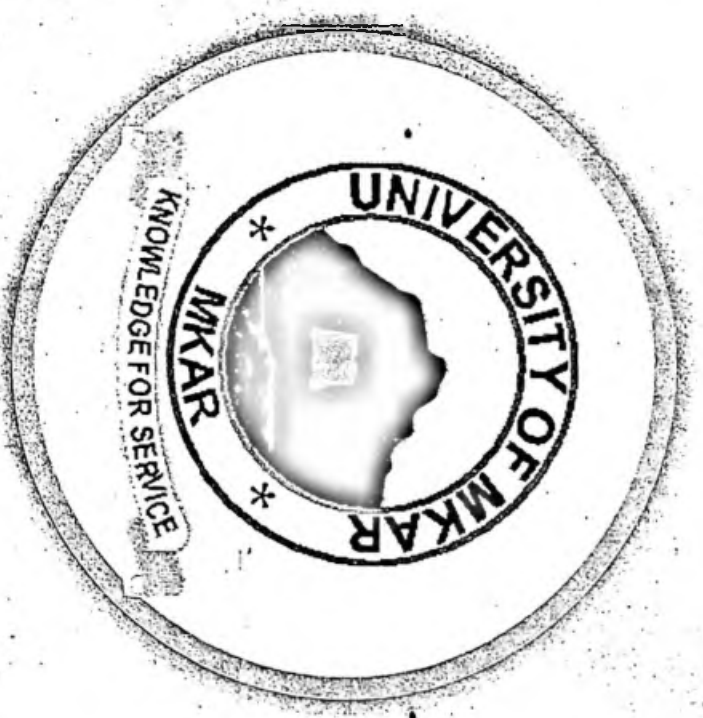




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PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF MASS MEDIA SURVEILLANCE RESPONSIBILITY IN COMBATING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

By

Kente Josiah Sabo, PhD
Department of Mass Communication, Bingham University, Karu

08036522581

kentemains@bunhaa.com

and

Kusugh Ternenge

Research Fellow, Department of Mass Communication,
Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria

07037724337

kusughternenge@gmail.com

Abstract

This study investigated the surveillance responsibility of mass media in combating corruption in Nigeria as perceived by the public. Survey research design was adopted which questionnaire was used as the research instrument for data collection. Finding revealed that investigation of alleged cases of corruption; exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public; ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are trailed; ensuring that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted; ensuring that the money/assets suspected to be acquired through corruption are recovered; ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channelled to the appropriate quarter(s); advocating for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act; advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption; ensuring incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption; advocating the need for strong political will by government in the fight against corruption; and exposing the causes and effects of corruption are some of the various ways the mass media are committed in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Finding also revealed that the surveillance function of the mass media has assisted the people to be knowledgeable about the causes and effect of corruption in Nigeria. However, the level of independence and professionalism display by the mass media in the discharge of this responsibility is not significant. The study concluded that the mass media through their surveillance function have contributed significantly in exposing corrupt individuals but have done so little in the area of investigation and follow-up of corrupt cases to ensure that such cases are treated to their logical conclusion. The study recommended that since corruption is still within the Nigerian society, the mass media should continue to perform their surveillance responsibility in combating the practice until the war is defeated. The mass media in addition to exposing corrupt individuals in the country should also pay greater attention to investigation and follow-up of corruption cases in addition to adhering to the professional standards to ensure

that the war is effectively won. Furthermore, the mass media cannot succeed in their fight against corruption except they are fearless and independent in the discharge of their surveillance responsibility.

Keywords: Public Perception, Mass Media, Surveillance Responsibility, and Combating Corruption

Introduction

The mass media are custodians of information in the society. As custodians of information, the mass media as Uyo (1987) in Ciboh (2007, p. 2) underscored are machines that serve as paths, ways, or means for doubling, repeating, or representing communication that would otherwise be limited to two persons, or a group of persons in a face-to-face setting. Okunna (1999, p. 107) posits that the mass media perform a number of functions which benefit the individual as a member of a society. This according to Okunna, ranges from 'serious' information and educational functions, to 'lighter' functions like entertainment. Information is vital in our daily decision making. In fact, the success and survival of every society is dependent on the quantity and quality of information at the disposal of members of the public, as Strand, cited in Gronlund, Heacock, Sasaki, Hellstrom and Walid (2010, p. 1) corroborated:

Citizens must have access to public information in order for democracy to function. Lack of access to information results in a non-participatory society in which political decision-making is not democratic. Access to information concerning governance of the state allows individuals to exercise their political and civil rights in election processes; challenge or influence public policies; monitor the quality of public spending; and demand accountability. Access to information and transparency are thus prerequisites for democracy as well as a key tool in the fight against corruption.

