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ABSTRACT

One can describe the situation of corruption in Cameroon to be ‘‘Crabs in a bucket’’ in which everyone just wants to get out even if it means stepping on the others but in the end no one gets out and they all remain in the bucket because they can’t work as a team and look after one another. Corruption is, in fact, a multidirectional process. On one hand, the provider benefits, on the other the recipient, and both are aware of the deed that remains hidden. However, it is unethical and detrimental to the economic and political development of any society.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

Background and context of the research

Geographically, Cameroon is a country located in west Africa just below the sub-Sahara with a land surface area of 472,710 square kilometers and water surface area of 2,730 square kilometers, making a total surface area of 475,440 square kilometers. This surface area is home to 25,212,263 as of Wednesday, May 8, 2019, based on the latest United Nations estimates, ranking the country at 54th position in world population census 2019, with a density rate of 54 per Km² (139 people per mi²). Cameroon population is equivalent to 0.33% of the total world population. 57.6 % of the country’s population is urban (14,586,972 people in 2019) The country’s borders extend from Lake Chad to the Gulf of Guinea between latitude 2° North and longitude 9° East and 16° East of the Greenwich Meridian (Worldometers, 2019). Economically as well as politically the country Cameroon is located in the Central African region due to its use of the Francs CFA and belonging to the CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa). Cameroon is said to be ‘‘Africa in miniature’’ because it is naturally blessed with all geographical features found in every other African country (euronews, 2017).

Huge undefined offshore deposits of oil and Timber as well as cocoa, rubber and other agricultural products that has been exploited since a few years after the country independence is said to supposed to have made the country to be one of the prevailing countries of tropical Africa. For a country with so much natural resources to offer the world but yet still faces economic depressions and very little or no level of development, all because of one major actor that is corruption. Cameroon’s recent account and fiscal deficits has broadened, and its foreign debt has also increased. Its government has now engaged upon series of economic reform

programs which are supported by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Cameroon GDP according to statistics from the IMF is at 4.3 in 2019 and expected to be 5.5 in 2024(Statistics from IMF, n.d.). Cameroon is still not able to attract sufficient foreign investments and the country is suffering from insufficient infrastructure and it is still one of the most corrupt countries in the world despite its recent improvements for the fight against corruption from previous years. Since the declaration of the United Nations in 1961 that granted the country's independence, corruption has been more than prevalent in Cameroon as it has become pervasive and affected all sectors of the country's government and civil society including the executive, judiciary, police, and even the private sector. The main causes being a deep lack of political will to fight corruption and neopatrimonialism. Other causes include; personal interests & absence of duty conscience, weak judiciary & almost nonexistent opposition in the legislative, nepotism & favoritism, ineffective system of accountability, among others.(Thomson Reuters, 2010). In fact, Thomson referred to Corruption as "Cameroon's worst-kept secrets-worst-kept-secret". Corruption has tremendously affected the lives and provoked animosity amongst fellow Cameroonians as well as discourage foreign investors and economic development.

Aim of the study

The aim of this paper is to add to existing literature regarding the effects of corruption on economic development. In order to achieve this, this research aims to analyze the various forms of corruption practices in with specific attention given to areas highlighted by a chosen analytical framework. With the use of a case study that is the country Cameroon to help us to bring out useful argumentation facts on how corruption is affecting economic development and corruption being the main cause of the low economic growth rate in the country. With the case of Cameroon, this paper is more concern to portrait corruption in all the sectors of its practice in Cameroon. This will be achieved by identifying all the various form of corruption, the causes, the extent to which it has affected the society, and to get a crystal understanding of this, this paper will be able to bring possible suggestions on how to combat corruption in Cameroon. Backed by valuable secondary empirical data, this paper will move forward so as to examine the contributions of outside influence to aid economic development in Cameroon. In order to tackle this research strategically, three research questions will be answered

- . What is corruption in Cameroon
- . How has corruption affected economic development in Cameroon
- . What measures can be put in place to fight against corruption in Cameroon.

These questions will be answered with the presentation of secondary empirical facts, documents, related articles and literature on Cameroon corruption and its economic development issues.

Scope and importance of the paper

As earlier mentions, corruption is Cameroon's main actor of the country's economic development status. Given that most previous colonial economies have identified the impact of corruption on their society and are pretty much aware of its effects on the society are facing the problem of corruption and are making some efforts to combat its practices, it is therefore important to study how corruption works in these nations and how to tackle it. This study will be significant as it will pave way for further research on getting a grip on how to develop valuable articles and projects which can be of help in the future. Most importantly, the issue of Corruption should not be seen as Cameroons feature or as an integral part of Cameroonians but should be understood as a Global problem. I do hope some useful contributions will be of importance to the future generation to develop valuable strategies to combat corruption for the interest of not just Cameroon but the world as a whole.

