

THE ROLE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPPTION IN THE NORTH EAST GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF NIGERIA

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Abstract: In Nigeria, the most well-known social evil is corruption in public space; the situation determine friable self-ruled system by stimulating common disillusion with politics and the politicians alike; it ruined confidence and expectation, which are instruments for upholding advancement as well as sustaining economic and social order. Despite the Battle against corruption in Nigeria, the state still rank on the map of highly corrupt nations globally, it on the bases of this that this paper attempted to assess the mandate of EFCC and the prizefight reduce bribery in the Geo-political Zone of Nigeria. To achieve the aim of this research, Functional Structural theory was adopted. This paper adopted the used of survey method, and it is the best suitable design since it has the benefit of identifying the tenet of large sample, the design was appropriate because the study is qualitative in nature. Structure questionnaire was used as a tool for collecting data for both descriptive and inferential statistics. This was considered suitable technique of analysis and the result obtained from the data gathered from the informants revealed that the agency is efficient in handling war against fraud and other related issues in the country and the numbers of successful tried cases were very low compare to corruption and it incidence in Nigeria. Adequate funding and international collaboration was poor within the period of the study, government influence to interfere in the prosecution cases is very high and it was concluded that bribery and corruption marred/ scared economic development and national security, this is because, corruption gives a country and her people a bad light and images. A nation that abides corruption is often overwhelmed with a lot of social vices, political instability and economic stagnation, which ultimately cripples any significant national development. It is recommended that the anti-graft agency should be granted complete independence in tackling corruption cases, strengthen international collaboration in fighting corruptions and the agency should intensified more measures of tried cases and those who found guilty of the act should face the firing squad.

Keywords: EFCC, Corruption, Corruption Eradication Fight and North East Geo-Political Zone.

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1. Introduction

The most pervasive societal evils in Nigeria Public and private sphere today is corruptions and insecurity; and this undermines the friable economic growth and self-governing structures by stimulating commonest cynicism with politicians and the way they played politics more especially in a developing economy. It's the biggest threat to any meaningful development and this has brought so many countries in the world to the stage they are; in terms economic backwardness, this is because the menace so far, has fundamentally defied all answers currently. In Nigeria, corruption have presumed an disturbing trend and proven a strong root, this is why Achebe (1983) unambiguously maintain that " keeping an average African from being corrupt is like keeping a vulture from eating a dead meet or preventing a Goat from eating pilled Yam or setting fire on a dry grasses and expect it not to burn".

Entities seem to have co-opted the belief that hard work is no longer profitable again in Nigeria and that the only channels to get rich is through having close ties to the government of the day, which has institutionalized corruption to be ubiquitous in all its establishments'. This is because "a historical view of bribery and corruption in Nigeria revealed that all the grandiloquence against corruption in Nigeria does not terminate the corruption" (Okonkwo, 2005). Despite effort from our religious, traditional, political leaders as well as Journalists have not changed the Notion about corruptions in Nigeria. This belief has left the country which habitually styled as a abundantly bless zone with copious human and natural resources, remains to wrestle with inherent progressive setback that will improve that quality of life to it citizen. Notwithstanding, the prospects of the Nigeria economy is blur and substantial percentage of its people witnesses multidimensional poverty, insecurity and dispossession (Ndifreke, Ebong and Umoren 2025). It has been reported that, significant percentage presenting 71 million people and above are wallowing in deprivation of basic needs in Nigeria (World Poverty Clock Index, 2023) whereas NBS (2012) stated that approximately 112.5 million citizens in Nigeria live far lower than the global poverty marks. Accordingly, roughly 27.9% Nigerians faces the danger of food insecurity and it is expected to be more in the future given the rising trend of corruption as reported by to Global Hunger Index (2023). These disquieting numbers; mirror not simply as a result of misappropriation of nation wealth but are characteristic of a ubiquitous issues of dishonesty and greediness among public office holders.