To this connection, Okunna (1999, p. 107) believes that information is the most important function of the mass media. As information purveyors, the mass media become significant structure of the society. And as part of the society, the mass media help to determine the dimension to which the society imagines about issues. They also serve as watchdogs of the society; beaming their satellite to capture events and report same back to the society for necessary action. Ojo (1999, 2000, 2003), cited in Ojo and Adebayo (2013, p. 97), underscores the watchdog functions of the mass media in democratic society when he wrote:

The mass media in virtually all democratic systems generally is regarded as the 'fourth estate of the realm'. The other three estates are the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature. ... the mass media educate the public on state affairs, disseminate information on the activities of the government-which are most often secretive in third world countries-expose wrongdoing, including corrupt practices which impacts negatively on economic development, and

keep the government on its toes, all to ensure 'accountability, transparency, probity and integrity'.

By beaming their satellite on the activities of individuals, government, organizations and agencies in the society, the mass media, as Boadu (1981, p. 193) contended have shaped the socio-economic development of communities. Rogers (1969) as cited in Oladokun (2010, p. 21) was of the opinion that evidence abounds to show how the convergence of communication (as conveyed in mass media contents) and political leadership has affected the socio-economic development especially when development is viewed as social and material advancement. Mass media contents have been found to affect voting decisions (Shields, Goidel, & Tadlock, 1995); reproductive behaviour (Westoff & Rodriguez, 1995); spirituality (Onabajo, 2007); political knowledge (McLeod, Rush & Friedrich, 1968); party politics and candidate saliency (Watenberg, 1982); electoral choice and voting stability (Norpoth & Baker, 1980) and so on (cited in Oladokun, 2010, p. 22).

By articulating the relationship between the government and its citizens, stimulating the citizenry for political participation and encouraging the leaders to deliver on corruption-free promises, the media in Nigeria have become instruments of significance (Tichenor, Donohue and Olien (1990) in Oladokun (2010, p. 22). They constitute an essential part of the society as well as the political structure; their agenda have strong influence on top decision makers (Rogers and Dearing, 1994, p. 91) and they constantly try to make themselves relevant in the society in a manner that puts them at a vantage position. This view is supported by Perloff (1998) in Oladokun (2010, p. 23) who recognizes the three parties (government, citizens and the media) as the main actors clamouring for space on the public stage. To him, they constitute the golden triangle of political communication – an equilateral triangulation of the political process - whereby each party is a functional partaker, effectively adding value and contributing to development. Some scholars, in spite of their pessimism (Conway, Ahern & Wyckoff, 1981; Owen, 2000), still believe that the media perform a useful integrating role.

In the fight against corruption, the World Anti-corruption Watchdog, The Transparency International, cited in Olawode (2008, p. 3) reported that "a free and independent media is one of the principal vehicles for informing the public about corrupt activity". TI noted that:

By investigating and reporting on corruption, the media provides an important counterpoint to the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, shedding light on the wrongdoings of public office holders and corporate executives alike. As such, it significantly contributes to the basis of knowledge with which citizens can hold both public and private institutions to account.

However, for the media to effectively discharge these important duties as indicated above and wage a successful war against corruption, Olawode (2008, p. 3) notes that it must necessarily be armed with the tools and ingredients of the profession.

Statement of the Problem

Corruption exists in all sectors of the society. It damages a country's development by undermining faith in public institutions, increase costs for firms and discourage both foreign and domestic investments. The Transparency International (2009), cited in Gronlund, Heacock, Sasaki, Hellstrom and Walid (2010, p. 2) reports that corruption is a growing challenge for the business sector both in the developing and industrialized countries. At the level of the individual firm, it raises transaction costs and introduces reputational risks, as well as opens up for extortion. Regardless of sector and level of transactions, corruption hampers development.

