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## NIGERIA'S CHALLENGED GLOBAL IMAGE AND REPUTATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH

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## **Abstract**

The image and reputation of a country are the major corporate assets that have global outreach and profound implications on her national identity and development. The twin concepts of image and reputation are critical for any nation craving for cordial international relations and economic partnerships, especially for developing economies, including Nigeria. This paper explores the internal and external perspectives of Nigeria's challenged reputation and how some unhealthy national issues, including unemployment, insecurity, bad governance and particularly corruption, result to considerable poor national image that has continued to tarnish international perception of the nation and its citizens over many years to the detriment of her economic competitiveness and growth. More implicative are the hostile experiences of Nigerians abroad, low foreign direct investments and tourism and poor national pride that worsens economic prospects. With the methodology of insightful library research, this paper explicates these issues against the backdrop of the country's dire need for economic transformation and sustainable development; and recommends conscious and effective measures aimed at transparent management of corruption and other reputational vices both within and outside Nigeria in order to positively impact on the nation's global reputation for improved economic competitiveness and sustainable growth.

keywords: Global, Image, Reputation, Economic, Competitiveness, Growth

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#### Introduction

The posture of Nigeria's image and reputation both internally and internationally may be a topic for debate but one thing that is obvious is that the nation's corporate reputation can be described as not good enough, if not bad. Nigeria's reputation appears to have suffered over recent decades due to the obnoxious effects of some untoward issues. For instance, Nigeria was in the past described and even taken to be the giant of Africa. That pride was even celebrated in the lyrics of many songs of African origin and the country was appreciated across the African continent and beyond as an outstanding and hugely endowed nation (Esomonu, 2011). In as much as it can be argued that this feat is mainly derived from her human resources, economic capacity and military exploits within the West African Community and even beyond the continent, that description as giant of Africa seems to have become obsolete and no longer in tandem with the present status of the nation within the continent and globally partly due to the growing poor image of the nation in recent decades (Elendu, 2015). The image problems of the nation are particularly a major challenge that has implications on virtually all aspects of Nigeria's development because of its perceived negative consequences.

Image and reputation are two closely related concepts that are not only intertwined but influence one another while having serious impacts on different aspects of an individual, institution or nation's life or existence. Merriam Webster Dictionary (2023), states that "image is a mental picture or impression of something, a mental conception held in common by members of a group and symbolic of a basic attitude and orientation; a popular conception (as of a person,

institution or nation) projected especially through the mass media, a tangible or visible representation, a vivid or graphic representation or description". Reputation, on the other hand, relates to image because reputation can be borne out of good image or bad image. George (2008), argues that reputation may not necessarily be good or positive. According to him, it could be excellent, good, bad or ugly. Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2010), defines reputation as "the opinion that people have about somebody or something based on what has happened in the past: to earn or establish or build a reputation ... to have a good or bad reputation".

This paper is an exploratory discourse on the status of Nigeria's global image and reputation and its implications on her efforts in terms of economic competitiveness and growth in this present era of international drive towards sustainable development. It instructively attempts to establish how Nigeria's challenged global reputation may be having untold effects on her ability and capacity to be as competitive as expected in the economic sphere at the continental and global strata. There are many untoward issues that are adversely tarnishing Nigeria's image in Africa and overseas that seem to be giving the nation negative reputation or bad reputation. The issue of some Nigerians indulging in different kinds of illicit and nefarious activities in many countries continues to attract shame and disgrace to the nation despite the fact that it is only a few Nigerians that are doing these crimes. Many Nigerians have been caught, jailed or repatriated from different countries across the world for all sorts of crime ranging from drug peddling, money laundry, extortion, cybercrimes, advance fee fraud (also known locally in Nigeria as 419) to human trafficking, organ harvesting and other heinous and dubious criminalities. Because of the presence of Nigerians in virtually all major countries of the world, the bad actions of a few of them in these countries tend to generate a wide perception of Nigerians as corrupt people of a corrupt nation. These issues of corruption coupled with rising unemployment, insecurity and bad governance, etc., continue to create poor reputation for Nigerians within and outside the country. This state of the nation's posture in the international realm is considered in this paper as having some implications that could be jeopardizing the nation's capacity to enjoy optimal global business relationships and partnerships that can strengthen economic competitiveness and growth in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. The paper sets out to discuss the following with secondary sources information and library analysis:

