

**CORRUPTION IN THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY: LESSONS FROM JULIE  
OKOH'S WHO CAN FIGHT THE GODS**

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**Abstract**

The paper focuses on the theme of corruption in Julie Okoh's 'Who Can Fight the Gods?' The play exposes various forms of corruption in a university setting such as examination malpractice, the university's bursar misuse of the institution's subvention and unnecessary and excess demands by the visitor to the university. These corrupt practices exemplify the situation in the Nigerian society. The play is, therefore, a call to Nigerians to view the corrupt state of the nation so that steps can be taken to curb the menace. Some of the recommendations for fighting corruption in the play include: the need for individual citizens to develop personal integrity, education of the young ones against corruption and the need to promote good leadership. The play depicts the fact that, though the Nigerian state is very corrupt, the situation is not hopeless if there is a concerted effort by all segments of the Nigerian society to fight corruption in the nation.

**Introduction**

Corruption has been regarded as the greatest bane to the development of the Nigerian society despite her oil wealth and other natural resources. The theme of corruption has been focused on by many playwrights in the belief that "The dramatist should not only offer pleasure but should, besides that, be a teacher of morality and a political adviser" (Augusto Boal XII).

Corruption has variously been defined. According to World Bank, cited by Ayua, I. A. corruption is:

The abuse of public office for private gain (4) ... Public office is abused for private gains when an official accepts, solicits or extorts bribe. Public office is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for personal benefits even if no bribery occurs. It could be through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets for diversion of state revenue (14).

However, corruption practices are not limited to public office holders but include individuals from every segment of the society. Iyorwuese Hagher's (20) definition is broad. He states that:

Everybody seems to view the word *corruption* from a peculiar perspective... Corruption connotes derogatory images... the state of degradation which human beings descend to when they change from the ideal state of sound moral values and human conduct that express love.

Corruption is widespread. In the economic context, it is usually carried out through exploitation, oppression and cheating of others for illegal monetary gain. Culprits include government officials, law enforcement agencies, market women, academics, and members of churches and mosques. Examples of these corrupt acts include bribery, awarding of contracts based on personal relationships, fraud, embezzlement, inflation of contracts, bribing for job requirement, diversion of money through banks, poor execution of contracts and services, collection of money without issuance of receipts, deductions of workers' salaries and allowances to personal accounts and unjust weights/measures for goods sold.

Corrupt practices are against accepted moral standard of a given society. Hence, Hagher also defines a corrupt person as one whose innate goodness—his divine state—has been infected, tainted or contaminated by badness (20).

The focus of this paper is corruption in economic context using Julie Okoh's '*Who Can Fight the Gods*'. The playwright uses a university system to project the state of corruption in Nigeria.

#### **Synopsis of *Who Can Fight the Gods***

The play depicts corrupt practices in a university system, efforts made to fight the corruption and the challenges involved in this. It begins with a clash between members of the catholic society in the university who arrived the venue for their mass on Sunday and a lecturer (Dr. Lecturer) who insisted in using the same venue to carry out an examination. It is revealed that the reason for the clash is inadequate facilities for educational and social activities on the campus.

According to one of the worshipers, since they started worshiping in the arena, if it is not another religious group, it is either students or lecturers fighting with them for one thing or another. (Okoh, 25). The reason for the inadequate and inappropriate facilities for the university is under-funding and misappropriation of funds meant for the development of the university. Some of the consequences of corruption in the university include brain-drain, frequent strike actions, inadequate and dilapidated infrastructure and bad examples for the students. Dr. Lecturer determines to fight against corruption in the university. However, he faces many challenges in his life and job. He finally gets arrested by the police. But he is undeterred and urges others to carry on the fight against corruption. The effect of this is that he receives support from some people, who go with him to the police station, while others influenced by his example vow to join him in exposing the evil acts of corruption in the society.