SECTION II

METHODOLOGY

Research design

This research will use the "case study approach" since it is qualitative study as it intends not only to understand the concept of corruption in Cameroon but also to find out successful measures to combat corruption in order to achieve a smooth flow of economic development. In tend to further an understanding of the case study approach, Sarah Crowe et al, in their book titled "The case study approach" expresses this research approach to be one that allows in-depth, multi-faceted explorations of complex issues in their real-life settings(Crowe et al., 2011).

Some critics see qualitative research method as impressionistic and subject in the case study reflects personal judgement of the researcher, that is lacking symmetry. It is sometimes argued that their open-ended characteristic intends to limit the research focus, and this does not give a clear understanding why an area is considered worthy to carry the study on. Case study method can be abused by being employed in arbitrary and indefensible ways, however Yin (2014) claimed that social scientists have made wide use of case study research approach to build knowledge from observation of phenomenon within a contextually rich environment and contemporary real-life(Yin, 2014).

Due to these insights, there is the need for an in-depth understanding which requires not just facts and statistics but also critical method of thinking and analyzing. This paper is divided into sections so as to offer a structure that is consistent. The first section will provide an overview of the introduction, that is a brief representation of the historical background of corruption in Cameroon since after independence of 1960, that aim of study which is to answer three main questions and also the importance of this paper. The second section will be comprising of a theoretical framework to aid the understanding on how corruption can negatively affect development looking from four different approaches of Political, economic, social and cultural point of view. Followed in this same section will be a presentation of data collection method as well as some literature review and a brief mention of some limitations of this study. The third section will be an overview of analysis from comprised data for an elaborate and effective understanding of corruption case in Cameroon and how it is negatively affecting its development. While the fourth and the fifth section will comprise of a brief conclusive remark and reference citing respectively.

Theoretical Approach

Corruption- Theories and Perspectives

The concept of corruption and its effects on economic development has been captivating to the interest of many scholars and researchers in the past and contemporary. Much attention of corruption has been focused especially the less economically developed countries because it has been a dominant practice in most of such societies. Many researchers have propounded many theories and suggested hypothesis on the problem of corruption. Using literature from chapter

two of Guoping Jiang book titled ‘‘Corruption Control in Post Reform-China’’ as a theoretical framework guideline to critically analyse how corruption in Cameroon has negatively affected the country’s economic development , with the aid of sections from the literature in the chapter two of the above mention book, that observes corruption from different approaches that are ; Economic Approach, Political Approach, Sociological Approach and Cultural Approach. This chapter in itself begins by expressing the fact that most definitions by various researchers on the topic that is corruption is usually similar as most talk of it to be a negative aspect of a society. The chapter further explains corruption to be a global phenomenon and not a thing of contemporary but a well-known aspect that had gained global recognition in the 1990s giving it the nickname ‘‘Corruption Eruption ‘‘ by William H. Wurster(1995) as cited in the above mentioned book. The chapter provided a stipulation on the definition of corruption to have been problematic due to its complexity, as many scholars have tried to define it but some scholars try to isolate particular behaviors that are subject to their concern, while other scholars seek out cultural aspect of corruption, some just merely imagine about the scenario of corruption behaviors. A more simpler definition of corruption is provided by Ekiyor H.A (2009) as ‘‘*the unlawful official power or influence by an official of the government either to enrich himself or further his course and/or any other person at the expense of the public, in contravention of his oath of office contrary to the conventions or laws that are in force*’’(Iyanda, 2012)

Economic Approach

Scholars of this approach claim that an incomplete and obstructed market, rather than the market, is the real culprit. They stand on the idea that a genuine market based on fair exchange and equal competition will oppose corruption. Scholars of this view also argue that power of the state still plays a vital role in economic activities as well as resource allocation. According to this point of view, a system is often use to which there is usually reduced influence from the state or state officials thereby making economic activities to be less corrupt and/or almost corrupt free. Jiang G. therefor stipulates that it is the believe of scholars of this approach that institutional changes in the economic system are necessary for the fight against corruption.

