Learning to Solve Africa’s Problems by Africans: Innovations for Addressing the Canker of Corruption

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Background

- Corruption has long been a favourite topic of foreign news report on Africa
- What is peculiar to African countries about corruption is its monumental dimension
- Worst still is the growing tolerance & cultural acceptance of the canker

Corruption affects African investment climate, poverty reduction efforts, public service delivery and sustainable development

- Unfortunately, the vulnerable suffer first and worst
- There is no doubt that many African countries are engaging in measures to fight corruption:
  - UN Convention against Corruption
  - AU Convention on Preventing & Combating Corruption
  - Legal frameworks through the establishment of anti-corruption commissions
  - Passage of FOI Bill
African governments’ anti-corruption reforms fail largely because:
1. they stem from the PA theory
2. of systemic nature of corruption in Africa

The argument that “effective fight against corruption in Africa requires African solution” [Hawkings, 2013] therefore suggests the relevance of endogenous management practices as springboard for developing appropriate & sustainable control measures.

Specific Objectives

- To explore innovative practices that stifle corruption and promotes transparency;
- To identify factors stimulating the development of such innovative practices; and
- To examine ways of improving existing innovations for addressing corruption.

Methodology

- Study was carried out in Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya and used mixed methods to address the objectives
- Data were collected from primary and secondary sources
- Primary data were gathered from desk study, observations, survey and IDIs in selected organisations
- Main sources of secondary data were TI and government statistics
Endogenous innovations for curbing corruption: lessons from Nigeria

Virile youth movement using social media network
- Covert filming of incidences of corruption
- Posting the video on the internet where the footage is further publicized by media organizations
- Measure guarantees anonymity of the reporter
- Reduced tendency for bribe taking among the police force

Public enlightenment through Entertainment Education (EE)
- The opportunities offered by EE strategy to promote social change are currently being tapped in Nigeria to promote civic responsibility and anti-corruption attitude through programmes on TV and radio

- *Geegles* and *Gbagan-Gbagan* are radio serial broadcast in Pigeon English on a national radio network programme

- Various print and electronic media, including community theatre, puppets and songs are being used by NGOs

Traditional/Indigenous control measures
- Incessant clash between peasant farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria
- Farmers control corruption by Fulani herdsmen using powdered pepper applied in bands along the perimeter of their farmland
- They sometimes resort to use of local concoction as punitive in situations of heavy and painful losses
- Farmers also use protective charms tied at conspicuous places within farms to protect harvested produce awaiting transport to the market for sale

Endogenous innovations for curbing corruption: lessons from Ghana

Video supported investigative journalism
- Use of video documentaries by some journalists to support claims of corruption has heightened interest in the issue from the grass-root to the presidency

- Notable among this video supported investigative journalism is the work of one Anas Aremeyaw Anas who works as an under-cover journalist

- Interviews with public officers in Kumasi confirmed that attitudinal change towards corruption; “you may never know when ‘an Anas’ may be watching”
The Ripples of Anas Aremeyaw’s work

Grassroots mobilization for periodic rally
- Grassroots demonstrations are sometimes initiated by groups with political interests
- Politicians are used to, and could ignore newspaper publications and discussions on the media but they are very uncomfortable with grass-root demonstrations

Proactive client empowerment
- Some organisations (e.g. DVLA) actively empower their clients to avoid becoming victims of corruption
  - Putting up public notices in their offices to warn clients
  - Providing clients with information on due processes for obtaining products and services
- Vehicle owners/drivers visiting the DVLA in Kumasi revealed that they do not feel obliged to pay any extra monies than the approved rates following the intervention

Lessons from Kenya
- Innovative anti-corruption drive in Kenya is largely driven by private sector organizations such as the MARS Group Kenya, MOPA, Clarion Kenya, EAA, ICPS, and CCG
- These organisations create awareness and stimulate the public to demand for accountability from Kenya’s leadership using websites and reports on corruption, education, research, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation as tools
## Factors stimulating the need for the innovations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors stimulating the need for the innovations</th>
<th>Very large extent</th>
<th>Large extent</th>
<th>Limited extent</th>
<th>Not a factor</th>
<th>Mean Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insincerity of Government</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insecurity of informants</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bureaucratic inefficiency</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low deterrent</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of virile social movements</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor accountability mechanism</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information on rules and procedures</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclear rules with loopholes for manipulation</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak leadership at all levels</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-enforcement of rules and procedures</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor management systems</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong protective social net of the accused</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak and ineffective media</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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</tbody>
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### Conclusion

- Endogenous innovations in Africa were mainly spearheaded by individuals and appear to be more effective in promoting transparency.
- In most cases, innovations required a back-up from relevant authorities to achieve its end-point.
- Current level of success may be viewed as inadequate.
- Sustaining the momentum and multiplying impact requires engaging more people in undercover journalism.
- Some strategies are crude and may not be encouraged.

- Making proactive client empowerment mandatory would further help to raise a virile anti-corruption movement.
- Further research is required to establish the long-term impact of the endogenous innovations discussed in the paper.

THANK YOU