It is in line with this persistent serious developmental issues that it has become important to establish a body that will wage war against this menace that has become a household name in Nigeria. In fight against corruption in Nigeria, EFCC is the central actor aspect since 2003 when this body was established by then the President Olusegun Obasanjo (Nwambuko, Uchegbue and Ifedi, 2022). According to the 1999 constitutions, section 15 as amended, which stipulate that "the state shall abolished all corrupt practices and abuse of Power" form basis of this commission in Nigeria. Inienger (2018) noted that the EFFCC Act of 2004 to give the commission legal framework. According to Ndifreke, *et al* (2025), the role of EFCC which embrace inter alia the investigation in the area of financial crimes involving, Money Laundering, advance fee fraud, Illegal charge transfers, Counterfeiting, contract scam among others crimes related offenses. The assessment of its impact in fight against corruptions reveals an agency that has secured

significant quantifiable gains, particularly in recent years, yet continues to struggle with deep-seated institutional challenges that complicate its overall effectiveness. According to Klitgaard (1991) as mention in Inienger (2018) asserted that this deep seated formal hiccups affect the operational settings and aid corruption through the linear equation as: Dishonesty = Cartel + Preference – Responsibility. Its implies fraud add-ons in milieus which government officers brandish dominant regulator, enjoy unrestricted use of authority, and are not held liable for any of their actions in managing public resources in Nigeria. This theoretical basis of "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," emphasize the idea Lord Actor's Dictum, highlighting serious threats of powers not separated in government affairs. In Nigeria, the roots cause of fraud is view in terms of internal and external elements. Ndifreke, *et al* (2025) noted that Personal insatiability, desire for avariciousness, traditional belief headed to prosperity in so many cultures, lack, and the nonattendance of ethical check are categorize under the internal factors or elements, whereas, frail appraisal and auditing as well as supervisory structures, poor monitoring and evaluation, institutional incompetence, inadequate enforcement of sanctions, poor reward/motivation from the communal advancement and general administrative prosperity gotten from the contentious ways are they external roots cause of corruptions.

The establishment of EFCC in 2003 and it full operations in 2004 has recorded a milestone achievement in terms of corruptions and other related achievement. The EFCC's impact is most clearly demonstrated through its prosecution and asset retrieval records, which have seen remarkable improvement under the current APC administrations President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (PBAT). In the area of conviction, the commission secured 4,111 convictions in 2024 (Sazuwa, 2025), the premier in a single year since inception and it operational War against corruptions and money Laundry as well as contract Scam. In the last two years period (2023-2025), this number totaled 7,508 convictions. These numbers present a significant increase in the space of prosecution of defaulters. According Aluko, (2019) and Punch (2019), EFCC has arraigned some fraud cases that involved Nigerians Fraudster such as Mrs. Anajemba A, Mr. Owude E and Mr. Okoli N that lured Mr. Nelson Sakaguchi of \$242 Million US dollars a businessman from Brazil and this was seen as one worse crime ever committed in Nigeria. The over N191 Billion of the loan granted by Cecelia Ibru, the Managing Director of the Defunct Oceanic Bank Plc without Collateral and due process.

Substantial asset recoveries, the financial impact of the commission effort to recover assets in Nigeria is Immense, Sazuwa, (2025) opined that by October, 2025, the commission had retrieved over N566 Billion, \$411 Million, and 1, 502 properties that are formally known. In 2024, recoveries were reported to exceed N500 Billion, these recovered assets, including high-profile forfeitures such as 753 housing units in Abuja alleged to belong to the Former Central Bank Governor Mr. Godwin Emeifele, serve as a powerful warning demonstrate government capacity to recoup fraudulent wealth.

In the area of international collaborations and recognition, the EFCC has put its name on a global map, strengthened its global partnerships and recorded over \$225,895 and N62.79Million to scam Victims in the U.S and South Africa, showcasing its obligation and commitment to international restitution. Ndifreke, *et al* (2025) asserted that the most Remarkable that gave the country a

fresh air is the EFCC alongside the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), was fundamental in Nigeria's taken out of the book of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in October 2025, a landmark that enhances the country's cross-border financial reputations over the years.

