

ECONOMIC CRIME AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIAS FOURTH REPUBLIC: AN APPRAISAL

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INTRODUCTION

Crimes in the Nigerian society are getting incessant, as more people are indulging in criminal activities daily. People are getting more desperate and determined through the means of technological advancement and sophistication in imbibing criminal activities (Otto & Ukpere, 2012). Previous military administrations did not witness laudable crime rate, as there were strict sanctions accrued to criminal acts, especially financial crime, crime however reduced and people who imbibe this act, did with utmost discretion (Otto & Ukpere, 2012).

Economic crimes had always existed right from the colonial era to the post-colonial era. Before the discovery of oil in commercial quantity at Oloibiri in 1956, the scale and operadus of economic crimes was smaller such as embezzlement, electoral malpractices, and more in comparism to recent times especially with the

globalization of the world and the use of science and technology (Tamuno & Edoumiekumo, 2012). The discovery of oil as the main-stay of the Nigerian economy ushered new forms of crimes as kidnapping for ransom, pipeline vandalism, and more (Tamuno & Edoumiekumo, 2012).

The issue of economic crimes can be likened to corruption which is at the foundation of Nigeria's myriad of challenges visible in both the private and the public sectors. For instance, Africa illegally siphons about \$60 billion annually; over 60 per cent of this percentage comes from Nigeria only (Onuoha, Ichite, & George, 2015). As well, looking at the Haliburton \$180 million scandal, the \$15 billion concerning the customs scandal in 2011, the N74 billion Aids Fund scandal between 2003 and 2009, the River Basin Development Authority N30.6 million salary scam in 2008, the N5 trillion unremitted funds fraud issue raised

in 2009, the N12. 5 billion ghost pensioners scam issue in 2011, the Alaoji pipeline fraud (N1.3 billion), the power sector \$16 billion scam, as well as the more recent \$2.1 billion arms deal also known as the “Dasuki Gate” are evidences of the corrupt state of Nigeria (Aje & Felix, 2009).

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Economic crime has been in existence since colonial times. Initially limited in scope and accorded little importance, economic crimes started generating public concern in Nigeria from about 1984 when a decree specifying among others, the death penalty for drug traffickers was promulgated and backdated.

Economic crimes such as embezzlement, tax evasion, fraud, money laundering, illegal oil bunkering, arms and human trafficking and pipeline vandalism soon escalated. The World Bank estimates that as much as \$200 billion has been lost to corruption and mismanagement in Nigeria since independence in 1960 (Zero Tolerance, 2008:17). In 2007, Ribadu, then EFCC chairman, said on the floor of the Senate that 31 out of 36 governors were indicted for acts of embezzlement of public funds (Newswatch, 2007:6). Increase in economic crimes has also taunted Nigeria's image in

international relations. This has led to the backsliding of Nigeria by the USA for not doing enough to curb the involvement of Nigerians in economic crimes. In July 2020 for instance, Nigeria was decertified and Americans were advice to be wary of transacting business with Nigerian's (Sule 2004: 4).

1.3 Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between economic crimes and national security?
2. What are the effects of economic crimes on national security in Nigeria?
3. What measures has Nigeria taken to combat economic crimes?

1.4 Objectives of the Paper

1. To examine the relationship between economic crimes and national security.
2. To ascertain the effects of economic crimes on national security in Nigeria.
3. To examine steps taken by taken by Nigeria to combat economic crimes.

1.5 Scope of the Paper

In view of the vastness of the economic crimes, this study paid particular attention to fraud and drug trafficking as they affect national security with emphasis on Nigeria's experience from 1999 to 2010. Fraud and drug trafficking were particular chosen for study because of their very security. Nigerians are often suspected and treated as criminals at international ports of entry into other countries just for being Nigerians.

1.6 Significance of the Paper

This study is significant because it seeks to provide the Federal Government of Nigeria policy makers and anti-corruption agencies with a vivid understanding of economic crimes. Furthermore, it will assist informed policy formulation and the instructions of more effective measures against economic crimes. It also seeks to enrich the existing body of knowledge, provoke further discussions and raise more public awareness on the menace of economic crimes to the society. It will provide scholars and researchers with new basic reference material for further research work on the subject matter.