In Nigeria, corruption is at the highest level such that it has become institutionalized in various sectors of the economy. This attracts the attention of both administrators to initiate policies that will help stem the menace. For instance, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Initiative (BMP/II), Code of Conduct Bureau and most recently the Whistle Blower are some of the programmes initiated in Nigeria to fight the corruption.

In realization of the fact that winning the war against corruption is the responsibility involving different stakeholders, the role of the mass media in providing useful information that assist in the fight is also recognized. In the National Dialogue on Corruption recently organized by Office of the Vice President in collaboration with the Presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption, participants were of the opinion that "the fight against corruption cannot be won if all arms of government and the society are not on the same page" (*The Nation*, Tuesday March 7, 2017, p. 21). This position has prompted an interrogation into the way the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media perform the surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. That is why this study is set to investigate what the public perceive as the extent to which the mass media are responsible in the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

Research Objectives

- The broad objective of this study is to investigate what the public perceive to be the mass media performance in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. More specifically, this study is aimed at achieving the following objectives:
- i. To examine what the public perceive to be the specific areas the mass media perform their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria.
 - ii. To investigate what the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are committed in combating corruption in Nigeria.
 - iii. To find out what the public perceive to be the most dominant pattern of the mass media surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria.
 - iv. To assess what the public perceive to be the extent to which the surveillance role of the mass media has helped them to be knowledgeable about the degree and effects of corruption in Nigeria.

- v. To explore what the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are professional in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria.
- vi. To determine what the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are fearless in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria.
- vii. To ascertain what the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are independent in their surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria.
- viii. To establish what the public perceive to the mass media form that is more committed in performing the surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria.

Research Questions

This research paper is guided by the following research questions:

- i. What does the public perceive to be the specific areas the mass media perform their surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- ii. What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are committed in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- iii. What does the public perceive to be the most dominant pattern of the mass media surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- iv. What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the surveillance role of the mass media helps them to be knowledgeable about the degree effects of corruption in Nigeria?
- v. What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are professional in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- vi. What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are fearless in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- vii. What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are independent in performing their surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?
- viii. Which of the mass media forms is more committed in performing the surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Nigeria as a country is famous among the most corrupt nations in the world. Although this is quite bothersome, this position is clearly corroborated by Ekpo, Jide and Enor (2016, p. 61) thus:

Nigeria as a country is not only popular for its economic and man power potentials but also, for monumental corruption manifestations' that plagues its government and institutions. The country, in the past decades has been 'decorated' with top ten position among the league of corrupt nations by Transparency International and other international watchdog organizations.

On the eve of Buhari's Military coup in 1983, Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe (1983), cited in Seng and Hunt (1986, pp. 128-129) argued that the country was being destroyed by bad leadership, corruption, and inequality. Seng and Hunt (1986, p. 103),

citing Seng, *The Wall Street Journal* (1983), *Newsweek* (Aug. 8, 1983), and *New York Times* (Oct. 2, 1983) corroborated that:

The issue of corruption has plagued every government in Nigeria. Corruption in Nigeria is not the taking of an occasional bribe. Estimates show that during the Second Republic the average contract was inflated as much as thirty percent due to corruption and that about forty percent of the country's revenues were embezzled or diverted for corrupt political purposes. Today Nigeria, which is a leading oil producer and potentially one of the wealthiest nations in Africa, is burdened with heavy debts and has considered a 2.4 billion dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund just to stay afloat.

Corruption as Dicker and Boyer (2016) observed lingers at the core of many of the world's underdeveloped nations (like Nigeria). According to the data from the 2016 Best Countries rankings as reported by usnews.com, Nigeria, the most populated country in Africa, is perceived to be the most corrupt among 60 countries evaluated. The rankings are a characterization of 60 countries based on a survey of more than 16,000 people from four regions (cited in Dicker and Boyer, 2016). It is disheartening that corruption has negative effects on the country in so many ways. Ekpo, Jide and Enor (2016, p. 69) unveils that:

The manifestation of corruption has remained the most notorious social menace threatening the general growth and development of Nigeria. Exhibition of corrupt tendencies by public officials have bastardized the pace of growth and development in all facets. Nigeria has lost an estimated fifty percent (50%) of what it has generated since independence to public office looters. The most frustrating reality is that these looted funds are not invested in Nigeria but are dumped in foreign accounts to the betterment of the economies of those states. Manifestation of corruption has broadened the gap between the rich and the poor. While the rich keeps living in affluence, the poor suffocate in abject poverty and illiteracy. The 'praetorian guard' who intervened in Nigerian politics had destroyed all forms of transparency and accountability and as a matter of fact, institutionalized corruption manifestations.