Despite the impressive statistics, corruption remain one of dangerous social evil in Nigeria; in public and private establishment, fraud remain a nightmare that frustrate progress. The elected political leaders are expected to formulate policies and channeled resources that will give a productive Garamond of the country that generates jobs, give fair and equal opportunities to all and sundries in the society, where harmony, the rule of law, and fairness most prevail. The achievement of this egalitarian society in a rich-blessed economy is not realistic because the corruption rate among public office holders and other institution is common and had the tendency of setting the economy backward.

Generally, dishonesty or frauds are not ludicrous in all social activities, neither peculiar to all human existence, but as of public as well private institutions, and the most delicate one in public institutions, owing to its tasks in government and the entire sub-system. In all the government offices, the role of government workers is thoroughly polluted significantly. It has reduced their respect and self-esteem very inferior in a wider field and has paint the state with a profane character, with their colleague not only in the state, but all over the flora and fauna in her interface globally. This can best labeled as stereotype the country has experienced in reorganizations in the past years in its hunt to birth a great nation. Bribery continue to increase within the country more especially in a democratic setting. No wonder the scenario has taken the form of state and non-state actors within the economy.

Nonetheless, in a deep search for better Nigeria is still a great Phantasm; despites the impressive statistics, the fight against corruption is hampered by significant challenges of political interference and lack of autonomy, judicial inefficiencies, resources constraints and internal (corruption among the EFCC) have marred the commission to achieve it main objectives. Similarly, the fundamental attribute ascribe the average Nigerian is the cankerworm called greed the reason why influential individuals are dishonest with public resources. This opinions are often buttressed by the majority of people, who reason that this country natural resources can afford to provide for every member of the populace's their essential needs, with the campaign and fight against this social evil, this opinion is still held by a lot of the people in this country. It is on this framework that this study is explore the role of EFCC and it contest against fraud in Nigeria.

The above necessitate the study to raise the following questions the paper sought to address; to what extent, the fight against corruptions by the EFCC effective? What are the hiccups that impede the EFCC mandate in tackling corruption in Nigeria? What strategies and possible solution in the fight against corruption by the EFCC in the Nigeria's economy? It is important to note that, the aim of this study is to investigate efforts made by the EFCC towards minimizing corruptions in Nigeria, using the North east Geo-political Zone.

2. Literature Review

The bases of corruption, principally developing economies are polygonal and powerfully rooted in mechanical and sequential crescendos. Ataudo and Edet (2021) opined that it difficult to give

a concise meaning to the term corruption itself. Just as scholars has make an attempt to conceptualized corruptions in clear terms. Notwithstanding of the stand-point of viewed, corruption entails the mismanagement or abuse of authority for individual interests or advantage from public resources. To a layman, it means an operational tasks as an unacceptable pattern of conduct due to the fact that an individual is pursuing personal gains in any social relation.

Brairamain (1951) viewed corruption as the rejoinder or accruing of certain favoritisms to recompense or hasty the beneficiary to swerve in line with the truthful as well as impartial execution of their principal obligations. Thus, this concept is not restricted to monetary benefit but cover areas such as contract scam, voluptuous favoritism, employment, granting of relevant as well as elevation to certain ranks and consent to secret association. This fault is a reflections of donation as well as receiving monetary benefits in whatever form failure of an immediate action against that person giving it out. Lipset and Lenz, in their eyes, corruption a struggle to have affluence, control of unlawful approach that profit an individual with the huge cost on the general public. Largely, the concept originated from Latin word *rumpere* which simply means to halt the correct way of handling procedures.

According to Ribadu (2006) pointed that the predominance of bribery in Nigeria is credited to the bequest of prolong military rule who hung to the corridor of power for years, which deteriorated democratic foundations, broken equality before the law, and imbedded philosophy of privacy as well as freedom for quite some time. As continued by Transparency International, this social menace prospers wherever ecofriendly elements like formal faintness, misty authority, and communal disparity with its nonattendance of public lapses remain widespread. It was advanced that lack of trust is accelerated once authority use unchallenged resistor in handling communal resources that creates self-reliance with the choice to assign the resources deprived of adequate flub (African Development Bank, 2006). Public office holder is significantly the bedrock or likelihood of corruption because they lack accountability for the fund they misused. Corruption, therefore, as defined by Ndifreke, *et al* (2025) is not a genetic peculiarity but an imitating act that is motivated by mechanical conditions and societal practices. It is sustained by an atmosphere that allow and occasionally rewards unethical behavior.