Political Approach

From a political stand point view on corruption, scholars of this approach mostly political scientist, advocate that a non-rational political system is the major drive factor of corruption. The state or state officials in control of absolute power with the absence of checks and monitoring usually leads to a political system that is influenced by corruption. A political system considered to be one that is corrupt is usually characterized with lack of transparency in administration, little or no or manipulated democracy, full of sectarianism and favouritism, as well as low development of interest, low level of decentralization and over-centralization. Jiang G. cited some scholars of this approach and their point of view, such as; Wade (1997) and Brueckner (1999) who argued that lack of decentralization or over-centralization is likely responsible for corruption and in which case he stated India as an example. While Huntington (1968) was in view that modernization simply causes corruption(Jiang, 2017,p 24)

Sociological Approach

According to scholars of this approach whom are mostly sociologist, the basic cause for corruption is usually inequality. Corruption is seen by this approach to emerge from power relation rather than production relations. Officials or those in power exercise their control for their private economic gain since economic dominance also leads to money dominance in politics .To get an in-depth understanding of the sociological approach, according to Glaeser et al. (2003, p 200-2001 cited in Jiang G,20017,p 25) ‘*inequality is detrimental to security of property rights, and therefore to growth, because it enables the rich to subvert the political, regulatory, and the legal institutions of society for their own benefits.*’ . Jiang G also quoted You and Khagram(2005) ‘*the rich , as the interest groups, firms , or individuals may use bribery or connections to influence law-implementing processes (bureaucratic corruption) and to buy favorable interpretation of the law (judicial corruption)*’.

- (1) Leading ordinary citizens to see the system as stacked against them;
- (2) creating a sense of dependency of ordinary citizens and a sense of pessimism for the future, which in turn undermining the moral dictates or treating your neighbors honestly;
- and (3) distorting the key institutions of fairness in society, the court, which ordinary citizens see as their

protector against evil-doers, especially those with more influence than they have (Uslaner 2005, p 17-18, cited in Jiang, 2017, p 25).

Cultural Approach

Culturalist or scholars of this approach claim that culture is responsible for corruption as well as Non-protestant culture, colonial heritage, Confucianism and feudal values. Culture characterized with selfishness and pride usually influence corrupt practices. Tanzi(1995) argues that businesses or firms of some economies are culturally more or less inclined to have strong economic ties(Jiang, 2017).

Data collection method

In identifying the methods of empirical data collection to be just as valuable and appropriate as any other research strategy, this paper is interested in gathering qualitative data and the use of document analysis as a main tool regarding the process of data collection.

According to Hakim (1982, cited in Mogalakwe, 2006, p.221), new data collection is and ‘‘original and important practise’’when carrying out a research studies, while method use in the reinterpretation of existing data is not an often use approach by social scientist. Also, Bailey (1994, cited in Mogalakwe, 2006) emphasized on that documentary sources also constitute a reliable tool of data collection that is effective as that of a qualitative interview and participant observation.

‘‘Although social surveys, in-depth interviews and participant observation have been tried and tested, they are not the only ones available nor are they always useful. There is another research method that is often marginalized or when used, it is only as a supplement to the conventional social surveys. This is the documentary research method or the use of document sources in social research. This method is just as good and sometimes even more effective than social surveys, in-depth interviews or participation observation. The use of documentary methods refers to the analysis of documents that contain information about the phenomenon we wish to study.’’

(Bailey, 19994 cited in Mogalakwe, 2006, p.221)

In consideration of this arguments, the researchers regarded that document analysis as an appropriate and relevant approach for data collection in a research project.

Literature Review

the concept of corruption has been and is discussed among scholars and researchers as a global phenomenon and not just a problem to the economic development of a particular society according to race or religion but occurs in all society and more or mostly in less developed economies. Corruption is said to have different shapes and forms (political, economic, social and cultural) as most scholars look at the practice to be a monster that consumes development. It is globally accepted by most researchers of social sciences that this monster (Corruption) is not only against political norms of almost every global society but also religious norms of all beliefs. According to Justice Mustapha Akanbi (2003), former chairman of ICPC (Independent Corruption Practice Commission) in Nigeria, classified corruption in into three categories, which are: (A) Street level corruption that is in administration as shown in day to day experiences of the individuals or non-officials with state officials. (B) Business corruption that transpires among low to medium sized business with or without active connivance of the equivalent public sector official. (C) Higher level corruption, that involves illegal transactions of massive sums of money in high power centers in finance, public service and administration (Iyanda, 2012).