1.7 Limitation of the Paper

The study faced significant limitations, including inadequate record-keeping practices in many agencies and institutions, which hindered access to crucial and up-to-date information. Additionally, confidentiality issues surrounding documents posed challenges, and some government officials were reluctant to grant interviews, further constraining the research.

1.8 Methodology

The study is centered on Nigeria, a Federal Republic situated in West Africa, consisting of 36 states, the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and an estimated population of 154.7 million people. Geographically, Nigeria shares land borders with Benin, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, and its southern coast borders the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean. The nation is characterized by three major ethnic groups: Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba, and it practices Islam and Christianity as the predominant religions.

In terms of research design, the plan and strategy for investigation, as outlined by Kerlinger (1973:45), are crucial in obtaining answers to research questions while controlling variance. The study adopts both primary and secondary methods for data collection. Primary data, acquired firsthand

from respondents, involves the administration of questionnaires and personal interviews. Secondary data, representing expert opinions, is sourced from related literature in various libraries, including private, professional, and academic resources.

The population under scrutiny in this research comprises approximately 120 workers from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Nigeria. To determine the sample size, the researcher employed Yaro Yamane's formula, factoring in a level of significance of 5%. The formula yielded a sample size of 120 respondents for the study.

1.9 Method of Data Collection

The research employed questionnaires and interviews as the primary methods for data collection. The questions, encompassing both close and open-ended formats with multiple answers, underwent scrutiny and corrections from the supervisor to ensure alignment with the research topic. The questionnaires were structured with two sections, the first focusing on demographic characteristics like sex, age, and educational level, while the second delved into pertinent aspects of the study.

In addition to primary methods, secondary data were gathered from various sources, including libraries, textbooks, journals, newspapers, conference and seminar papers, and relevant literature reviews.

For the presentation and analysis of data, the researcher utilized the chi-square test of independence. The chi-square formula was applied, where X^2 represents the chi-square, o is the observed frequency, and e is the expected frequency. The degree of freedom (df) was determined based on the number of rows (r) and columns (c) in the table.

In deciding the validation of hypotheses, the rule stipulated that if the computed chi-square value (X^2_c) exceeded the critical chi-square value (X^2_t), the null hypothesis (H_0) would be rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis (H_1). Conversely, if the critical chi-square value was greater than the computed value, the null hypothesis would be accepted, and the alternative hypothesis rejected.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Economic Crimes

The United Nations view economic crimes as any “non-violent crime that results to a financial loss.” As well, she views economic crimes as that group of offences frequently

committed in conjunction with legitimate economic activities and largely by offenders of a certain social status who enjoy considerable amount of respect in the communities (as cited in Agu, 2009, p. 389).

Mehta (2004) stated that economic crime is likened to white-collar crime which is often committed by a person of a peculiar social class during the duties of his occupation. In committing economic crimes, the criminal employs the aid of technology and communications to carry out these unlawful transactions and the victims of such actions are often times unaware they have been cheated. Economic crime is a crime that generates economic gains or profits either for the individual or group of individuals involved, whereby damaging existing laws in administering the economic functions of government (Arowosaiye, 2015).

However, a precise and widely accepted definition of economic crime has been difficult to attain. This is as a result of the magnitude and the complexity of these crimes. On economic crime, (Ribadu, 2004) posited that they are human activities that involve breaking economic laws of Nigeria or illegal and immoral acts of persons adversely affecting the economy of Nigeria that is punishable by law (as cited in Agu,

2009, p. 389). Culprits of economic and financial crimes scarcely consider themselves to be carrying out criminal offences but rather see themselves and are seen by the general public as sharp, quick, astute and sly nationals who have possessed the capacity to maximally and gainfully abuse the accessible economic opportunities, although these crimes do not have the tag of social reproach attached to them (Okogbule, 2005). These offences include bribery, fraud, embezzlement of public funds, breach of public trust, money laundering, illegal arms deals, misappropriation of public funds, illegal oil bunkering, tax evasion, kidnapping, currencies forgery, goods smuggling, etc. (Okogbule, 2005).

There is a thin line of difference between economic crimes and financial crimes as the crimes stated above could be viewed as both economic and financial crimes (Ribadu, 2005). Such crimes serve as financial crimes because of the monetary value involved, since economic crimes always affect the revenues of the government of a state. On the other hand, financial crimes in addition to economic crimes could also include crimes within a corporation as regards to the revenue or assets of the corporation in question as it is on this note that, according to the International Compliance Association,

financial crimes are those activities that untrustworthily creates riches for those occupied with the lead being referred to (Ribadu, 2005). In addition, these crimes involve wrongdoings that do not include the deceptive taking of an advantage, yet that secure an advantage that has of now been gotten or to encourage the taking of such advantage.