Corruption as Egwemi (2012) as cited in Tsegay (2014, p. 181) posited has been one of the impediments to the country's development efforts. In fact, it has been one singular reason why Nigeria is experiencing backwardness in terms of political, economic and social development.

Since Independence, concerted efforts have been made by successive governments and administrations in curbing the menace. For in instance, the introduction of Anti-Craft Agencies, like the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Budget

Monitoring and Price Intelligence Initiative (BMPPI), Extraction Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), and Code of Conduct Bureau (cited in Tsegny, 2014), and recently the Whistle Blower of the Present President Muhammadu Buhari led Administration among several others.

Despite the present of several anti-craft agencies, the incidences of corruption continue to thrive in public and private organizations and agencies across the country. Akor (2014, p. 37) reveals that:

Corruption constitutes a canker worm that has eaten deep into the entire fabric of Nigeria's social system. Successive governments have taken diverse steps to nip the scourge in the bud albeit with debatable degrees of success. Despite the celebrated declaration of war against corruption, Nigeria's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) appears to continually go down.

This has made Ekpo, Jide and Enor (2016, p. 70) to conclude in their study that:

... institutions and agencies as well as policy programmes were never designed to prevent, tame, deter or kill the traits of corruption but to fight its manifestations. Even the so called 'anti-corruption' agencies were formed on corrupt foundation with vague legislations and structures devoid of transparency and accountability.

That is why scholars such as Tsegny (2014, p. 81) opted that apart from the efforts by the new democratic government to stem the tide of corruption in the country, the mass media on their part are expected to play a significant role in making public officers and the politicians accountable to the Nigerian people. Section 22 of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria confers this responsibility on the media thus:

The press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives (contained in this chapter) and highlight the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people.

In this wise, the expectation of the media with regards to their contribution to the promotion of accountability lies in their ability to put the government on the day under close monitoring. This is made manifest in the media's watchdog role in examining the conduct of public servants, especially the politicians which is a task that is germane to democracy (Oladokun, 2010 in Tsegny, 2014). This is the surveillance responsibility of the mass media. This is in line with the observation of Daramola (2003, p. 28) which reveals that:

In the context of the mass media, surveillance means that the first function of the mass media is to inform and provide information to the society and keep watch on the activities of the government and correct uncomplimentary occurrences.

With particular interest on broadcast media, Joogi (n.d, p. 1) avers that amongst the core responsibilities of the broadcast media, the surveillance function takes a critical role. This function according to Joogi (n.d, p. 1) places a demand on television to cover, analyze and report impending dangers that are a threat to lives and properties of a given society. Kegku (2003, p.39),²⁶ while writing on media surveillance, asserts that, "it is a process of collecting and distributing information about local, national and international events and conditions". Lasswell in Odiibo (2003, p.178) observes that the television as the other channels of mass communication watch over, guard and alert society of impending problems and often proffer the way forward". He further asserts that "television exercise surveillance over the environment and alert members of the society to the realities of their environment". Odiibo (2013, p. 178) concurs:

That the television channels normally report what is wrong in the society and take bold and firm stand on its inadequacies like drug addictions, fake drug importation, hard drug trafficking, robberies, political thuggery, hired assassinations, smuggling, environmental degradations, economic sabotage, lack of social amenities, high unemployment rate, downturns in education poor healthcare, the outbreak of epidemics and so on and so forth in their watchdog and surveillance functions.

Writing about media surveillance also, Josephat (2008, p. 1) avers that:

The surveillance function or role of the television presupposes that the media are the eyes and ears of the public. Hence television as media channel should provide information and alert her heterogeneous audiences of the changes that take place around them. The television as a broadcast medium should consistently survey the environment and convey salient issues of mediated messages to the audience in order to reduce uncertainties and consequently react to conflict or change in a rational way. The television as an electronic medium in discharging her surveillance function, usually scout round the environment and bring news of social economic and political developments, dangers that threatens national stability, public warfare, environmental pollution as well as scandals of varying dimensions to the people.