Thompson (1993, cited in Jiang G, 2017) distinguishes individual corruption that benefits officials personally and institutional corruption that benefits officials interest groups directly. Johnston (1998, as cited in Jiang G, 2017) describes a difference between systemic corruption and systematic corruption in which the former is the product of a weak administrative system and the absence of checks while the latter is considered to be organized crime that occurs during the pursuit of personal interest that destroys the political system or simply political manipulation for personal economic interest.

Bribery and graft are ways of life in most developing countries. In Egypt it is called “baksheesh” meaning “gift of money”, in Mexico it is called “La Mordida” meaning “the bite” (Goudie & Stasavage, 1998). In Cameroon, it is called different type of names depending on the region and some popular slangs are ‘‘Choko’’ (Francophone Regions), ‘‘washing’’ (Anglophone Regions).

Despite which concept is sort or design to express corruption better, corruption is simply like an illness that attacks a society and is a great hinderance to economic development, to which Cameroon is a great example of a victim to corruption. Corruption negatively affects the basics of democratic institution by interfering in electoral process, distorting the rule of law and creating bureaucratic perverts whose main reason becomes the practice of bribery. Economic development is slowed down because foreign investors are discouraged and small businesses within the country face difficulties to start up business since they usually cannot provide the corrupt requirements from officials. Corruption is a major hindrance to sustainable development, with a disproportionate impact on the poor community and is corrosive on the very fabric of society. The impact on private sector is also considerable as it impedes economic growth, distorts competition and represents serious legal and reputation risk.

Limitations of the study

The main limitation of this study is that findings are not generalizable as each fact presented might be valuable in on region or society but differ in another.

Also, in terms of data collection, if not of the given limited time constraint for this research, geographical restriction as well as limited resources available (internet, reports, literature, official websites, articles and curriculums) , materials used in building for this research would have been better than its current outcome.

SECTION III

DATA ANALYSIS

Corruption

Corruption is a global phenomenon that strikes in every society but is just predominant in less economically developed countries than more economically developed countries. The word ‘‘Corruption’’ comes from the Latin verb ‘‘corrupts’’ which literally means ‘‘broken object’’. In concept, the word corruption is lack of ethics, morality, traditional, law and civil virtue. In contemporary, corruption has become a topic of focus by researchers of social sciences and other study domains, producing substantial and theorizing and empirical research. One of the most difficulties faced in the studies of corruption is the very definition of the concept itself as there have never existed a unanimous accepted definition of corruption. Some definitions accept a

wider range of corruption practices while others are limited. There exist several models for the definition and explanation of corruption, which includes; corruption in a political realm, corruption in economic realm, corruption in social realm and corruption in cultural realm. It should be noted that each approach is not restricted only to its realm but also overlaps to the others (Heidenheimer & Johnston, 2002).

Before further description of corruption, it is best to give a general understanding of the definition of corruption as dishonest or illegal behavior, especially of people in authority (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.). The definitions on corruption differs minutely according to the different approaches of political, economic, social and cultural scholars' points of views. The history of corruption can be traced back as far as civilization itself. The beginning of a creation of law and order and the state was already in antiquity considered an evil, which negatively affects the public administration and the functioning of the political system. The earliest records of corruption date far back to the thirteenth century BC, which was the time of the Assyrian civilization. Founded plates that were written in cuneiform was unearthed by archeologists who managed to discern how and who accepted bribes. According to the Roman law, a criminal act of corruption was defined as giving, receiving or claiming benefits in order to influence an official in connection with his work (Šumah, 2018).

It is therefore equally true to say that corruption being a global phenomenon is not limited to geography, culture or economic status of nations but also a process of evolution over time.

Historical background of Corruption in Cameroon

Corruption is a social problem found in various degree and forms in all societies and mostly in primitive societies and affect it mostly negatively as it degrades its political and socio-economic structure. Corruption being a global phenomenon, there have been a global struggle against this monster either on a national scale and even on a trans-national scale, using certain policies and societal norms to combat this monster around the world. Some states have attained some degree of success in the fight against corruption while others are still suffering in the hands of this monster.