2.2 Concept of National Security

National security traditionally, reflected military strength which was viewed from the realist perspective where the referent object of security is the state as it is assumed that the greatest hindrance to national security is external threat (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). The concept of national security has over the years had arguable perspectives from various scholars from the definition of concepts which is rarely definite and to the study of the level of analysis. Still two basic perspectives have surfaced to explain the various definitions of national security by different scholars (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013).

The first views national security from the strategic definition which aligns with the realist perspective of the notion as it explains national security in the terms of amassing arms to deter aggression. The

second views national security from the non-strategic definition which encompasses the socio-economic factors as it explains that there are other threats to human existence other than aggression from external forces (Okechukwu, & Anyadike, 2013).

Therefore, for the purpose of this paper, analysis of national security is based on the state level and at the internal security of the state. In addressing internal security of the state, focus is based on the effects rather than the causes, therefore security is perceived from the ‘criminality of the people and not what turns them into criminals’ in other words the greater emphasis is placed on the effect rather than the motive of these actions (Igbogo, 2015).

The concept of national security encompasses a broad range of facets, all of which encroach on the non-military or economic security of the state and the values espoused by the national society (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). Hence it is possible to liken national security as the goal in a game by other team players which constitutes all other aspects of national security like food security, health security, arms security, ideation security. The contemporary thought of national security imagines assurance of the state as well as the individual’s

wellbeing from a wide assortment of existential dangers, for example, hunger, infringement of human rights, wrongdoing and culpability, political flimsiness and strife, environmental degradation, poverty, among others (Agwai, 2014). Onuoha views national security as “the capacity of a state to pursue and promote the fundamental needs and vital interests of man and society and to protect them from threats which may be economic, social, environmental, political, military or epidemiological” (as cited in Agu, 2009, p. 396) hence the theory of national interest is embodied in the dictum: *salus populi est suprema lex* interpreting that the safety of the nation is the supreme law (Agu, 2009).

2.3 Nexus between Economic Crimes and National Security

Economic crimes make it essential for the personal interest of the citizen to supersede the public interest in the distribution of public resources by the workers, in this manner restricting the capacity of the government in the allocation of resources and delivery of services which also leads to frustration and deprivation among the citizenry hence making the country precarious and prone to all manner of internal aggressions (Agu, 2009).

Economic crime also known as white-collar crime is a crime which occurs as a diversion from the culprit’s occupational role or in the course of legitimate duties and transactions which involves the criminal stealing of large sums of money as with no use of violence and employs technology to take out these unlawful commercial transactions as the victims of such crimes are naïve about these transactions (Mehta, 2004). Such crimes are very costly to the Nigerian state. These crimes are mostly perpetrated by the educated class of the society which is worse in terms of magnitude as against the violent crimes usually carried out by the uneducated class of a society and targeted at certain individuals (Okogbule, 2005). Crimes which involve the educated class of a society within a nation shows great danger to the national security of the state as this class of the society is supposed to interpret the national values of the state thereby promoting the values of the state as in contrast to shrinking the national values of the state (Akwara,, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle, & Udaw, 2013). This in turn leads to more frustration and resentment from the uneducated youth. The result of such tension within a state leads to insecurity of individuals and groups within

the state which is an example of the Niger Delta crisis as indigenes are crying out to the Nigerian government at the generation of environmental hazards in their communities. Taxation is one of the sources of revenue for the government used to finance and support basic socio-economic responsibilities like better security, social amenities and better welfare packages for the society. However, most of the elite Nigerians do not pay taxes (Arowosaiye, 2015). This in turn leads to shortage of revenue accrued to the government.

Economic crimes as well hinder the capacity of the government to protect and bring development to the mass of the Nigerian people by making their standard of living unappreciated. The poor and deteriorating governance co-existing with economic crimes leads to the collapse of socio-economic welfare of the people. Consequently, economic crimes have distorted and tarnished the image of Nigeria, and highly placed people in the private and public sectors of the economy are being charged and prosecuted in the courts as a result of it (Agu, 2009; Arowosaiye, 2015; Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013).