### **Thematic Analysis of the Play**

The focus of the play on corruption is revealed at the beginning of the play with the clash for use of venue. Dr. Lecturer cries out in frustration: when he is accused of violating other people's right of freedom of worship:

Dr. Lecturer: Woman, tell that to the authorities. Tell them that the students have right to comfortable chairs and tables. Look at the place I am conducting an examination... an open arena! Look at all of them, sitting on bare cemented tiers of seats. In order to use the next tier as table, they sit facing dangling in the air. And to talk to them, I have to strain my voice above the noise of passing taxis and motorcycles, calling the passengers. (*The blaring of a taxi's horn is heard, the students laugh.*) How does one effectively teach students in an open space like this? How does one write a meaningful examination amid these distractions? (Okoh, 30)

The struggle for space led to the revelation of other corrupt acts in the university. An example is examination malpractice, which is carried out by both students and invigilators (lecturers), prearranged for a fee. Some deans collect money from hawkers (for use in running their faculties) and allow them to sell their goods anywhere in the university including entering classrooms through the back doors and broken windows even when a lecturer is teaching in front of the classroom. The university's bursar is also guilty of misuse of the institution's subventions.

An outstanding case of corruption in the university is the generator scandal which involves the director of maintenance who connives with contractors to swindle the university. He got one million naira to supply a power generator but spent only four hundred thousand naira. He acquired a discarded generator from a company. A spare-parts dealer bought it as a scrap, reconditioned it and sold it to the university. The generator stopped functioning a day after it was commissioned. A panel set up to investigate the matter decides to sweep the issue under the carpet by stating that it's the fault of the contractor who supplied an old generator to the school.

However, Dr. Lecturer decides to write a minority report on the issue to expose the truth. But he gets threatened by the director. At first, the director offers to give the lecturer a huge sum of money and to actualise his long-delayed promotion. When this is refused, he resorts to blackmail. He threatens to spread false rumours that the lecturer is having an affair with one of his students. But Dr. Lecturer remains adamant, standing for the truth.

The director reveals that one of the reasons for misappropriation of funds in the university is money spent on irrelevant protocol such as during convocation ceremonies. It is further revealed through another character known as Mr. Radical that the visitor to the university, who is referred to as a demi-god, usually makes unnecessary and excess demands on the

university. These include staying in hotels in town during visits surrounded by his advisers, chambermen, footmen, praise singers and mistresses at the university's expense, though there is provision for them on campus. He also demands money from the university for presents to be given to his folk back home and allowances for members of his entourage. In addition, he insists on having the latest car and threatens to remove anyone who doesn't agree to his bidding.

There are several consequences of corruption on the university. One of these is lack of facilities and dilapidation existing ones. This is depicted by Dr. Lecturer as follows:

Dr. Lecturer:

Sir, the buildings in this university are all dilapidated. There are no books in the library, no chalk in the classrooms, no constant supply of electricity or even common water for staff and students, yet you want me to believe that you spend the hard (...) to get money on those who are already bloated with excessive fats (Okoh, 55).

The hostels are in a similar state of decay. The environment oozes because the toilets are clogged. The students ease themselves in bushes. When it rains, the students abandon their studies to bale water from their rooms.

Another consequence of corruption on the university is brain-drain. Some intellectuals who uphold the virtue of their profession are frustrated, go on self-exile and invest their talent in building other nations. Actual names of some intellectuals who carried out this action are mentioned. They include Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Ola Rotimi, Niyi Osundare, Ernest Emenyonu, Micheal Echeruo, Emmanuel Obieche and Tanure Ojaide.

Frequent strike actions also take place in the university due to unmet needs of workers and students. They involve ASUU, SSANU and NANS. The result is students' involvement in antisocial activities and production of half-baked students.