- Conceptualization of Image,
   Reputation and Economic
   Competitiveness/ Growth
- Critical Challenges of Nigeria's Global Image and Reputation: Corruption in Focus
- 3. National Reputation and Economic Growth in Nigeria: The Interface/Prospects
- Improvement Measures for Nigeria's Global Reputation and Sustainable Economic Development

## Conceptualization of Image, Reputation, Economic Competitiveness and Growth

Image can simply be perceived as the way people see something, somebody or phenomenon in society. Image carries a lot of meaning and therefore symbolic and instructive. Image is so closely related to reputation that they are sometimes used interchangeably even though they do not

mean precisely the same thing. Nkwocha (2016), observes that "at the elementary level, image and reputation may mean the same thing and are used almost interchangeably as synonyms. Indeed, in the past, many people even scholars and authors in Nigeria deployed the words as such. However, at the professional level, reputation and image mean different things and should be used more appropriately in communication".

Advanced **English** Dictionary (2023),defines image literally as "an iconic mental representation, image conceived of, seen in one's mind, thought image, impression or picture." A nation's image is a kind of corporate image and its image is often on a wider scope than that of organizations or firms. Hanser (2013), argues that "corporate image is the perception that external observers (stakeholders) have of the firm". In this paper, image is used to describe the perception that external observers (nationals of other countries and the international organizations) who are stakeholders in the global economic order have for Nigerians as a people and Nigeria as a country. A nation's image is a representation of how its people are seen and believed to be in eyes of other nations. The image of a nation such as Nigeria will include issues as how Nigerians are recognized, recalled and known to act in interactions with other nationals across the globe. National image takes a short time to build, targets the perception of the citizen's ways of life and reflects observer's general impressions of a country's people and culture (Barnett, Jermier and Lafferty, 2006).

Interrelatedly, reputation is built over a long time and therefore it is a serious issue and challenge. Reputation represents evaluations aggregated over a period of time about a company, institution or nation. A nation is a large corporate institution and corporate reputation or institutional reputation deals with the entity itself, the entire organization - its employees, products, services as well as corporate character, values, culture, policies, practices, etc., and the assessment of stakeholders (Cornelissen, 2004). In the context of this paper, national reputation reflects the perception of Nigeria as a nation, its citizens, its citizens' actions overriding national values and character in the eyes of people of other nations. National reputation deals with other nationals or nations evaluation of a nation and its processes and achievements based on their expectations. It is a long time picture and perception of the antecedents of a nation and its people. While national reputation may be evaluations of a nation aggregated over a period of time, national image is peripheral and easy to attain and determine. What is quite clear is that image is the building block of reputation (Nkwocha, 2016).

**Economic Competitiveness:** The concept of economic competitiveness refers to the resourcefulness and capacity of a particular economy to compete with other economies at regional, continental, or global levels. Economic competitiveness defines the degree or the ability and capacity of an economy to be strong and be reckoned with in the global economic order; it is the national antecedents that power an economy compete favorably among to economies or nations in the global or international economic sphere, (Okoroafor and Iheriohanma, 2014). The world is basically a human and economic entity in which there are numerous networks of both micro and macro-economic interactions and interdependence that involves unlimited and different levels of competition among individuals, groups, corporate organizations and institutions as well as nations. This atmosphere global economic harbors continuous economic struggles, partnerships, intrigues, rivalries and alliances, etc., that put constant pressure and tension in the global economic sector resulting to the steady drive for advantages, incentives, grants, exchanges political support that encourage competition among world economies (Ogunlami, 2012). The ongoing trade and economic cold war between China and United States of America is a typical example of the struggle for economic dominance and competitiveness. Also, the emergence of globalization has propelled further competition as nations try to sustain economic growth and development in a world challenged by increasing poverty, crimes, insecurity and many uncertainties.

Economic Growth is significantly affected by the level of economic competition among nations. Economic growth is one aspect of the process of economic development (Sen, 1983). Economic growth is an increasing capacity to satisfy the needs and wants of an economy overtime. It is conventionally measured as the percentage rate of increase in real gross domestic product, or real GDP of any given economy or national entity (Onosode, 2012). Economy is manufacturing, production, trade and commerce, exchange of goods and services and individual, group, institutional national survival, profitability and sustainability. It is about being viable, resourceful and productive when compared with or rated among other nations and therefore attracts or involves the varied factors that bring about the sense of struggle, survival and superiority. This scenario of world economies in the game of economic struggles, survival and contest for superiority

culminates into what is referred to as economic competitiveness.