2.4 Corruption

Corruption is very widespread in Nigeria and it manifests itself in virtually all aspects of national life. Nigeria was some time ago rated by the Transparency International Index as the most corrupt country in the world. Corruption is a worldwide phenomenon, which has been with societies throughout history. It has caused political and economic instability in societies and, depending on the scale, it has led to social conflict and violence, as competing groups vie for state power which is the source of distribution of resources and other amenities in society. (Ibrahim 2001, Adenuga 2001).

Otite (1986) described corruption as “the perversion of integrity or state of affairs through bribery, favour, or moral depravity. He stated that corruption takes place when at least two parties have interacted to change the structure or processes of society or the behaviour of functionaries in order to produce dishonest, unfaithful or defiled situations.

The United Nations is of the view that corruption in government increases poverty in many ways. Most directly, it diverts resources to the rich people, who can afford to pay bribes and away from the poor, who cannot. Corruption also weakens a

Government and lessens its ability to fight poverty.

2.5 Money Laundering and Online Banking

Many financial institutions are now providing banking service through the Internet. Most of these are established financial institutions that offer only part of their services online. The concern with respect to money laundering, is that there is no face-to-face contact between the customer and financial institution. The customer accesses his or her account on the website of the financial institution by providing a password. Since no face-to-face contact is required, the financial institution has no means of verifying the identity of the individual. Moreover, a customer can access her account from anywhere in the world. In addition, as access is gained through an internet service provider, the institution has no way of verifying the location from which the account was accessed.

2.6 Cyber crime

Online computers via the internet can be used to plan and co-ordinate activities, and to facilitate illegal acts, as well as to distribute tools for committing crimes. Instructions for building bombs and deadly weapons and instructions for building “red

boxes” used in stealing telephone services, have all been found on the internet. Software for hacking into other computer systems is also available online. Pirated software, child pornography, scams and offshore tax evasion schemes are all available or operated via the internet (Redpath, 2001).

Internet crimes are raising international concern. Every terrorist organization has its own internet website “to propagate it, recruit manpower, purchase firearms and even sell children for sexual purposes”. Cyber-crimes are serious sophisticated crimes like swindling, embezzlement and money laundering. These crimes are being committed all the time and often traces are covered up or erased instantly, making the police unable to track them (Radpath, 2001).

2.7 Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, according to Article 3a of the United Nations Protocol is defined as the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve

the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. The trafficking in persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (2003), defines trafficking as all acts and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across Nigerian borders, purchases, sales, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person involving the use of deception, coercion or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person, whether for or not involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like conditions”.

Victims of human trafficking include the poor, weak powerless, ignorant, desperate and vulnerable adults mostly women, youth and children. Human trafficking can be either internal or external. Human trafficking is internal when it takes place within a country, while it is external when it takes place across international boundaries.

2.8 Assassination

As the world advances and the stakes in political clashes or will continue to grow on a global scale, the number of assassinations concomitantly multiplies. Assassination is the deliberate killing of an important person,

usually a political figure or other strategically important individuals. An assassin is the person who carries out an assassination (Wikipedia, 2006).

Assassins have a wide range of reasons for their action. Reasons for attacks include: to achieve notoriety or fame, to avenge a perceived wrong, to end personal pains; to be killed by law enforcement agent, to bring national attention to a perceived problem, to save the country or the world, to achieve a special relationship with the target, to make money, to bring about political change and to settle scores.

It has been found that no assassins or attackers communicated a direct threat about their target to him or to a law enforcement agency before their attack. Many writers on assassinations asserted that most assassins have been mentally ill. Some say that mental illness is the cause of assassination. Others argued that mental illness is a key factor in understanding assassination behaviour. Many scholars such as Freedman (1966), Goode (2002) and Madunagu (2006), are of the opinion that political assassinations are failure of the political system. Inability to penetrate the ruling class frequently results in political assassinations of public figures connected with politics. Failure in politics

carries high costs often in relation to loss of human lives. Political assassination occurs when people want to settle scores.

2.9 Crimes and Development

Criminal victimization in Nigeria has far-reaching consequences for individuals and society, undermining aspirations for democracy, development, human rights, and a high standard of living (Odekunle, 2005). Despite measures introduced by successive regimes over the past two decades, the country continues to witness high rates of crime that defy management efforts.