In his opinion, Mu' Azu (2002, p. 49) notes that in the surveillance function of the broadcast media, "the media plays the role of an observer, which is a necessary component for enforcing economic, political, cultural and even moral stability". Chigozie (2009, p.129) reiterates that "in this role, the television through programming

content highlight aspects of the society and report as news". The mass media in keeping surveillance over the society help to hold the government accountable to the people. In holding government accountable to the people, the Nigerian media through investigative journalism held so many politicians to account. According to Lwahas (2004, p. 27) the media acts as a watchdog by uncovering political, economic and corporate corruption, alongside other forms of abuses of power or inept policies. This was exemplified in the series of senate gate scandals that were uncovered by the investigative prowess of the Nigerian media. Jibo and Okooosi-Simbine (2003) reported the speaker gate scandal that involved Alh. Salisu Buhari, the first speaker of House of Representatives in the Obasanjo presidency. *The News* magazine professionally pursued the allegations of certificates forgery until Salisu Buhari was forced to resign and was subsequently tried and convicted for perjury. Tsegyn (2014, p. 186) affirms that:

In performing their watchdog function, the media of communication have orchestrated the first investigations into corruption in public life in Nigeria when in the 1950s the first panel of inquiry was set up to look into the affairs of the African Continental Bank (ACB).

In the study conducted by Oladokun (2010, p. 24), part of the findings revealed that: (i) poverty in Nigeria emerged and persisted because of public sector corruption; (ii) if the media had been fearless in performing their watchdog role, corruption in Nigeria would not have assumed the present embarrassing level; (iii) the media would fail to criticize government where it was in a position to give advertisement insertions or commercials; (iv) As long as the media continue to embrace commercialism to the detriment of public interest, the incidence of corruption, with a concomitant poverty of the citizens, would continue unabated. These findings according to Oladokun (2010, p. 24) support an assertion that:

Media performance or responsibility has a relationship with the level of corruption. In other words, corruption in a polity is not simply a result of leadership incompetence or corrupt practices, but significantly the inability or refusal of the country's mainstream media to hold the leadership accountable in order to prevent or alleviate corruption.

The above expression indicates that there is a strong relationship between the mass media and corruption prevention. The mass media's role in winning the fight against corruption is very important. But this must be possible when the mass media are independent of the government and other related forces. Mara (2013, p. 2) contend "the media mass is often referred to as the fourth pillar in democracy and a free and independent press has a significant and important role in fighting corruption". Mara (2013, p. 2) maintains many studies (Fardigh et al. 2011; Brunetti and Weder 2003; Freilje et al. 2007; Ahrend 2002) have shown:

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... a strong positive correlation between freedom of the press and control of corruption and emphasise the importance of media plurality, media freedom and competition in curbing corruption.

There is a broad consensus that a free press helps in curbing corruption by improving "citizens' accessibility to information which in turn makes it more difficult for politicians and public servants to get away with corrupt behaviours. In particular, the media plays a key role in exposing corruption and raising general awareness of its detrimental effect upon society, as well as in promoting integrity and accountability norms, values and practices in society (Mara 2013, p. 2). Research (Fardigh et al. 2011 cited in Mara, 2013, p. 2) shown that accountability and transparency tend to improve as the access to information increases. Nogarara (2009) in Mara (2013, p. 2) avers there are various ways in which the media can help combat and prevent corruption. A news story can have a direct and "tangible" effect, such as resulting in the launch of an investigation, impeachment, and forced resignation of corrupt political leaders. Nogarara (2009) in Mara (2013, p. 2) further explains how the mass media are used or can be used to fight corruption:

Media coverage of corruption can also have longer term, more indirect effects. The media can help mobilise the public against corruption and build pressure for reforms. They can raise standards of public accountability by monitoring and investigating the actions of those who were granted public trust, exposing corruption cases, and increasing the costs and risks associated with corrupt behaviours. Informing the public and presenting different points of views can also encourage public participation as well as support political competition by putting politicians under pressure to take a stand against corruption.

However, there are factors that interfere with the mass media's success in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. This is exactly how Tsegyn (2014, p. 193) has reasoned; "despite the fact that Nigeria media have recorded some successes in the fight against corruption in the country, their efforts have been crippled by several limitations. Norris and Odugbemi (2010) in Mara (2013, p. 2) has attested that:

...the media can be hampered to fulfill its role as a watchdog by obstacles such as restrictions on press freedom, market failures, lack of professional standards, weak civil society, and limitations in media literacy and public access to the media.