Klitgaard (1991), corruption flourishes where elected or appointed leaders lacked public accountability, yet possessing complete authority and drive in an atmosphere that breed such act. Thus, the execution of corruption demands modifications that reduce single concentration of powers, limit preference, and enrich transparency. This means creating translucent structures in government supply of essential services, stimulating qualify enlistment, reinforcement flub establishments to make sure leaders are liable for all they do, when in office or after the office.

Azelama, (2002) avowed that any action accepted by an individual or groups in an establishments that trespasses the procedures, ethics and views that formed that organizations with the aim of serving sole gains of that person or groups at the disadvantage of the body or municipal importance is corruption. Therefore, corruption is the act of pursuing public resources for personal gain. The manipulation of supremacy per target of achieving personal profits of the person abusing the office is corruption as defined by Global Programme Against Corruption

(GPAC). When public resources are misappropriated with the authority delegated near the person or groups occupying the office or third party who placed their private value rather than the public interest is term as fraud (World Bank, 2015 and Transparency International, 2013). Imam (2005 as reference in Osazuwa, 2025), ruminates corruption an act of persuaded or non-persuaded deed in a public or private institutions to screw its truthfulness, determination, virtue and beliefs. In an attempt to define corruption, Adeyemi (1988) viewed it as wrongdoing that violated public office by the person who occupied the office for egotistic gain. EFCC (2001) corruption is the mishandling or asymmetrical shift, ignominy and agitation of a legitimately accepted behavior or procedure of implementation the person obligation or preservative social, religious political, administrative, legal and cultural order.

Corruption eradication is a cautious and methodical fights undertaken by individuals, organizations or government agencies to ditch the spread, bases, and penalties of unethical act total not acceptable in a state. Its embraces precautionary as well as remedial actions meant to pull apart the environmental acts that inspire dishonesty and it malevolent consequence. A concept with different faces, eliminating corruption includes technical mishmash of sincere, formal, decent, and traditional improvements that encourage honesty, reliability, and fair representation in every society.

Financial Crime

Financial crime has no single general consensus because the concept is a social felonious, any form of illicit action which resulted or end up in a monetary harm to the individual, organization or institution. Osazuwa (2025), conceptualized financial crime as "white collar" corruptions and non-aggressive unlawful deeds stanch to acquire illegal pecuniary benefit from the victim of the crime. In a global view, "any diplomatic delinquency that results in a pecuniary loss which includes computer crime and false practices by an individual" is a financial crime according to the United Nation Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC). In an attempt to define financial crime, Ayobolu (2006) vies it as a precarious contemporary problem with a tendency of overwhelming commercial, safety and public effect. This inspires arm-robbery, extremists, drug dealers, prohibited dealing with arms without proper license, dishonest government representatives with their felonious initiatives to take advantage of public resources. According to Gottschalk (2010) noted that economic corruption is classify in to deceitful conversion to get monetary benefits through dishonesty, fraud or Scam, embezzlement and ruining the victim. An Illicit accomplishments executed by entities or wrong establishments or groups to offer profitable gains in a crude means is term as financial crime (Croall, 2003). In the universe, specific greatest and commonest criminalities fronting the business entities are sabotage, scamming, tax evasion, deception and money laundering. Such misconducts usually carried out by individuals on a daily basis, and administrators globally and regularly arraigning economic offenders whereas examination for new dimension of crime are ongoing in Nigeria.

This paper defined corruption embodies a nonconformity from accepted morals/values of civic bond. Similarly, the multitude of causes known through the texts echo an agreement that bribery or corruption is entrenched in both individual, agencies and systemic mal-function.