Cameroon can be classified as one of the unsuccessful cases for the fight against corruption up till date. From the lowest to the highest ranking official and even most commoners on street level are said to be in the practices of corruption. These practices are usually either passively or

actively. The country is well known of its corruption practices as Cameroon is the 152 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in Cameroon averaged 123.95 from 1996 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 153 in 2017 and a record low of 49 in 1996 (“Transparency International,” n.d.). The major causes of corruption are most likely characteristics of less economically developed economy like Cameroon because the major drive of corruption is poverty amongst others such as; Inadequate pay or low salaries, personal interests & absence of duty conscience, weak judiciary and almost nonexistent opposition in the legislative, poor management and control systems, Luke warm attitude of officials, lack of clear rules and codes of ethics, weak government institutions, Weak accountability and lack of transparency, lack of accountable and transparent political system, rent seeking, are all factors favoring corruption in Cameroon. Despite the country’s richness in natural resources of volcanic soil, tropical climate for cash crop cultivation, crude oil on and offshore as well as one of the best touristic sites in the whole of the African continent, the country is still facing economic difficulties and development is really slow. Embezzlements of public funds, bribery, nepotism, mis-management of public funds and the list goes on, not one but all these corrupt practices have greatly contributed to the current economic and development status of Cameroon today. The term development can be express as the process in which a state grows or changes and becomes more advanced, especially when political, economic and social conditions are improved(Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).The idea of development in modern terms is the political, economic and social status of a state in comparison to others. A broader concept of development involves some positive changes in the entire society to suit the modernization ideal. In order for the a nation to be considered as one that is more developed or to achieve a modern standard of development, it must possess certain characteristics such as; national independence, political democracy with checks and balances in public administration, resources rationality, improves living standard, economic and social equality of citizens, effective and efficient development institutions, increase in production per capital and quality level of social discipline(Bardhan, 1997). On the other hand, the reverse of the above-mentioned aspect are true characteristics of underdevelopment to which Cameroon is an appropriate example.

Political Corruption as a Burden to Cameroon Development

Heidenheimer and Johnston in regard to the political realm of corruption, views it as tied most particularly to the act of bribery collected by officials(executive, legislative and judiciary) in the misuse of their authority as a result of considerations of personal gain to which is mostly monetary since money leads to more political power in a corrupt society. Most often this act of bribery is usually for the official to perform his/her legal duty to which they are getting paid for already by the state.

Corruption according to scholars of this approach is “the misuse of public power for private or political gains, accepting that the term “misuse” must be defined in terms of some standard.

Many acts of corruption under this definition are illegal in most countries. Examples being; paying and receiving bribes, fraud, embezzlement, self-dealing, and conflict of interest.

However, some part of the policy debate turns on where to draw the legal line and how to control borderline phenomena, such as conflict of interest, which many political systems fail to regulate.

corruption occurs when the political administrative system is characterized with public officials having wide authority, weak accountability and bad incentives. According to R.P Kangle (1972,p.91 as cited in Bardhan P, 1997,p.1320) “*just as it is impossible not to taste the honey(or the poison) that finds itself at the tip of the tongue, so it is impossible for a government servant not to eat up, at least, a bit of the king's revenue. Just as fish moving under water cannot possibly be found out either as drinking water, so government servants employed in the government work cannot be found out (while) taking money (for themselves).*”

In Cameroon, corrupt practice like bribery of state officials is seen in everyday life interactions by individuals. The situation has become alarming to the extent that officials almost and to some extend refuse to carry out their official duties if they do not receive bribery from the public (non-officials). Bribery reduces inefficiency in public administrative duties as most official rely on bribery to do their jobs. Some scholars argue that the trend of corruption in most less economically underdeveloped countries especially in Africa can trace its roots from colonization. In this light, Cameroons current corrupt status can be said to have originated from the colonial era as colonial masters bribed local rulers to obtain what they wanted. While some scholars attribute corruption of most nations not as an infection of colonization but as a disease that emerged by the practices of the people due to the economic situation of the state like; poverty and inequality. Cameroon being a country that has been rated first place twice(1998 and 1999) as

most corrupt country in the world by Transparency International can be said to be a victim of either corruption as a colonial inheritance as well as a result of the country's economic status(Akombi, 2009).

The most common corrupt practice type that is according to this approach is Election fraud. The president of the Cameroon that is President Paul Barthélemy Biya'a bi Mvondo, who holds position as the president of the state, chief judge and chief of arm forces, has been in power since 6th November 1982 till date, making him thirty six years in power with an almost landslide victory of his RDPC(Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounaise) or as known in English CPDM (Cameroon People's Democratic Movement) in every election year. On 22 October 2018 (weeks after the polls opened on 7 October), it was as usual confirmed that 85-year-old President of Cameroon, Paul Biya, will serve another term in office. Voters turnout was very low due to the current Anglophone crisis and in the urban centers like Douala and Yaoundé, supporters of the corrupt Biya regime were out to vote despite widespread hatred of the Biya regime. Moreover, violent unrest in the Anglophone regions made any kind of democratic process in the region impossible, and conflict between state troops and separatists have aroused fears of a new civil war that could plunge the country into barbarism. The possible outbreak of a cooking civil war is in no way an advantage to the development of the country. There is nothing democratic or transparent when it comes to politics in Cameroon as elections are won by financial influence and corrupt practices of officials in power whom do not want to lose their political positions(Ayamena Mpenya, Metseyem, & Epo, 2016). Those who often win these elections through financial influence tend to try and make back the money they have invested in politics through embezzlement of public funds when they are in office. For example, professor Maurice Kamto (main opposition leader) of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement party, was arrested and jailed after he accused the October 2018 presidential elections to be fraudulent in favour of Paul Biya(africanews, n.d.).