## Critical Challenges of Nigeria's Global Reputation: Corruption jn Focus

Although the challenges of Nigeria's global image and reputation are numerous, one particular issue stands out - the issue of corruption. Many issues contribute to the tarnishing of our national image. Nigeria is a country that many right thinking individuals agree has image problem borne out of many issues, including her people's penchant to do the wrong things for the "right" reasons or results. Many Nigerians have serious "value choice" problem that has contributed to tarnishing the nation's image (Okoroafor and Dike, 2010). The challenges of Nigeria's national image ranges from value crisis, bad leadership, insecurity, unemployment, insurgency and terrorism, religious intolerance, corruption and other underdevelopment issues that undermine positive perception of Nigerians and Nigeria as a nation. While most of these issues are mainly internally based, more fundamental is corruption, which appears to be the issue that is giving the nation a bad image and prolonged negative reputation at the global level. Corruption seems to be the major factor tarnishing Nigeria's global reputation with untold negative implications on the nation's economic competitiveness and growth in this first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The critical challenge that corruption poses on our national identity and perception in the view of other nations and their nationals constitute significant issue that continues to put in jeopardy the nation's efforts and strategies to revamp her economy and position itself for greater growth and sustainable industrial development. While insecurity is on the rise and creating intense

unconducive atmosphere for businesses, trade and commerce and economic enterprise within the economy; value crisis, bad leadership, terrorism, religious intolerance and insecurity as well as disunity worsen the plight of Nigerians by aggravating poverty, deprivation, conflicts, and hopelessness mainly within the country. Corruption, on the other hand, is busy damaging not only lives and the nation's economy but also the nation's global perception and reputation.

Corruption is a fast growing global predicament, but in Nigeria it has now become part of the mainstream culture with so much negative impacts that are greatly undermining developmental efforts in the country and the status of its citizens in the Diaspora (Okoroafor and Ezeibe, 2013). Nigeria was recently described as a nation where the poor is getting poorer, the rich getting richer, corruption getting stronger, EFCC getting weaker, politicians getting fatter and the masses getting thinner. This state of the nation cannot be dissociated from the issue of corruption. Corruption in Nigeria appears to be a disturbing phenomenon that is very much on the increase despite the efforts made so far to check it. Majority of Nigerians tend to agree that corruption may be the biggest problem responsible for the state of the nation economically, socially, politically, culturally and the tarnishing of our national image internationally, etc. The act of corruption itself propagates poverty, bad image, disease and other social vices more than any other factor. Uzoechi and Obialor (2008), aver that "studies have shown that corruption retards economic growth and social growth and indeed aggravates poverty".

Perhaps, apart from poverty and social vices that are among the internal fallouts of corruption, the issue of bad image caused by the corruption of some Nigerians within and in the diaspora is seen to be doing extensive damage to the nation's image and reputation in the global sphere. The unwholesome activities of some Nigerians in the diaspora have continued to stain the nation's image and the way its people are perceived, treated and related with at international business and economic landscape. **Nigerians** different kinds of inhuman and unethical treatments abroad as a result of the misdeeds of a few Nigerians abroad who are desperate to get rich and powerful (Shadare, 2013). The urge to get rich quick drives some Nigerians who travel outside the shores of Nigeria into all sorts of illegal and immoral activities and crimes that make other nationals think bad of Nigeria and her citizens. It can be argued that the fact that Nigerians are one of the most travelled peoples in the world makes their presence more pronounced globally, and attracts more attention. Despite that there are many good Nigerians doing laudable things and achieving feats in different professions abroad, it appears that the corrupt activities few overshadow their good representation and contributions in those countries. This situation appears to be in with Benjamin consonance Franklin's expression of the essence of corporate reputation (national reputation) which states that "it takes many good deeds to build a good reputation and only one bad one to lose it". In Nigerian context, it appears that the corrupt practices of some Nigerians in Nigeria as seen and heard from the media and the nefarious and scandalous activities of another few Nigerians living in the diaspora combine to overshadow the good actions and deeds of the greater majority of Nigerians both within and outside the country. This is the tragedy of corruption in Nigeria that is tarnishing her corporate image and

reputation as a nation, and probably undermining her position as the giant of Africa; a nation with immense human and material resources and a hopeful economy in the world. The relatively poor reputation of the country has negative impacts on how other nations and their citizens relate with Nigerians and therefore a major issue affecting the nation's efforts and capacity to compete on favorable terms with other economies of the world.