2.1.1. Theoretical Underpin

Banjoko (1996) mention in the work of Timothy (2002), opined that model is the system of intellectual which comprises schemes, reasoning, ideas and postulation of practical proceedings and occurrence and explains on how these actions and happening link to the subject of the present study. The functionalism structural theory is a sociological principle developed and popularized by Talcott Parsons in the late 1930s. The theory explains how society is organized and how its different parts work together to survive and maintain economic stability. The theory assumed that useful criteria have to be attained in order to assist a society continue using some legal bodies.

Functional subsystems must exist for a society or human to continue its existence. The sub-systems have to be projected to perform its function in a marvelous manner. These functions through explanation are the influences of a single item or sub-system to back and clutch the whole society. The community is therefore, structured into distinct planning of structure or sub-systems that undertake a deviated function in a self-directed and harmonized way to realize societal objectives and unbiasedness (Ugwuja, 2016). The model has come to be identified as one of the most state-of-the-art struggle which pursue to pledge the yawning vision which is complete into a general progression that will certainly turns to common development.

The momentous of the theory is that Nigerian state is made up of polychrome systems saddle a routine of responsibility with sole purpose of inspiring the existence of economy to lessen the effect of corruption. An example of such structure is the vibrant EFCC which was establishment to fight corruption and it social evil in the country. The way this commission performed its assigned mandate with acknowledgement to a great degree, will help in upsetting the rates of financial crime to the smallest rates in Nigeria.

The application of this theory in the Nigeria context means that upon the successful completion of this work, the anti-graft agency will perform it sole responsibilities by promoting and care for the existence of the economy faced with progress challenges.

2.1.2 Empirical Literature

Osazuwa (2025) assesses the role of EFCC in reducing the effect of inducement in Nigeria, the study goal is toward evaluating this fight against financial fraud in Nigeria and to realize the aim, descriptive statistics was employed for the analysis. The result obtained revealed that the EFCC is a tool of each succeeding regime or government to witch-hunt their alleged enemies and it was recommended that those in authority must safeguard their power with care and must not use it as an opportunity for manipulation and punishment when they are in power or offices.

Ndifreke, Ebong, and Umoren (2025), examined the overview of EFCC and the contest against bribery and financial crime in the economy. This paper aimed at critically appraise its roles and usefulness of the agency for the period of ten years examining the effort in tackling corruption in the economy. Douglas North institutional philosophy was adopted for the study which accentuates the impact of official and unrecognized institutions on group performance in a society, this paper examines in what way formal dimness and government catastrophes affect the war against corruption in Nigeria. An interview was conducted with six prominent Nigerians were utilized for the study. Simple percentage were also employed using descriptive statistics to analyze the

primary data. The result indicated that the anti-graft agency documented famous feats, in the area of improved trial cases exponentially in the last one decade ranging from 103 to 3,785 in 2015 and 2025 respectively in the areas of asset that were impounded, dishonesty still a universal phenomenon and strongly rooted in a government setting in Nigeria. Improving constitutional protection, granting the EFCC an operational and economic liberation, support for tattletale privacy plus properties authentication machineries in creating a keen scientific auditing was recommended.

Steve (2024), studies the role of EFCC and the Prizefight against Corruption and Insecurity in Nigeria's economy, the goal of this paper is to reconnaissance link between bribery and insecurity in Nigeria, data were source from Books, periodicals papers, and newspapers. The study designate that there is a robust connection between insecurity and corruption in Nigeria. The anti-corruption War should be strength to make it effective in fighting the menace that is drifting the development and increasing the insecurity in Nigeria was recommended.

Nwambuko, Uchegbue and Ifedi (2022) analyzed the effect of bribery; an evaluation of the roles EFCC as an agency, this study scrutinize the influence of Nigeria's corruption advancement and to accomplished the purpose of this research, primary examination method as an instrument for collecting raw information and the theory of Hyper-motivation was adopted. Sample of 3,267,837 residents in Enugu State were sampled. Tables and percentages were used for the analysis while the hypotheses of the study were tested using Chi-square. The result discovered how corruption marred progress socioeconomically, administratively and universally; strong international/governmental collaboration at all tiers-government creating awareness to Nigerians to wage war against corruption that affect the developmental initiative was strongly recommended.