Police bribery is the most common in all corrupt practices in Cameroon. Cameroon's police force is inefficient, poorly trained and plagued by corruption. Bribery is widespread among the police and officers often demand payments at checkpoints and in exchange for granting unlawful freedom to detainees. It is very normal for a police officer to ask for bribe from vehicle drivers during police control at roadside check points. This practice has become an almost like police check point tradition as drivers whom have not committed any offense are still asked to bribe just

to go through these check points. Of course, bribe is not collected completely from everyone especially if that one is seen as a treat to their corrupt practice i.e. a lawyer or an upright citizen who is willing to stand their ground. Police cases can easily be won by one party who is willing to bribe police officials. Not only the police are into the act of bribery but also almost every other state official and even highly paid one. Officials usually ask money from individuals to process their documents in cases like to make a passport, write an entrance exam to work in the public sector and even to make a national identity card(Akombi, 2009).

The judiciary sector which is supposed to be corrupt free is not the case in Cameroon. It was discovered that corruption works in networks and everybody does the same thing to have access to judicial service that is supposed to be free of charge. In order to move up in professional career, each individual is obliged to act as the other. The individual does not fool around with the constant interventions of his corrupt superiors. In this pervasive atmosphere of nepotism, he who has no one to intervene on his behalf has only to resort to his finances to offset the numerous interventions that distort the course of justice to the detriment of the poor(ibid).

Economic Corruption as a Burden to Cameroons Development

In regards to economic approach view of corruption in Cameroon, in order to provide an in-depth understanding, a scholar of this approach that is Robert Tilman, described corruption to be an involvement of a shift from a mandatory pricing model to a free market model in which the centralized allocative mechanism which is ideal of the modern bureaucracy, may break down in the face of serious disequilibrium between supply and demand and clients may decide that it is worthwhile to risk the known sanctions and pay and pay the higher cost in order to be assured of receiving the desired benefits. When this happens, bureaucracy cases to be patterned after the mandatory market and take on characteristics of a free market(Scott, 1969).

Economic corruption in the case of Cameroon involves bribery in high places in order to control either the market or some economic sectors of the nation and thus limiting competition. Lack of competition in the market leads to monopoly which is not often good for the development of any nation. From government contracts projects giving to those whom have bribed or promise a shave to government officials right down to hawkers. These government contractors pay their way to gain contracts that they cannot handle and in the end carryout projects that does not last and in some cases do nothing at all but receive government funds for doing nothing. New firms

and companies often bribe government officials to facilitate their documentations of starting a business without going through the proper means. Small business operators also bribe officials so as to carry out businesses in restricted areas. Cameroon customs clearance procedures are usually prolonged by custom officials intentionally. The customs officer creates tensions and delays, thus forcing the busy operator to negotiate. Customs duties remain extremely high on some products, just so clients will pay extra unofficial funds to facilitate clearance of their goods and if the client is unable to pay the demanded sum, their goods remain confiscated and auctioned after a certain period of time. This sole custom act alone has discouraged many importers to bring in goods that can help the Cameroonian Economy grow since they fear to lose (Akombi, 2009). Nearly half of all companies report expecting to give gifts to 'get things done'. Likewise, bribes and irregular payments are common when applying for public utilities. Most companies rank corruption as the most problematic factor for doing business in Cameroon and dealing with burdensome administrative requirements further complicates the process of operating a business. More than one in five companies expects to give gifts when meeting with tax officials. Companies, small businesses and individuals report frequent irregular payments and bribes to tax officials as over half of all Cameroonians consider most or all tax officials to be corrupt. Tax evasion, corruption, and embezzlement constitute the majority of the financial crimes committed in Cameroon, thereby negatively affecting government revenue. Companies face high corruption risks when operating in the natural resources sector. Corruption is further exacerbated by a non-transparent revenue collecting system and opaque licensing processes for extractive industries. The Cameroonian forestry sector is plagued by corruption as extensive bribery among senior officials, civil servants and companies in return for logging permits fuels illegal logging and state officials allegedly collect more than 46 million euros in bribes per year from illegal logging practices. ("Cameroon Corruption Report," 2017). Small businesses are forced to pay unofficial tax to state officials who go as far as taxing products in local farmers' bush markets on a daily basis, thus, discouraging most farmers to transport their goods to main town markets where they can sell and pay taxes to the government officially. For example, the Muyenge bush market has police office check points that ask bribes from local farmers to sell in the Muyenge bush market and even along the Muyenge-Muyuka road (Kamé, 2018).