The costs and consequences of the crime problem are multifaceted. Beyond material loss and personal distress resulting from criminal victimization, there is a substantial yet unquantifiable expenditure of energy and scarce resources by the population on anxious fear and precautionary measures against potential victimization. This reflects feelings of insecurity and helplessness, indicating a perceived hopelessness in the situation. Notably, considerable amounts of money and energy are spent on securing homes and vehicles, particularly in urban areas, leading to inconveniences and restricted freedom of movement.

The government faces costs as well, impacting its credibility. Public confidence in the government relies, in part, on its effectiveness in preventing and controlling criminal victimization. The government's ability to provide security is crucial, as it is one of the primary functions of the state. A failure to protect the lives and properties of citizens jeopardizes public loyalty and signifies a step toward becoming a failed state.

3.0 Theoretical Framework

The relationship between the pattern of production, distribution, exchange and consumption on one hand and social phenomena such as state, religion and law on the other hand has been a subject of profound intellectual interest among philosophers, social scientists and scholars generally. This is the thrust of political economy. It stresses the relatedness of both the economic and political categories in social analysis³. The idea is traceable to Marxist jurisprudence and that of his later followers. Karl Marx, employing Hegel's dialectic, asserted that economic relations in

human society determines the nature and character of all other social phenomena including law which he called the superstructure. In the words of Engels, his fellow ideologue.

All the social, political and intellectual relations, all religions and legal systems, all the theoretical outlooks which emerge in the course of history...are derived from the material conditions of life.

In this theoretical framework, the state is viewed as an instrument of class domination and oppression, serving to maintain order and legitimize the oppression of one class by another. While Marx and Engels did not explicitly connect social conditions to crime, the emphasis on "class oppression" suggests a belief that crime stems from poverty. The application of Marxist thinking in sociological studies links crime and social alienation to economic inequalities.

Marxist scholars like Karl Renner highlight the intricate relationship between law and the manipulation of material conditions, deviating from Marx's perspective that economic relations determine law as part of the superstructure. Renner metaphorically sees the base-superstructure division as

illustrating societal divisions. Other social scientists, including Quinney and Taylor, Walton, and Young, argue that criminality is politically, economically, and socially induced by material forces, asserting a connection between law and the means of production.

Expanding on Marxist theory, it is proposed that crime primarily results from "surplus populations" without a genuine role in the means and relations of production, such as the unemployed and unemployable. However, this thesis fails to explain crimes committed by the affluent working class.

4.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

This devoted to the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data gathered in the course of this study. The data are based on the number of copies of the questionnaire completed and returned by the respondents.

The data are presented in tables and the analysis is done using the chi-square test.

4.1 Bio Data of Respondents

Table 1 Gender of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	80	66.7	Percent	
	Female	40	33.3	66.7	66.7
	Total	120	100.0	33.3	100.0
				100.0	

Source: field survey, 2023

Table 1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents used for this study. 80 respondents which represent 66.7percent of the population are male. 40 which represent 33.3 percent of the population are female.

The educational background of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 120 respondents, 20 respondents which represent 16.7percent of

the population are OND holders.42 respondents which represent 35.0percent of the population are HND/BSC holders.40 respondents which represent 33.3percent of the population are PGD/MSC holders.10 respondents which represent 8.3 percent of the population are PHD holders8 respondents which represent 6.7percent of the population had other types of certificate.

Table 2 Based On Research Question
Economic crime has significant effect on the growth and development of Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agreed	70	58.3	58.3	58.3
	Agreed	30	25.0	25.0	83.3
	Undecided	10	8.3	8.3	91.7
	Disagreed	5	4.2	4.2	95.8
	Strongly disagreed	5	4.2	4.2	100.0
	Total	120	100.07	100.0	

The table reflects respondents' opinions on the impact of economic crimes on the growth and development of Nigeria. Notably, 70% of respondents strongly agreed that corruption has a significant effect on the country's growth and

development, while 30% agreed with this view. A smaller percentage, 10%, remained undecided on the matter. Conversely, 5% of respondents disagreed with the notion that corruption significantly affects growth and development, and an additional 5% strongly disagreed, particularly emphasizing the situation in Kaduna state.