Amadi (2018), scrutinized the Role of the EFCC Struggles, investigation in tackling corruption that has ruin the Nigeria's economy. Data from secondary were sourced from EFCC annual reports, related publications and government records. Content analysis was use as technique of estimation to determine the roles of the agency. The examination of the date indicated that since its establishment, the agency has helped in addresses financial crimes as well as contract scam in Nigeria. It was recommended increasing its funding and operational independence as well as strengthening EFCC's institutional sovereignty. This will give them more power in performing their mandate.

3. Study Methodology

The paper adopt a survey design for data collection, this strategy was deem suitable for its advantages of categorizing the features of big sample size of the population drawn from the sample of individuals or group in an observation. The experimental nature of the investigation make the design appropriate for the study. The study area covered the Northeastern zone of the country. The sample size composed of 680 personnel in North East Zone of EFCC offices and some investigated and persecuted cases. The six States of North East zones comprises of Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Maiduguri, Taraba and Yobe State. The Table 1 Below represent the numerical strength of the population of interest in each State.

Table: 1

S/N	STATES	POPULATION
1	ADAMAWA	120
2	BAUCHI	90
3	GOMBE	160
4	MAIDUGURI	100
5	TARABA	140
6	YOBE	70
	TOTAL	680

The table above uncovered that Gombe has the highest number of staff and the prosecuted cases in the North east, followed by Taraba and Adamawa, while Bauchi State recorded the least staffing among the North eastern State.

Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The scope of the paper focus on the role of EFCC in the North Eastern zone of Nigeria. The whole North East EFCC Staff and some selected investigated and prosecuted cases form the basis of the sample population. Taro Yamane Formula was equally employed to calculate the size of the sample, thus T Y formula is given as;

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N= is the Population of the study

1= is the positive constant of the study

e= is the expected degree of error in the study

n= is the sample size of the study

Data Collection Sources

Raw Information for the study were collected the Primary Sources. Structure survey form which was administered to selected EFCC management staff and some selected cases of investigation and prosecution form the basis of the primary sources of data. This technique was employed to facilitate exhaustive and independents evidence not included within the structured to be conveyed by the informants.

Descriptive Statistics was used as method of evaluating the study objectives, while Chi-Square was used to examine the hypotheses of the paper. All the test were carried out at 95% level of confidence.

4. Data Analysis and Presentation

Descriptive Analysis

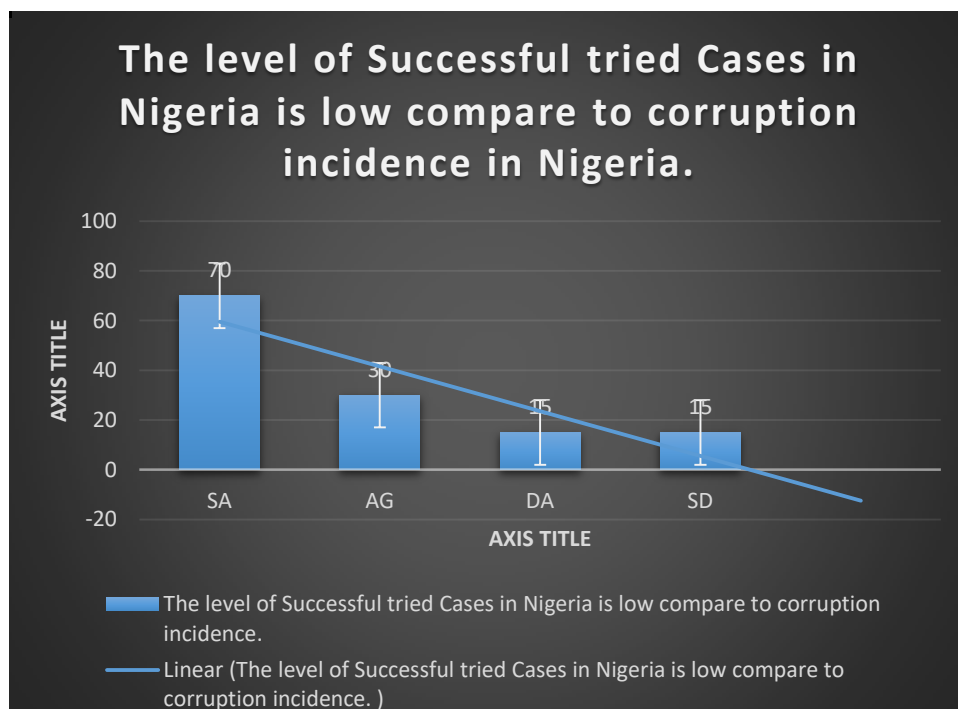
150 survey structure questions were administered to respondents through uncompromising method, and 130 were successfully retrieved, implying 87% response rate, while 20 questionnaire representing 13% were unsuccessful. The descriptive statistics were used to examine the questionnaire and the results are presented one after the other using simple percentages, Bars and Charts.