Another consequence of corrupt administrators and lectures on students is the fact that the students learn to acquire things the wrong way. According to Dr. Lecturer, "these have led to the emergence, in the various campuses, of examination malpractice, sexual harassment, prostitution, cultism, drug abuse, terrorism, care-free culture and HIV/AIDS (Ibid 77). It is also stated that the aim of almost every student now is to acquire wealth, which they pursue with aggression and violence and usurp and arrogate to themselves every power on campus and its environs. (Ibid 77)

The above situation portends danger for the future since the students are the leaders of tomorrow. This means that if the adults continue to influence them in wrong ways the future of Nigeria will be worse.

### **The Nigerian Situation**

The play exemplifies the situation in the Nigerian society. The corrupt practices that take place in the university system in the play are similar to what obtains in every segment of the Nigerian society.

According to Torese Agena (8):

Corruption has so totally permeated all aspects of life in the country, political, social, economic and academic, that no meaningful discussion can be made on any aspect of Nigerian life without reference to corruption in part. The disease of corruption has undermined the goals of development as public funds are arbitrarily handled, channelled for private purposes or deposited in personal accounts thus causing hardship to the masses and increasing both the level and cycle of poverty in the nation.

Ranking of corrupt countries by Transparency International for some years shows the terrible state of corruption in Nigeria. In the year 2000, Transparency International carried out a survey on the corruption levels of 90 countries and found that Nigeria was the most corrupt because the country occupied the 90<sup>th</sup> position in terms of transparency. In the year 2001, Nigeria ranked the second most corrupt nation in the world of 91 countries, falling only to Bangladesh. In the year 2002 Nigeria, again, ranked the second most corrupt country in the world, after the organization surveyed 102 countries. In 2003, Nigeria received the same ranking. In 2004, she was ranked as the third most corrupt country. In 2005, there was improvement, as Nigeria became the eighth most corrupt out of 458 countries surveyed. (Uzochukwu, Mike. [https:// soapboxes.com](https://soapboxes.com)> world politics)

The effect of corruption in Nigeria has been enormous. Chief Michael Aondokaa (SAN) stated the following in Daily Trust:

Nigeria has encountered the damaging effect of corruption. Our economy has been ruined, our hopes for greater tomorrow have been dashed, and corruption has created an unstable political environment and destroyed our sense of probity, accountability and transparency in government. Inefficiency, dishonesty and all sorts of vices which are byproducts of corruption constitute the biggest obstacle to national development (4).

Daily, Nigerians feel the effect of corruption. Amenities and citizens' rights, which are not taken for granted in developed countries are denied the Nigerian people. Poverty and

underdevelopment are still very high. Atia, S. S. and Shabu, T. described the situation as follows:

As a result of corruption in government, money meant for projects such as roads, hospitals, pipe-borne water, schools, electricity, housing, etc. is embezzled or siphoned into private pockets or private bank accounts. Employment into government ministries and parastatals is not based on merit but on bribery and corruption. Justice is denied the people, especially the poor, as judges deliver judgements to favour the highest bidders. The poor in the society no longer receive protection from the police because the police are so corrupt that they only protect those who are supposed to pay for their services. Government contracts are also badly executed and do not last long because government officials who are supposed to supervise the contractors and make sure that they do good jobs, either inflate the contracts or receive kickbacks from the contractors and so fail to supervise them. ...because of corruption in government, political or public office is no longer seen as a means of serving the people but as a gateway to riches... (81).

There are several causes of corruption in Nigeria. However, the major one has been the kind of leadership the country has been experiencing. Most of the leaders' major objective has been amassing as much as much wealth as possible during their tenure without minding the fate of their followers. This is in line with Achebe's (1) belief as he states that the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership and that there is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian air or anything else.

While Olaitan Rasheed (10) states:

Nigeria is a blessed nation but her inability to manage her wealth is noted in the level of corrupt practices perpetrated by its leaders (past and present) and their multi-national comrades overseas. The Nigerian leadership train is laden with corrupt, greedy and megalomaniac captains, while its passengers, unfortunately, the majority, wallow in abject poverty and consider themselves as being fated.