Money laundering have significant effect on future leaders in Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agreed	60	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Agreed	45	37.5	37.5	87.5
	Undecided	10	8.3	8.3	95.8
	Disagreed	5	4.2	4.2	100.0
	Total	120	100.0	100.0	

The above table indicates respondents' perspectives on the impact of money laundering on future leaders in Nigeria. Notably, 60% of the respondents strongly agreed that money laundering has a significant effect on future leaders in the

country, while an additional 45% agreed with this viewpoint. A smaller percentage, 10%, remained undecided on the matter. In contrast, 5% of the respondents disagreed with the idea that money laundering has a

significant effect on future leaders in Nigeria.

EFCC participation in the fight against money laundering have significant effect on economic development of Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agreed	80	66.7	66.7	66.7
	Agreed	40	33.3	33.3	100.0
	Total	120	100.0	100.0	

Table 4

The above table outlines respondents' opinions regarding the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's (EFCC) role in mitigating money laundering and its impact on the economic development of Nigeria. Notably, 80% of respondents strongly agreed that EFCC's participation in alleviating money laundering has a significant effect on the economic development of Nigeria. Additionally, 40% of respondents agreed that EFCC's involvement in combating money laundering has a substantial impact on both the economic development of Nigeria and specifically on Kaduna state.

**4.2 Research Hypothesis
Hypothesis to be Tested**

TABLE 5: Test Statistics

	EFCC participation in financial accountability has significant effect on economic development of Nigeria.
Chi-Square	71.667 ^a

H₀: There is no significant effect of EFCC participation in financial accountability in Nigeria.

H₁: There is significant effect of EFCC participation in financial accountability in Nigeria.

Level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$)

Decision Rule: reject H₀ if the p-value is less than the level of

Significant, otherwise accept the null hypothesis.

Df	3
Asymp. Sig.	.000
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 30.0.	

Table 6

Since the p-value is less than 0.05 which is the level of significance, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is significant effect of EFCC participation in the financial accountability in Nigeria.

5.0 Conclusion

No doubt, the issue of economic crime is a big challenge in Nigeria’s effort in developing and in sustaining her image as the big brother of the African continent. It is therefore evident that, economic crimes affect every sphere of national security and if security is not assured deprivation, frustration and tension are heightened which result in clashes among the groups within the state.

To this end, national security encompasses other issues asides the amassing of arms and

ammunition to deter aggressions internally and externally. It comprises food security, environmental security, health security, and more. Most of the internal aggressions that arise within the state are due to fears, insecurities and tensions among the different groups. The lack of basic needs and tension created among these groups makes them to resort to clashes in expressing their fears as against the opposing group. It is therefore the duty of the government to make these groups feel more secured. Some scholars are of the view that as long as the defence expenditure increases at the detriment of other various sectors, the insecurity syndrome would continue to persist. By so doing, the government should review her allocations to the defence sector as well as other sectors as these sectors if not well

funded can instigate insecurity crisis in the country. In as much as no nation can review her allocations for the defence sector downwards, what is important is the transparent and effective management of the funds because even where the budget is low, that does not stop corrupt practices. Hence a transparent procurement process in the award and the procurement of arms and ammunitions is highly recommended because this will help to check fraud. Moreover, the issue of whistle-blowing policy of the federal government should be incorporated to the dealings of addressing corruption at all levels in the society because this is a powerful tool to check economic crimes in the military and other aspects of the nation's existence.

5.1 Recommendations

Nigeria should reduce her spending on peace support operations especially towards countries where she has no strong economic interest. This fund would then be reinvested

into the economy of the country to tackle some of the prevailing issues stirring up pockets of violence in the country (Ezeani & Ezeibe, 2011).

The Nigerian state must emphasize on the use of electronic means in the transfer of funds as against the cash transactions. This would enable these transactions to be monitored. Transparency in all of governments' biddings as well as both the private and the public sector should be encouraged. Lack of transparency is often times the first seed of sowing corruption within the system. Mr Ribadu, a former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission also opined that "education is important to this process. Citizens need to be sufficiently educated to be able to sieve right from the wrongs and demand for what is right" (Ogundipe, 2016). By so doing, the stake that economic crimes hold on this state would gradually weed off.

The Bank Verification Number (BVN) is making it difficult for the ‘siphoners’ to deposit these hard currencies and the amounts into their accounts hence they choose orthodox means of securing these funds such as in overhead water tanks, ceilings in the homes, graves as well as underground bunkers for storing yams and potatoes (Oseni & Sanni, 2016).

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