## National Reputation and Economic Development in Nigeria: The Interface and Prospects

Reputation is the accumulation or aggregation of positive identity, values, character, qualities, attributes and goodwill over time in the life of somebody, corporate organization or government. Reputation is a highly prized possession or asset that makes an individual, organization or government to stand out, to shine or excel in the public eye and is usually earned not bought with money or grabbed with propaganda or sloganeering (Mahon, 2002). Reputation is therefore an asset that can attract and sustain trust and commitment which are necessary intangible tools in business relationships. In public relations practice, reputation is a key word that basically connotes the result of what you do, what you say and what others say about you. Reputation is the planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain goodwill and mutual understanding between an entity and its publics (Ajala,2001). The nature of reputation is such that it constitutes the opinions people have about somebody or something based on what has happened in the past and this could either be good or bad. A good positive reputation or attracts appreciation, recognition, trust and cooperation while the bad reputation adversely affects business and socioeconomic activities significantly.

Corruption, probably ahead of other factors, can easily dent the image and reputation of a nation especially when it is seen to be recurring and extremely dangerous. Corruption is at the helm of the factors that are responsible for tarnishing of Nigeria's image abroad. It spoils the outlook of the country and gives the nation a bad or negative image that is fundamentally antithetical to the three very important elements of reputation. Integrity, Character and Trust are three main elements of reputation (Nkwocha, 2016). These three elements are strongly tied to the success or failure of business relationships, business partnerships and economic cooperation and interdependence. In the present world economic order in which global partnerships and economic ties are essential, the concepts of integrity, character and trust become more imperative for building alliances and forming economic integration that can foster economic growth, particularly in the developing countries, including Nigeria. Corruption generates issues that question a nation's integrity and goodwill. The integrity question raises doubt and often cast lack of trust and friendliness on the part of any nation having integrity deficit.

Corporate organizations and nations can only do better in terms of economic competitiveness and growth when they ensure that the building blocks of reputation such as the trio of integrity, character and trust are not only earned but also sustained in order to have more business allies and economic partners who can share economic resources and technologies, and pursue national economic plans and interests at the global level in a more balanced and equitable

terms that will favorably aid countries like Nigeria. Integrity has been considered by some authors and scholars as a factor of production because of its essence and critical need in any business circle. If integrity is a factor of production, it is therefore a variable that can either aid the increase or decrease of production. Lack of it in an entity will undermine output. This is because integrity generates what is called social capital which gives power of social recognition, social acceptance and likeability that is derived from tested honesty and trustworthiness amongst people. Social capital built on integrity offers leverage for greater socioeconomic and business transactions and partnerships that invariably encourages teamwork and facilitates economic productivity and growth in organizations or nations. The just concluded 2023 general elections in Nigeria raised many contentious issues that further add to the integrity question that is adversely affecting the nation's image across the globe. The violence, disenfranchisement and the observable artificial electronic hitches that characterized the elections gives the picture of a nation in lack of electoral discipline and integrity and this contributes to build poor national perception for Nigeria.

Positive integrity creates the necessary and needed belief that an organization or nation is sincere, forthright and predictable and therefore can be trusted and related with comfortably. It portrays an image of decency, reliability and friendliness which are laudable virtues for business partnerships and international economic engagements and trade as well as international relations. It opens doors for positive negotiations, bargaining and general cooperation that can bring about the ease of doing business and socio-economic interactions.

On the other hand, character and trust combine to reflect integrity in practical and tangible terms. They showcase the quality and degree of integrity while making integrity good or bad. In other words, good character generates trust that culminates in positive integrity. Conversely, bad character nurtures negative integrity and whatever is the blend of the integrity affects reputation and subsequently affects people's opinions and views about an organization or a country. No nation cares less about national integrity and character because they partly define a nation and how nations are often treated in the league of other nations (Offonry, 1985). This is why the elements of reputation affect international affairs, particularly economic sector and more critically in the present world order due to the increasing stability challenges and growing poverty and hunger.