Greed, which is at the centre of Nigerian leaders' corrupt practices also affects others—civil servants and businessmen/women. However, leaders have more opportunities to corruptly enrich themselves. For example, in the play *'Who Can Fight the Gods,'* the dean declares his intention to go into politics even though he is from a wealthy family. His grandfather was a grand motor dealer while his father is a petroleum magnate. His reason is to make more money. He believes that if he becomes a governor he will be the sole controller of the state treasury. (Okoh, 38)

Another cause of corruption in Nigeria is poverty. Many Nigerians do not easily have access to the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and healthcare.

Therefore, opportunities that give them easy access to money is utilized for corrupt enrichment. Poverty and corruption have a cyclic relationship. Corruption breeds poverty and poverty breeds corruption. Akena (13) states that corruption thrives in an environment where public servants have little regular incentives, that is, low or irregular payment of salaries or both, no health insurance, etc. and work within weak accountability structures. Apart from public servants, the under-development of the Nigerian nation, which is majorly caused by corruption, affects every other citizen in the country.

Both Military and democratic governments in Nigeria have manifested corrupt practices. Some examples are as follows, according to Wikipedia:

During the Shagari administration (October, 1979 – December, 1983) a few federal buildings mysteriously caught fire after investigators started to probe the finances of the officials working in the building. In late 1985, investigations into the collapse of the defunct Johnson Matthey Bank of London showed that the bank acted as a conduit to transfer hard currency for some party members in Nigeria. A few leading officials and politicians had amassed large amounts of money.

Another example of a civilian administration is Umaru Musa Yaradua's government (May 2007–May 2010). Instances of corrupt practices portrayed is Yaradua's various acts of political corruption using his attorney-general to frustrate ongoing local and international investigations of his powerful friends like Governor Ibori, Igbinedion and Odili, which led to massive losses to their states.

During Goodluck Jonathan's administration (2010–2015), many corruption scandals occurred. After the president and the senate had dismissed the Central Bank governor's (then Sanusi Lamido Sanusi) allegation that the state oil company, NNPC, had failed to remit US\$20 billion in oil revenues owed to the state, NNPC's account audit later revealed that its non-remitted revenue was actually US\$1.48 billion. At the release of both the PWC and Deloitte report by the government, by the eve of its exit, it was, however, determined that, truly, close to \$20 billion was, indeed, missing or misappropriated in the dying days of Goodluck Jonathan administration. The Central Bank scandal of cash-tripping of mutilated notes also broke out. It was revealed that, within four days, 8 billion naira was stolen directly by low-level workers in the CBN.

Babangida's administration (August 1985–August 1993) has been seen as the body that legalized corruption. His administration refused to give account of the Gulf war windfall, which was estimated to be \$12.4 billion. During IBB's tenure, corruption became a policy of the state. Vehicles and cash gifts were routinely disbursed to earn loyalty from banking to oil and import licenses. IBB is alleged to have used these favours to enrich himself and his family and is regarded as one of the richest ex-rulers of Nigeria.

The Nigerian leader that was outstanding in corrupt practices was General Sani Abacha. Awowede, O. (17) gives a breakdown of Abacha's properties within and outside Nigeria as follows:

- i. ₦300 billion Hilltop mansion in Abuja
- ii. Private residential estate in Abuja
- iii. ₦150 million Gidan Abacha, Gidado Street, Kano
- iv. 14 other palatial houses on Gidado Street, Kano
- v. All-marble mansion, Bishop's Court, London.
- vi. ₦50 million Chellarams Building, Kano
- vii. ₦45 million Gidan Gode, Kano
- viii. 6-storey Alliance Building, Airport Road, Kano
- ix. Durbar Hotel, Kaduna
- x. Houses in Saudi Arabia and Morocco (17)

Abacha's family members were also accused of collecting huge sums of money from government coffers for contracts that were either not done or poorly executed. It was also stated that Abacha used to order the Nigerian security printing and minting company to print money and take it direct to him. (Atia, S. S. and Shabu, T. (91).)