Eisewhere, Walulya (2008) found that:

There is a marginal difference in the way the government and privately owned media report about corruption. ...the media's ability to combat corruption in Uganda is greatly hampered by unfriendly press laws and the media's failure to mobilize resources

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and skills to do investigative journalism. As such, most of the reports are based on investigations of other agencies.

Similarly, Obasanjo and Mabogunje (1991, p. 119-120) in their presentation on the government's dominant role in the development communication process in Nigeria, stress that in such a dominating situation, the media become agents of a one-way or ineffective communication that neglects the contribution of the citizens. This implies that development programmes are communicated only from government's point of view and create a dismal socio-economic profile of the citizens as a result of corruption. Such was the situation that prevailed in Nigeria in 1999 (Kaul and Tomasselli, 1999, p. 378) when the military dictatorship handed over to a democratically elected government whose term expired in 2003. According to Oladokun (2010, p. 29), evidence is available to prove that some conditions do exist in Nigeria that seem to justify the fundamental and immediate incapability of the Nigerian media to contribute meaningfully to the eradication of acts of corruption in Nigeria. These limitations according to Tsegayu (2014) and Oladokun (2010) include the following: (i) Lack of freedom of expression; (ii) Lack of access to information; (iii) Presence of laws that negate the media from carrying out its functions; (iv) Ownership factor; (v) Poor funding of media houses; (vi) Absence of Socio-political Ideology based on Integrity; (vii) Presence of the highly Relevant but Usually Unnoticed Media Stakeholders. In their study, Skolkay and Istokova (2016, p. 138) found that:

In the case of the bribery, we also compared the various types of media which reported on it and came to the conclusion that the printed press paid, in general, more attention to it than other media.

In their study, Bello, Abubakar and Abba (n.d, p. 1) found that:

The newspapers did not indeed fulfill their statutory responsibility of watch dogging the society. The coverage was not significant compared to other stories like politics and economy; prominence was also not given to the stories. ... the stories are not in-depth as there was little investigation and follow-ups enough to set precedence for public discourse.

In spite of the challenges, Tsegayu (2014, p. 28) concludes that:

The mass media are important instrument for achieving accountability in any democratic system. They are potential tools in the fight against corruption in any system. They have helped to deepen democracy and promote good governance and transparency in Nigeria since the inception of the fourth republic in 1999. The media does this through their constitutional roles of information dissemination, education, and surveillance of the environment.

Eshwara (2010), cited in Ravi (2012, pp. 320-321) in his article wrote:

Actual media independence could be meaningful and realized only when the three terms- Independence, Responsibility and Objectivity- work as integral parts of each other in a gestalt form. But there are detrimental factors against genuine independent working of the press. Apart from Government pressure against media independence, many other pressures from different sources are those which come from the laws, ownership monopoly, internal pressures, self-instilled pressures, advertisers' pressures and public pressures.... So, the integral component of a responsible media, particularly social responsibility is of paramount importance.

In an interview in 1967, Major-General Yakubu Gowon, the Head of the Federal Military Government, cited in Seng and Hunt (1986, p. 90) commented that:

I cannot tell them what to do since we do not dictate policy to any press here; they have been independent as they ought to be. The press has to tell the truth, to be objective and honest so that the people can rely on what they print. They should tell us off when they feel we are wrong and commend when they feel it is worthwhile. We can take it.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored by the Agenda Setting Theory and supported by the Social Responsibility Theory. The two theories are chosen in this study because of the following:

Agenda Setting Theory

Agenda setting theory: (i) has explanatory power because it explains why most people prioritize the same issues as important; (ii) has predictive power because it predicts that if people are exposed to the same media, they will feel the same issues are important; (iii) it is parsimonious because it is not complex and it is easy to understand; (iv) it can be proven false. If people are exposed to the same media, they will not feel the same issues are important; (v) Its meta-theoretical assumptions are balanced on the scientific sides; (vi) it is a springboard for further research; (vii) it has organizing power because it helps organize existing knowledge of media effects (Chaffee and Berger 1997 in Anaeio, Onabajo and Osifeso, 2008, p. 90). McCombs (2005, pp. 555-557) explains the traditional agenda-setting role of the media thus:

The traditional agenda-setting role of the mass media involves both the surveillance and consensus functions of communication, calling attention to the new and major issues of the day and influencing agreement about what are the priorities of these issues...