Social Corruption as a Burden to Cameroon Development

When considering corruption to be categorized under social aspect, it now becomes part of a society as a people. Most scholars of this approach are from the field of social sciences. In order to understand this approach better, an elaboration by Carl Friedrich which stipulated that the pattern of corruption can be said to exist whenever a power holder who is charged with doing certain things is by monetary or other rewards not legally provided for induced to make actions which favour's whom provides the reward and thereby does damage to the public and its interest. Or as James Scott stipulated corruption according to the social approach to be behavior which willfully deviates from the formal duties of a public role, either by commission or by omission, for private oriented gains. In other words, according to this approach, the basis of corruption is as a result of inequality(Scott, 1969).

In Cameroon, poverty, low living standards and inequality rates are all very high. As a result of bribery and embezzlement, most government officials make more money than businessmen, while the poor are constantly triumph upon by the rich through corrupt practices. Funds set aside for the construction of social amenities like public parks, public tap water, public schools and hospitals, are usually in the pockets and control of greedy officials who care little about the public but themselves. The absence of these social amenities or presence of very little of it is a great hinderance to the development of the country as a whole. Little of no public hospitals especially in Rural Areas like Ndop village and Munyenge villages leads to high death rate of the labour force in the Agricultural sector which is the primary source of the Cameroons GDP. Absence of schools and vocational training centers in some Regions lead to high rate of illiteracy and lack of expertise in production. In a country that is said to be democratic and has freedom of speech, there is little or no freedom of anything if you are not in a position of political or financial power. The government financially supports media outlets supportive and favorable of the government, and officials use criminal libel and defamation laws to pursue and intimidate independent newspapers that report on corruption and economic policies. A large part of Cameroon's civil society is represented by strong based organizations as government officials are likely members of the same social groups. In recent years, civil society has weakened, and many NGOs rely entirely on foreign funding, while others have been co-opted by the government. It is also common for an individual to bribe for their children's entrance into and educational institution of into a football college. The FECAFOOT (Fédération Camerounaise de

Football) or as it is known in English (Cameroonian Football Federation) is also said to be corrupt as it receives bribes in order to select which football players get to play for the country's national team, thereby eliminating opportunities of truly talented players. The Cameroonian government has a type of regime in which ruling elites use the state for personal enrichment and profit from a public administration that is patently unstable, inefficient, nontransparent, and that fails to distribute public resources to large segments of the population. Nepotism and tribalism are very common and visible in Cameroon. The current anglophone crisis in the country today is as a result of nepotism and tribalism as it is common to see most government officials to be of Francophones and from a certain tribe i.e. Ewondo, Douala and Basa.(Akombi, 2009). As a result of inequality, employees who are exploited by way of poor wage remuneration are likely to steal, thereby leading to more embezzlement of public funds. This can be argued however that corruption cuts across remuneration barriers since among those who started being corrupt early in life, are some who still find it convenient to subsidize their living through fraudulent practices, when they attain higher socio-economic positions in life. Cameroonians like most Africans accord a lot of respect to material wealth regardless of how it has been acquired. Little attention is paid to morals, and it is often said that 'if you cannot beat them, join them'(ibid). A wealthy Cameroonian is treated with respect and everyone wants to be such a person even if it means to the detriment of the other or the entire public and its development.