Buhari's Administration (2015–2018). Buhari's top campaign promises were to fight corruption and insecurity and help the economy. Some of his actions since assumption of office include the establishment of a high-level Presidential Committee on Asset Recovery, mandating people in his government to declare their assets and making operation of single treasury account compulsory for the federal, state and local governments. His government has also been involved in prosecution of high-profile cases of corruption. The examples include: Ali Modu Sheriff, the former governor of Borno State on alleged misappropriation of 300 billion naira received from the federation account during his tenure as governor of Borno State, between 2003 and 2011. Another case being investigated is that of money meant for the procurement of arms to fight insurgency during President Goodluck Jonathan's tenure. The report indicated that a total sum of \$2.2 billion was disbursed to the office of the National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki, but was not spent on the purpose for which the money was disbursed.

Diezani Alison Madueke, the minister of petroleum resources, under Jonathan, has been under trial for bribery, fraud, misuse of public funds and money-laundering. She has been accused of diverting \$153 million from NNPC coffers and using 23 billion naira to influence the 2015 presidential election to keep Jonathan in power. There has also been asset recovery case against her in Houston, Texas, seeking the seizure of luxury property, including a New York apartment and a super yacht. There has been a judgment against her to forfeit \$1.3 billion deal for an offshore oil block in Nigeria. (Anuoluwapo Adeseun [www.nigeriamonitor.com/alison-mad...](http://www.nigeriamonitor.com/alison-mad...)) A search of one Alison-Madueke's palatial



residences in Abuja by EFCC led to the discovery of boxes of gold, silver and diamond jewelry worth several million pounds sterling believed to have been acquired through ill-gotten money. The EFCC has also traced ₦47.2 billion and \$487.5 million in cash and properties to the former minister of petroleum resources. (Tony Orilade & Aisha Gambani of the EFCC Media <http://www.premiumtimesng.com>news>)

However, there have been several criticisms against Buhari's fight against corruption. He is accused of being selective in his handling of the corruption cases and targeting only people from the opposition party (PDP), while being very reluctant to prosecute members of his cabinet. Examples include his recalling of the suspended director-general of the National Health Insurance Scheme, Professor Usman Yusuf, a kinsman of Buhari, accused of abuse of office. He was being investigated for alleged corrupt practices of squandering over ₦919 million belonging to the National Health Insurance Scheme and awards of contracts far above approved threshold. He had been indicted by a government panel raised by the minister of health, Prof. Isaac Adewole. Vanguard: by Sonny Daniel, on February, 10 <http://www.vanguardng.com.New>

Babachir David Lawal, former secretary to the government, was implicated after investigation by the Nigerian Senate for fraud in respect of \$8million meant for the rebuilding of the northeast after devastation by Boko Haram insurgents. Ayo Oke, former director-general of Nigeria's National Intelligence Agency, was accused of a cash haul of \$43 million by Nigeria's anti-graft agency. Both men were dropped by Buhari only after weeks of pressure by civil society groups.

Abdulrasheed Maina was the chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pension Reform. He was dismissed by President Jonathan in 2013 following recommendations by the office of the Head of Service. He was said to have stolen about 100 billion naira from the pension fund. He got secretly recalled by Buhari's government and promoted to the position of director in charge of Human Resources in the Ministry of Interior.