Relating to the present study, the theory will provide a framework in measuring the extent to which the mass media are committed in giving attention to issues concerning corrupt practice for public discussion and debate. It will also provide a framework in determining how public agenda and media agenda reflect corruption issues and are given due consideration by the mass media in Nigeria.

Social Responsibility Media Theory

The basic tenets of social responsibility theory according to McQuail (1987), quoted by Ojabor (2002) in Anaeto, Onabajo and Osifeso (2008, p. 57) are:

- i. That media should accept and fulfill certain obligations to society;
- ii. That, through professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity and balance, these obligations can be met;
- iii. That media should regulate itself within the framework of law and established institutions to be able to carry out its responsibilities;
- iv. That whatever might lead to crime, violence, civil disorder or offence to minority groups, should be avoided by the media;
- v. That the media should reflect its society's plurality, giving access to various points of view and granting all the right to reply;
- vi. Based on the principle in (i), the society has the right to expect high standards of performance from the media;
- vii. Accountability of media professionals should be to the society, employers and the market.

This theory is relevant in this study because since the role of the media in society in general and fighting corruption in particular goes with responsibility, the principles of this theory will guide the present study in determining the level at which the mass media are responsible in their discharge of their duty. Corruption is so powerful that it fights back at those who fight it. This theory will be used as yardstick in guiding study towards assessing how well the mass media are objective in their surveillance responsibility of fighting corruption in Nigeria.

Methodology

This study adopted survey research design with the questionnaire used as the research instrument for data collection. The reason why survey research was used in this study is that it helps us to measure or "describe the attitudes and opinions" (Kusugh, 2016, p. 66) of the respondents concerning the roles of the mass media in the fight against corruption in Nigeria and also to establish the extent to which the mass media have performed in that regard. Though survey research has its limitations such as the (i) difficulty involved in getting a representative sample; (ii) inability of the respondents in sometime providing honest answers to the question raised; (iii) inappropriate wording or placement of questions within a questionnaire; and (iv) decline in response rate (Wimmer and Dominick, 2011 in Kusugh, 2016, p. 69), the method was more useful in this study because (i) it is relative inexpensive when considered in terms of the amount of information it generates; (ii) using this method, a large amount of information is gathered from different people with ease as compared with other research methods; (iii) they are not limited by geographic constraints or boundaries and can be conducted

anywhere; (iv) survey research methods are reasonably accurate especially when the sampling is correct; (v) results gotten from surveys can be generalized because the sample population is large and very representative of the entire research population; (vi) survey research can be used to investigate problems in a realistic setting. i. e. the problems can be examined where they exist or happen rather than in a laboratory or under an artificial condition.

The population of this study comprised the Nigerian public in selected states in Nigeria as follows: Benue State (4,942,141), Bauchi State (5,515,303), Kaduna State (7,102,877), Lagos State (10,694,410), Enuogu State (3,796,685); Cross River State (3,344,410); FCT Abuja (2,238,752) (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012, p. 18). The population of this study therefore is thirty seven million six hundred and thirty four thousand five hundred and seven eight (37,634,578) people. From this population, the sample size was determined using statistically published table which according to Taro Yamane (1967) in Glenn (1992), when the population size of the study is greater than 100, 000, the sample size under the confidence level of 95% and precision level of +3% will be 1,111. The sample size of this study therefore was One Thousand One Hundred and One (1,111).

To select the units of sample representative in this study, a multi stage sampling approach/technique comprising of cluster random sampling, purposive sampling and simple random sampling were used thus: (i) Clustering Nigeria into six main geo-political zones (already in existence) using cluster sampling technique; (ii) Selection of one state from each of the groups and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja using purposive sampling technique; (iii) Selection of 3 Local Government Areas from each of the states using purposive sampling method; (iv) Sampling 3 council wards from each of the local governments using simple random sampling technique; (v) Sampling 3 major communities from each of the council wards using purposive sampling technique; (vi) Selection of 1111 respondents from 189 communities sampled.