Cultural Corruption as a Burden to Cameroon Development

In view of the cultural prospects of corruption, corruption practices can be traced to colonialism and some religious practices. In Cameroon, the Francophones are said to be more corrupt than the Anglophones. These Francophones practice tribalism and Nepotism to the highest level, thus, the current Anglophone crisis today in which the anglophones complain of being marginalized by the Francophones(Kamé, 2018). Some state officials whom are assigned to work in regions that are not of the same culture or region that is not of their biological decent, turn not to care about the development of these regions. Francophone Senior Divisional Officers assign to work in Anglophone regions care little or none about the development of Anglophone regions and even when they are assigned a development project, they embezzle its funds that results to lack of public roads and other infrastructure like for example the Kumba-Mamfe Road linking

Cameroon and Nigeria is as good as no road at all(ibid). Most state ministries are usually crowded by workers from the same region as the minister in charge of that ministry. Individuals often employ workers from the same religious groups or churches as them all in the name of ‘‘God Father’’ even if these individuals are not well qualified over those that are well qualified.

Suggested initiatives to combat Corruption and its negative effects on Development in Cameroon

Looking at corruption in Cameroon as a case study, one might assume the country has corruption as a part of its culture and its roots from the colonial era. It should be noted that civilization and modernization as well as outside influence are also great aspects contributing to the country’s current corrupt status. Cameroon does not effectively implement anti-corruption legislation and high-level officials often act with impunity. Cameroon has no specific anti-corruption law, but the Penal Code criminalizes active and passive bribery, extortion, bribing a foreign official, money laundering and misuse of public funds for private gain. The Penal Code was updated in 2016 to integrate the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Penalties for corruption include; prison term of five years to life, a fine of up to USD 4,000 and asset seizure. In cases of theft and embezzlement of public funds, corruption charges can be dropped if the money is repaid to the government. Article 66 of Cameroon’s Constitution, which requires government officials and civil servants to declare their assets and property, is not enforced(“Cameroon Corruption Report,” 2017). Like every other problem, there can be a solution to reduce corruption practices in Cameroon. The most active agent in the fight against corruption in Cameroon should be the government, before others like the media, anti-corruption institutions, international contributions and the civil society. Corruption in Cameroon is said to be the major hinderance to the country’s development and unless some majors are initiatives are put in place to combat corruption, the development situation of the country will remain the same for years to come and might even get worst and lead to an outburst civil war. In regard to some suggested incentives to combat corruption by many scholar’s literature, using suggestions from Jiang G. (2017) literature review on suggestions for anticorruption measures as guideline suggestions in the case of Cameroon, the following can be taking into consideration;

Firstly, the Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) which is the electoral organization in Cameroon in charge of all elections concerning executive positions in the government, should be a separate

organization from the Cameroon Government and its officials should not be appointed by government officials in high places but they should be also elected by the public through regional elections.

Secondly, as suggested by Clark 1987; Holm 2000; Doig 1995; Klitgaard 1998; Segal 1999, Cameroon should establish an efficient and independent anticorruption system by creating more anticorruption units like the National Anticorruption Commission (CONAC)(Jiang, 2017).

Thirdly, the government of Cameroon should ensure a judicial independence or an independent judiciary system. Ades and Di Tella (1996), Goel and Nelson (1998) and Gurgur and Shah (1999,2000), proved judicial independences could aid in the reduction of corruption in n a country significantly(ibid).

Also, a reduction in the public sector size, an increase in salary of public sector officials and the establishment of checks on the public sector officials will be an effective means for the fight against corruption in Cameroon and most likely the boost of development in the country.

Brunetti and Weder (1998) are in support of the idea that freedom of the press can greatly negatively corruption and increase the development of a state(ibid). Currently in Cameroon, there is no freedom of press nor freedom of speech, thus, making it difficult to expose corrupt officials and corrupt practices.

International contributions from foreign governments can also help in Cameroon's fight against corruption and to ensure the country's development. A close eye could be placed upon Cameroonian diplomats flying abroad with embezzled money and spending in foreign countries. Likewise, foreign financial institutions can help in this fight by monitoring the financial movements of Cameroon officials accounts with them and ask for justifications for certain financial transactions.

SECTION IV

CONCLUSION

In a brief conclusive remark, corruption by most scholar's view has never been in support of the development of any nation but has always greatly contributed as a stumbling block to development. Giving the point of view from the different approaches in the study of corruption, it is only reasonable that none of the approaches applauded acts of corruption as benefiting to the

development of a state. Looking at corruption in Cameroon, one can said to have visualize a cutting-edge example of how corruption can be of great hinderance to development. The intent of this paper was not to objectify Cameroon as the worst corruption case but to provide an understanding of its effect on development that can exist in any state. Also, the suggested initiatives to combat corruption are no guarantee of a success case scenario as Cameroon from my personal point of view still needs to undergo not just political and economic reforms but also socio-cultural to which at this point in time seems not easy to achieve.

SECTION V

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