### **The Theatre Artist and National Development – Past Present and Future**

Julie Okoh's play *'Who Can Fight the Gods'* has called attention to the corrupt state of the Nigerian nation so that steps can be taken to curb the menace. This is in line with the fact that drama, as a segment of the Humanities, is a powerful art form that has been used over the years to influence societal attitude towards socio-political issues. This has also been the case in Nigeria. Nigerian literary playwrights were among the first products of western education. They include: Wole Soyinka, J. P. Clark, Ola Rotimi, Wale Ogunyemi and Zulu Sofola. They focused on social and political life in Nigeria in the years just before and after independence. These playwrights contributed ideas to having a more developed society through their various plays. Wole Soyinka's plays: *The Strong Breed*, *Death*, *the King's Horseman* and *Kongi's Harvest* focus on the need for good leadership in the society. Ola Rotimi's *The Gods are not to Blame*, *Kurunmi* and *Our Husbands Have*

*Gone Mad Again*, have several lessons about good leadership and general ideas for socio-political development of the society. Similar to the above plays are J. P. Clark's *The Raft* and his later play, the *Wives Revolt*.

After the first set of Nigerian dramatists, there arose a group of dramatists who are more radical in their approach. Their works deal urgently with contemporary social problems in Nigeria with the aim of raising mass awareness as a positive revolutionary alternative to the present decadence (Obafemi, 168). Their works portray great anger against bad leadership, including issues of corruption and a call for restructuring society for a more egalitarian one. Such works include Femi Osofisan's *The Chattering and the Song*, Morountodun and *Altine's Wrath*, Olu Obafemi's *Night of a Mystical Beast*, Iyorwuese Hagher's *Comrade* and *Voltage* and other plays. Contemporary Nigerian dramatists also include Ahmed Yerima, Rasaki Ojo Bakare, Victor Dugga and feminists such as Tess Onwueme, Julie Okoh, Irene Salami and Tracie-Utoh Ezeajugh. This last group from a feminist angle call attention to social ills and seeking ways of overcoming them.

Nigerian theatre artists have been involved in nation building in the past, at present and will continue to do so in future. Many of them have works whose thematic pre-occupation is corruption. Rasheed, Lateef (101) believes that corruption has become part of the tensions in the history of Nigeria and, sadly, Africa as a whole. A dramatist is the guide of the society because, through his imaginative education, which is not divorced from his immediate environment, he is able to relate to his society as he sees it and prefers solution as to how it ought to be.

### **Combating corruption: Lessons from 'Who Can Fight the Gods'**

The play calls attention to the corruption in the Nigerian society by projecting the decay in a university system as a result of corruption. However, there are also lessons from the play bordering on the means of tackling corruption.

The first is the importance of personal integrity. It advocates that individuals should be willing to make a difference by imbibing the principle of integrity and courageously fighting corruption. This is projected through the character of Dr. Lecturer. He is described by a Rev. Father as "a man of noble cut, with great intelligence, culture, tenacity and great capacity for work" (Okoh 79). He confronts and speaks boldly against corrupt officials in the university. These include the dean, bursar, director of maintenance and the visitor to the university who is referred to as demi-god.

Dr. Lecturer also goes further to correct some of the corrupt practices in the university. He decides to write a minority report to expose the truth concerning the generator scandal, contrary to the report of the investigative panel, which swept the matter under the carpet.

Despite the offer of bribe, intimidation and threats of blackmail by the man at the centre of the scandal, Dr. Lecturer is determined to go ahead with his plan. He states that there are a few honest men in the country. The play shows that men like this are needed to confront the monster that corruption has become in Nigeria.

However, the play does not undermine challenges faced by anyone who dares to fight against corruption. These include such people being framed up and detained while others become frustrated and go on self-exile. In the play, Dr. Lecturer faces a lot of threats to his life and jobs and is finally arrested by the police. But he is not deterred as he urges others to carry on the fight against corruption. He receives support from some people; others volunteer to go with him to the police station. Also, a character known as second CWO and some others, who are influenced by his example, vow to expose evil.