Data Analysis

Table: 2: Analysis of Each Item on the Research Questions

S/N	RESEARCH QUESTIONS	NO OF RESPONDENTS (%)				Total
		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	
a	The high level of corruption in Nigeria is	60(46%)	45(35%)	20(15%)	5(4%)	130
b	Effect of corruption on infrastructure development in Nigeria is insignificant	20(15%)	10(8%)	60(46%)	40(31%)	130
c	The effect of Corruption in Nigeria destroyed the financial resources meant for meaningful development	56(42%)	44(35%)	20(15%)	10(8%)	130
d	The core mandate of EFCC in fighting Corruption in Nigeria every effective	15(12%)	10(8%)	70(54%)	35(26%)	130
e	The number of unprosecuted cases is very high	68(52%)	30(23%)	17(13)	15(12%)	130
f	The role of EFCC is influenced by the government and those in the helm of affairs and the upper class in Nigeria	72(55%)	32(25%)	16(12%)	10(8%)	130
g	EFCC is not adequately finance to discharge their duties	15(12%)	18(14%)	55(42%)	42(32%)	130
h	EFCC require Forensic evidence to fight corruption in Nigeria	50(38%)	60(46%)	14(11%)	6(5%)	130
i	The roles of EFCC in Managing Corruption war in Nigeria is very poor	60(46%)	20(15%)	10(8%)	40(31%)	130
j	The level of Successful tried Cases in Nigeria is low compare to corruption incidence.	70(54%)	30(23%)	15(11.5%)	15(11.5%)	130

Source: Author's Computation from the data gathered from the Field 2026



Item 1 in table 2 above revealed that 105 out of 130 respondents, representing 81% agreed that there is high level of bribery and corruption in the zone and 25 informants, representing (19%) disagreed with the assertion of the former base on the statistical available. Item 2 on Table 2 indicates that 30 out of 130 respondents (23%) agreed that the impact of corruption on infrastructural expansion in Nigeria comparatively insignificant, whereas 100 interviewers representing (77%) showed that infrastructural deficit is the result of high corruption in Nigeria.

Item 3 Shows that 100 out of 130 respondents demonstrating (77%) strongly agree that corruption destroy the nation financial resources in Nigeria while 30 out of the total respondents signifying (23%) disagree to this fact that corruption doesn't temper with financial resources. The item 4 on the table 2 indicate that 25 out of the total informants representing 20% concurred that the obligation of the agency toward reducing financial crime in the country is effective while significant portion presenting 80% of the total population disagreed with this assertion.

Similarly, Item 5 on the same Table 98 out of the total respondents signifying 75% believe that the incidence of unprosecuted cases is very high however 32 respondents representing 25% does not concurred with the fact that unprosecuted cases are high in Nigeria. On the fact that the role of EFCC is influenced by those on the helm of affairs in Nigeria, 80%

of the informants agree with the affirmation while 20% disagree with the same affirmation. By and large, on the question whether the agency is adequately finance and align with the international bodies in fighting corruption, 74% of the informants voted that finances and international collaboration is not enough machinery in fighting corruption in the country, while 26% representing 33 sample population do not agreed that funding and external collaboration was not in enough in combatting bribery in the zone. When analyzed fraud on the basis of forensic evidence in fighting corruption in the country, significant percentage (84) supported that the agency needed forensic proof whereas 16% disagree with this assertion in waging war against corruption in Nigeria.

