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends Second Survey on Corruption as Experienced by the Population. Retrieved from [www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/Corruption\\_in\\_Nigeria\\_2019.pdf](http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/Corruption_in_Nigeria_2019.pdf)
- Nigeria Auditor-General report 2019: N323 billion 'stolen' from Nigeria's treasury. (2020, April 22). *Pulse Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/auditor-general-report-2019-n323-billion-stolen-from-nigerias-treasury/e31zxn9>
- Nigeria dismisses judge over bribery allegations. (2019, June 17). *BBC News Africa*. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-49733877>
- Nigeria: A year after arrest, Ex-Petroleum minister Diezani Alison-Madueke's trial in Nigeria faces delay. (2020, November 24). *BBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54628161>
- Nigerian officials arrested for embezzlement in farmers' fertilizer scheme. (2018, June 28). *Premium Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/267188-nigerian-officials-arrested-for-embezzlement-in-farmers-fertilizer-scheme.html>
- Nigerian police arrested by EFCC for bribery and extortion. (2020, December 4). *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/04/nigerian-police-arrested-bribery-and-extortion>



- Nnakaike, V. (2024, January 4). Lokoja: Residents stage protest over poor power supply. *Business day*. Retrieved from [www.businessday.ng/uncategorized/article/lokoja-residents-stage-protest-over-poor-power-supply/](http://www.businessday.ng/uncategorized/article/lokoja-residents-stage-protest-over-poor-power-supply/)
- O'Connor, S. (2021). The Role of service delivery in customer satisfaction. *Researchgate*. Retrieved from [www.researchgate.net/publication/352570402](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/352570402) The Role of Service Delivery in Customer Satisfaction
- Odogun, G. (2024, May 8). Kogi doctors protest low manpower, say they're overworked. *The Punch*. Retrieved from [www.punchng.com/kogi-doctors-protest-low-manpower-say-theyre-overworked/](http://www.punchng.com/kogi-doctors-protest-low-manpower-say-theyre-overworked/)
- Odogun, G (2021, November 25). Kogi teachers grumble over N6, 000 salary payment. *The Punch*. Retrieved from [www.punchng.com/kogi-teachers-grumble-over-n6000-salary-payment/](http://www.punchng.com/kogi-teachers-grumble-over-n6000-salary-payment/)
- Ojoye, T. (2019, February 3). Kogi accuses deputy gov of accepting bribes. *The Punch*. Retrieved from [www.punchng.com/kogi-accuses-deputy-gov-of-accepting-bribes/](http://www.punchng.com/kogi-accuses-deputy-gov-of-accepting-bribes/)
- Okolie, I. (2010, December 5). N1.9b scam in Kogi State. *The Vanguard*. Retrieved from [www.vanguardngr.com/2010/12/n1-9b-scam-in-kogi-state/](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2010/12/n1-9b-scam-in-kogi-state/)
- Olagboye, S. (2023, June 22). The Impact of Corruption on Nigeria's Education System. *Statsmetrics*. Retrieved from [www.statsmetrics.ng/article/the-impact-of-corruption-on-nigeria-s-education-system](http://www.statsmetrics.ng/article/the-impact-of-corruption-on-nigeria-s-education-system)
- Oluwagbemi, A. (2016, March 13). Kogi Assembly: Beyond House of Reps takeover. *The Punch*. Retrieved from [punchng.com/kogi-assembly-beyond-house-of-reps-takeover/](http://punchng.com/kogi-assembly-beyond-house-of-reps-takeover/)
- Omachi, E. (2021). The impact of colonialism on corruption in Nigeria: A historical perspective. *Journal of African Studies*, 34(2), 109-120.
- Ozigi, O. & Ilevbare, A. (2020). The SamboDasuki bribery scandal: Politics of embezzlement. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 1(2), 19-29.
- Rashbrooke, M. (2022). Corruption and the body politic. Oxford. *Oxford University Press*. doi : <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198858664.001.0001>
- Raworth, K. (2018). Doughnut economics: Seven ways to think like a 21st-Century Economist. *Random House*. Retrieved from <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/111/1113908/doughnut-economics/9780241258257.html>
- Sachs, J. (2020). The age of sustainable development. *Columbia University Press*. Retrieved from <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-age-of-sustainable-development/9780231163344>
- Sahara Reporters, (2021, April 16). *How Kogi Deputy Governor, Onoja corruptly acquired multi-billion naira properties In Abuja*. Retrieved from [www.saharareporters.com/2021/04/16/exclusive-how-kogi-deputy-governor-onoja-corruptly-acquired-multi-billion-naira?pev9=u0gvjc](http://www.saharareporters.com/2021/04/16/exclusive-how-kogi-deputy-governor-onoja-corruptly-acquired-multi-billion-naira?pev9=u0gvjc)
- Sanni, K. (2020, January 24). Former commissioner jailed 19 years for stealing N19 million. *Premium Times*. Retrieved from [www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/374223-former-commissioner-jailed-19-years-for-stealing-n19-million.html?tztc=1](http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/374223-former-commissioner-jailed-19-years-for-stealing-n19-million.html?tztc=1)
- Sanni, K. (2022, December 15). EFCC arraigns governor's nephew for N10 billion fraud. *Premium Times*. Retrieved from [www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-central/570644-efcc-arraigns-governors-nephew-for-n10-billion-fraud.html](http://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-central/570644-efcc-arraigns-governors-nephew-for-n10-billion-fraud.html)

- Sanni, K. (2023, May 16). Scorecard: How eight years of chronic looting, political greed sank Buhari's pledge to tackle Nigeria's corruption. Peoples Gazette. Retrieved from [www.gazettengr.com/scorecard-how-eight-years-of-chronic-looting-political-greed-sank-buharis-pledge-to-tackle-nigerias-corruption/](http://www.gazettengr.com/scorecard-how-eight-years-of-chronic-looting-political-greed-sank-buharis-pledge-to-tackle-nigerias-corruption/)
- Sanusi, A. (2024, April 17). How Kogi gov, Ododo helped Yahaya Bello evade EFCC arrest. The Punch. Retrieved from [www.punchng.com/how-kogi-gov-ododo-helped-yahaya-bello-evade-efcc-arrest/](http://www.punchng.com/how-kogi-gov-ododo-helped-yahaya-bello-evade-efcc-arrest/)
- Ukpe, W. (2023, January 30). Nigeria's former oil Minister moves to reclaim seized properties. *Nairametrics*. Retrieved from [www.nairametrics.com/2023/01/30/nigerias-former-oil-minister-moves-to-reclaim-seized-properties/#google\\_vignette](http://www.nairametrics.com/2023/01/30/nigerias-former-oil-minister-moves-to-reclaim-seized-properties/#google_vignette)
- Wadata Media & Advocacy Centre (WAMAC). (2024, March 27). *Kogi revenue service warns against payment into private accounts, investigates allegations*. Retrieved from [www.wadatamediaadvocacy.org/kogi-revenue-service-warns-against-payment-into-private-accounts-investigates-allegations/](http://www.wadatamediaadvocacy.org/kogi-revenue-service-warns-against-payment-into-private-accounts-investigates-allegations/)
- Williams, A. (2021). Corruption definitions and their implications for targeting natural resource corruption. *Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) policy brief*. Retrieved from [www.cmi.no/publications/file/7849-corruption-definitions-and-their-implications-for-targeting-natural-resource-corruption.pdf](http://www.cmi.no/publications/file/7849-corruption-definitions-and-their-implications-for-targeting-natural-resource-corruption.pdf)