The issue of personal integrity in fighting corruption is also emphasized in some poems of Tenure Ojaide as analysed by Kola Eke (20-23). According to Eke, preoccupation with strong moral principles dominates the poem entitled: *Exception* (DBHS 49). The persona is a corrupt “emperor” who is ready to give out the ‘national cake’ indiscriminately to dishonest citizens. However, his grief is the presence of some honest persons in the society. Examples are some social activists who carry out anti-corruption crusade. Their honest practices ring “ominous bells” for the emperor’s fraudulent behaviour. He laments that rather than have a piece of the “cake”, this man prefers to be “black ants stinging his buttocks.”

Another poem of Ojaide is entitled: The “Fate of Vultures” depicts the callous looting of the country’s wealth. The persona firmly states:

I would not follow the hurricane  
Nor would I the whirl wind  
In their brazen sweep-away;  
I would not spread my ward’s wealth in open  
And stir the assembly to stampede;  
I would not smear my staff with scorn of impotence.

According to Eke, the persona is an advocate of moral integrity in a world suffused with materialism.

The development of personal integrity by citizens is a strong force against corruption. Individuals should make up their minds not to follow the crowd but stand out and offer their services to the nation with integrity. This exemplary behaviour is likely to be emulated by some others.

Another solution to corruption advocated in the play is the education of the young ones. The education is to consist of moral and civic values, respect for human dignity and the fear of God. This will enable citizens imbibe anti-corruption principles early in life.

Another measure to deter corruption is meting out strong punitive measures against culprits. In the play, Dr. Lecturer insists on the truth being revealed about the generator scandal despite a panel report that exonerated the director of maintenance. He is determined to submit the minority report so that more investigation will be carried out and the director punished. A strong punitive measure is a deterrent to others. It is in line with this that Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawling of Ghana, who overthrew the regime of Gen. Akuffo in 1979, gathered together six of Ghana's past leaders and had them shot. This extreme position may not be applied but there is need for stronger punitive measures against corrupt people in Nigeria.

In China, government officials who steal or accept bribe up to \$463,000 are given death sentence. Just recently, it has been on the news that South Korea's former president, Park Geun-Hye, was jailed for 24 years on the 6th April, 2018 for corruption. She was also fined nearly \$17 million. At this same period Brazilian former president, Luiz Da Silva, was also sentenced to 12 years in jail for corruption. Nigerian president has ever been punished for corruption.

A crucial necessity for curbing corruption is good leadership. In the play, leaders at different levels in the university fail to carry out their responsibilities effectively due to mismanagement of university funds and other acts of corruption. These include the dean, the bursar and the visitor to the university. Every society needs God fearing and selfless leaders who have the interest of the masses at heart and are willing to use the resources of the nation to bring development to the people. Corruption is greatly reduced when the basic needs of the people are provided.

Mass protest against corrupt government officials can also help in the fight against corruption. In the play, students protested against the dean after Dr. Lecturer is led away by the police. This is similar to what took place in India when there was an anti-corruption movement which commenced in 2011. There were series of demonstrations and protests aimed at establishing strong legislation and enforcement against political corruption. This movement strengthened democracy and legislations such as the judicial accountability act, whistle blower act and others related to electoral reforms. (Shalini Singh, August 28, 2011 <http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com>>

In Nigeria, civil organisations can lead the masses to protest against corrupt officials when the government fails to acts. Finally, the great progress in the fight against corruption will be achieved when the three branches of government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) carry out their functions effectively and are involved in the fight against corruption. Law enforcement agencies and anti graft bodies such as the EFCC and ICPC must also be strengthened and given enabling environment to carry out their functions. A media friend environment and active civil societies are also important in the fight against corruption.

### Conclusion

The reality is that the Nigerian Nation is enmeshed in deep-rooted corruption. The situation has been so bad that in some years past it was seen as the most corrupt nation in the world. Nevertheless, the situation is not hopeless. The play analysed in this paper is another wakeup call that there is need for concerted effort by all to join in the fight against corruption so that Nigeria does not remain stagnant in her development despite her wealth as a nation.

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