On item 9 on table 2 revealed that 80 out of 130 informants representing 61% voted that the functions of the agency in managing financial crime in the country is very ineffective while 50 interviewers represented 39% does not conformed to this assertion. Finally, the last item was presented on a Table as well as Figure, revealed that 77% agreed that the level of successful tried cases in Nigeria more especially the North East is very low while 33% was of the different opinion.

Chi-square was used to test the efficiency of EFCC in battling corruption in Nigeria the Table 3 displayed the responses of Male and Female key informants.

VARIABLE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
STRONGLY AGREE	10	5	15
AGREE	8	2	10
DISAGREE	45	25	70
STRONGLY DISAGREED	7	28	35
TOTAL	70	60	130

Source: Author's Computation from the data gathered from the Field 2026

$$\text{Expected Frequency (Fe)} = \frac{\text{TOTAL ROW X TOTAL COLUMN}}{\text{GRAND TATAL}}$$

Going by this formula,

R₁C₁ = 8.1	R₂C₁ = 5.4	R₃C₁ = 37.7	R₄C₁ = 18.8	
R₁C₂ = 6.9	R₂C₂ = 4.6	R₃C₂ = 32.3	R₄C₂ = 16.2	
F_q	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe)²	(Fo-Fe)²/Fe
10	8.1	1.9	3.61	0.446
5	6.9	-1.9	3.61	0.523
8	5.4	2.6	6.76	1.252
2	4.6	-2.6	6.76	1.470
16	37.7	7.3	53.29	1.414
25	32.3	-7.3	53.29	1.650
27	18.8	-11.8	139.24	7.406
28	16.2	11.8	139.24	8.595
X²				22.756

Source: Author's Computation from the data gathered from the Field 2026

$$\begin{aligned} DF &= (R-1) (C-1) \\ &= (4-1) (2-1) \\ &= 3 \times 1 = 3// \end{aligned}$$

At 5% level, the X^2 is 3 DF=7.815 value on the table.

The rule of thumb is that; accept H_0 if the critical value is higher than the computed value and/or otherwise reject the assertion that there is no significant difference. Since the critical value of $X^2 = 22.756$, is more than 7.815, H_0 is rejected and we draw the conclusion from the available data that there is an effectiveness of the agency in tackling incidence of exploitation happening the North east geo-political zone of the country is more severe.

5. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The corruption trademark can be linked back colonialism in Nigeria, this is because their system of governance empowered the Native authority and police to evade penalty as well as taking bribe from the citizens. Since then, the hiccups of corruptions in Nigeria has virtually defied all possible solutions. Bribery and corruptions has assumed an alarming rate in the previous and current administration when analyzed on the basis of the incidence, and has rooted a stronghold as quoted in Achebe (1983), he maintained that it is difficult to an average citizen of Nigeria from being corrupt, this means that by doing so, is like setting a fire on a dry grass and assume that it will not spark. The study assessed EFCC role in fighting Corruption in the country, and to determine how effective the EFCC as an agency in Fighting this Menace. Purposive Sampling Technique was adopted and 130 population of the agency Staff from the North east offices were used. The structure questionnaire were used to gather the data and the information were examined using both descriptive statistics and inferential (Chi-Square). The result of the analysis base on the response from the informants revealed that there is an effectiveness of EFCC in curbing financial crime in Nigeria while the number of successful tried cases were very low compare to the rate of financial crime in the country.

The paper draw a concluding line with this big bite, that the Nigeria greatest infrastructural development and other related development such as security, Human Capital development, economic growth and social progress is corruption, this is because, corruption gives a country and her people a bad light and images. An economy that breastfeed corruption is often overwhelmed with a lot of economic, political and social vices which eventually collapses any meaningful economy progress. It is recommended that the anti-graft agency should be empowered and grant complete self-rule in handling corruption cases, strengthen international collaboration in fighting corruptions and the agency should intensified more measures of tried cases and those who found guilty of the act should face the firing squad.

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