National reputation has relative consistency and inertness and may not be shaped fast and easy because it is established over time as a result of national strategies and actions, nationals' behaviour and communications as well as their general pursuits and endeavor's both within the country and abroad. National reputation represents evaluations of all that is known of or associated to a particular nation and its citizens aggregated over a period of time (Cornelissen, 2004).

Nigeria's reputation outside Nigeria may not be entirely negative because of the roles many Nigerians in the Diaspora carry out in different nations. There are Nigerian professionals all over the world working as medical doctors, nurses, engineers, lecturers, politicians, businessmen, clergymen, etc; contributing significantly to the growth of their host economies. However, a few bad Nigerians whose idea of the search for greener pastures is all about getting rich quick by any illegitimate means often indulge in drug peddling and other forms of extortion and frauds that tarnish the image of the good Nigerians abroad and over time this resulted to the perceived bad national reputation for Nigerians. Many Nigerians have continued to complain and register their dissatisfaction and frustration over the sort of reception and treatment they often receive outside the shores of Nigeria, especially at the international airports and even in the streets abroad (Shadare, 2013). Some Nigerians have been humiliated and their fundamental human rights (as enshrined in Rights United Nations Human Declarations) violated or even denied outrightly. This scenario creates ample room for distrust on both sides (Nigerians and their host nationals) which jeopardizes businesses and socioeconomic transactions and ties. In the absence of trust because of fear of being defrauded or exploited illegally, business ideas and innovations easily misunderstood or misinterpreted resulting to breakdown of business deals and partnerships. The consequences of this failure of healthy international economic cooperation and interactions are often suffered more by the developing economies such as Nigeria, because of their dire need of economic growth and development. Again, this situation makes such an economy to be in the international competitive business/economic arena due to perceived negative reputation of the country in the eyes of other nations and their citizens. Another consequence of this experience is that it slows down Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) due to lack of trust and integrity towards Nigerians. Many foreigners and even fellow Nigerians abroad are often reluctant and afraid to invest in the Nigerian economy or set up industries back home for

fear of being victims of fraudsters amidst certain difficulties experienced doing business in Nigeria. The combination of the fear of fraudsters and the challenges of poor power supply and other uneasy and deliberately placed fraudulent bureaucratic bottlenecks and delays kill the idea of doing business in Nigeria and undermines FDI significantly (Ekekwe,2003). Most tourists and investors have well defined reasons for either to invest or visit a particular country or stay away from another.

The above narratives are some clear and practical consequences of poor national reputation on national economic growth and development. Sen (1998), states that "economic growth is the increasing capacity to satisfy the needs and wants of the economy overtime". Economic growth refers to the expansion of productivity and services in terms of increase in economic activities and size of production, manufacturing individual and corporate organization in an economy. **Economic** growth brings about complementary changes in various aspects of the economy such as the sector compositions of output and employment, organization of industry, etc., and these changes in actual effect affect growth. There are correlations between national reputation and national economy. Apart from the fact that the activities of a few corrupt Nigerians abroad tarnish the image of the entire country and undermine Nigeria's capacity for economic competitiveness and growth, the state of the national economy also contributes to the bad reputation as a result of the high rate of poverty and unemployment. Onwudiwe (2017), illustratively expresses that massive unemployment in the country has forced many skilled and unskilled Nigerians to migrate to countries in Europe and North America where they sought for a decent livelihood. Many Nigerians are often arrested and deported upon arrival because of inadequate or forged travelling documents whilst others end up in prisons for various crimes ranging from drug trafficking, human trafficking to property and other violent crimes. As a result of these activities, the perception held in many host countries where Nigerians reside is that most Nigerians are criminals and are people who cannot be trusted. Furthermore, because of negative perception, Nigerians travelling abroad, regardless of their decent characters and their socio-economic status in the society, are often subjected to intensive scrutiny and ridicule at the port of entry (Onwidiwe, 2017). This is one major fallout of the rising unemployment situation in Nigeria. Unemployment in an economy is an indicator of its low productivity, instability and poor growth rate. It is one issue that inhibits economic growth causing many Nigerians to desperately travel abroad and seek to survive through any corrupt means tarnishing the nation's image and giving Nigeria bad national reputation. Harris (2003), notes that the Reputation Institute advises that countries that want to raise their competitive profile must adopt a systematic approach to reputation management. That means to understand how they are perceived by potential current and external stakeholders: defining a strategy emphasize their strengths and mitigate the weaknesses revealed in the perceptions; developing key performance indicators to ensure accountability; and making sure that all relevant government agencies are speaking and acting as one. This is a tough call for Nigeria considering the myriad of debilitating issues confronting the country, issues that require profound and concerted efforts to manage for a better and sustainable economic future for Nigerians.

Managing Nigeria's reputation, therefore, involves both the government and the people. It requires sincere actions in promoting stable the rule of law, governance, enforcement of laws, stable economy, good socio-economic policies, infrastructural development, gender balanced and friendly people, beautiful and sustainable environment, well secured place, among (Nkwocha, above 2016). The initiatives are in consonance with the economic agenda of sustainable development which fundamentally pursues all positive, balanced and concrete measures that meet present and future generation's needs and prospects. Nigeria, therefore, has to do a lot in ensuring that reputation support elements (factors of positive national image) are constructively nurtured and efforts put to enhance strategic communication and effective with engagement critical stakeholders such as investors, tourists, global financial institutions, multinational firms, international organizations and other nations.

### Conclusion

Both image and reputation constitute two crucial elements that influence corporate or national perception in the global economic landscape and can have significant effects and implications on national identity and sustainable economic development nations, particularly developing nations such as Nigeria. The nation is facing the challenge of poor national reputation as a result of many untoward issues that include high rate of unemployment, rising insecurity, lack of governance, poverty, etc., particularly the cancerous issue of corruption; which has continued, with the other debilitating issues, to tarnish Nigeria's global image and perception unabated. For a

struggling economy, seeking for improved economic productivity, growth and sustainable development, it is imperative to tackle the issue of poor national reputation that hinder her economic viability and capacity to compete favorably among other organizations and nations at the global economic sphere. Nigeria's challenged global reputation needs urgent redress in order to reinvent and optimally harness her past glory and huge partially wasted, underutilized human and natural resources in this present competitive world economic order.

# Improvement Measures for Nigeria's Global Reputation and Sustainable Economic Development in The 21st Century

- 1. The Nigerian government should create incentives and an enabling environment that will promote job creation so that the youths and ablebodied Nigerians can stay back home and provide for themselves the things they desperately seek abroad. The creation of enabling environment building entails mainly new infrastructures and ensuring that there is proper maintenance of these infrastructures. The process of building infrastructures and its constant maintenance are one of the ways developed nations create jobs for their citizens and Nigeria must adopt this policy to drastically reduce unemployment and poverty.
- 2. The federal and states governments should embark on extensive job training programs or vocational skills acquisition in the rural and urban centers that will enable many Nigerian youths to acquire the necessary technical skills for capacity

- building, self-sustenance and entrepreneurship. This will contribute towards discouraging the youths from indulging in corrupt and criminal activities.
- 3. The private sector in Nigeria, like in other capitalist countries, are said to be major job creators. Government should provide incentives for private corporations and entities such as small and medium scale businesses to encourage them to create more jobs that can reduce the rate of unemployment and crime in the country.
- 4. The government should increase the "Minimum Wage" of Nigerian public servants periodically to meet the rising cost of living (inflation). Putting more money in the hands of every day spending Nigerians will increase financial transactions and socioeconomic activities and enhance economic growth in the country. Meager minimum wage tends to lure some public servants to engage in corrupt practices.
- 5. All awareness and sensitization agencies of the Nigerian government including Orientation **National** Agency, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and other such agencies that are managing issues of involved in Nigerians both within Nigeria and in the Diaspora should continue to engage Nigerian youths and educate them on the issues of engaging in corruption, and the challenges of abroad living as well advantages of staying in Nigeria and

- contributing their productivity for national economic growth.
- 6. The Nigerian government should make laws that deter citizens from indulging in crimes abroad and tarnishing the nation's image internationally. Nigerians who have served jail terms for actual involvement in criminal activities abroad should be made to serve another jail term upon arrival or deportation from a foreign country. This double punishment can go a long way to discourage Nigerians going abroad to engage in crimes.

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