Questionnaire was the research instrument used in this study and it was administered on the respondents through face-to-face and the use of mail. Both techniques are useful because while the former ensures personal contact with the respondents which help to eliminate the likely puzzlement and misunderstanding by the respondent in completing the questionnaire, and also ensures high retrieval rate, the later helps to save cost and risk of travelling to far distance to administer the questionnaire. Both techniques were useful and were adopted in administering the questionnaire. Six research assistants assisted in the administration of the questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used in the analysis of the data.

Data Analysis

During the field survey research work, a total of 1111 copies of the questionnaire were administered on the respondents. Among them, only 1014 (91.27%) copies of the questionnaire returned were found usable, while 97 (8.73%) copies of the questionnaire suffered mortality. Since the number of the questionnaire (8.73%) that suffered

mortality is insignificant to affect the validity of the data in this study, the greater percentage 1014 (91.27%) of the questionnaire returned and found usable is used for analysis in this study thus:

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	605	59.66%
	Female	409	40.34%
	Total	1014	100
Marital Status	Single	347	34.22
	Married	609	60.06
	Divorce	58	5.72
	Total	1014	100
Age	18-28 years	119	11.74
	29-38 years	175	17.26
	39-48 years	259	25.54
	49-58 years	207	20.41
	59-68 years	169	16.67
	69 years and above	85	8.38
	Total	1014	100
Educational Attainment	Primary	107	10.55
	Secondary	259	25.54
	Tertiary	648	63.91
	Total	1014	100
Occupation	Student	156	15.38
	Farmer	249	24.56
	Civil Servant	397	39.15
	Politician	159	15.68
	Others	53	5.23
Total	1014	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table one is concerned with the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Data available revealed that 605 (59.66%) respondents were male, 409 (40.34%) respondent were female, 347 (34.22%) respondents were single, 609 (60.06%) respondents were married, 58 (5.72%) respondents were divorced, 119 (11.74%) respondents were between the ages of 18-28 years, 175 (17.26%) respondents were between the ages of 29-38 years, 259 (25.54%) respondents were between the ages of 39-48 years, 207 (20.41%) respondents were between the ages of 49-58 years, 169 (16.67%) respondents were between the ages of 59-68 years, and 85 (8.38%) respondents were between the ages of 69 years and above; 107 (10.55%) respondents attained primary level of education, 259 (25.54%) respondents attained secondary level of education, 648 (63.91%) respondents attained the tertiary level of education; 156 (15.38%) respondents were students, 249 (24.56%) respondents were farmers, 397 (39.15%) respondents were civil servants, 159 (15.68%) respondents were politicians, while 53 (5.23%) respondents belong to other forms of occupation not included here.

The implication of the data as presented above is that both male and female were sampled in the study and they belong to different marital status, age groups, educational background and education.

Research Question One: What does the public perceive to be the specific areas the mass media perform their surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Table 2: The Specific Areas of Mass Media Surveillance Responsibility in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Investigating alleged corruption cases	129	12.72
Exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public	401	39.55
Ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are tried	98	9.66
Ensuring that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted	79	7.79
Ensuring that the money/assets from corrupt individuals are recovered	61	6.02
Ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals is channeled to appropriate quarters	22	2.17
Advocating for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage people from involving in corrupt practices	31	3.06
Advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption	35	3.45
Ensure incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption	34	3.35
Advocate the need for strong political will by the government in the fight against corruption	33	3.25
Exposing the causes and effects of corruption	65	6.41
Difficult to Say	26	2.56
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table two concerns with the specific areas the mass media perform their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data available revealed that 129 (12.72%) respondents said investigating alleged cases of corruption is one of the surveillance responsibility of the mass media; 401 (39.55%) respondents said exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public is one of the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption in Nigeria; 98 (9.66%) respondents said the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption is ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are tried; 79 (7.79%) respondents were of the opinion that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption is ensuring that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted; 61

(6.02%) respondents said ensuring that the money/assets suspected to be acquired through corrupt means are recovered; 22 (2.17%) respondents said ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channeled to the appropriate quarter(s); 31 (3.06%) respondents were of the opinion that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in fighting corruption include advocating for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act; 35 (3.45%) respondents were of the opinion that advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption; 34 (3.35%) respondents said the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption is to ensure incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption; 33 (3.25%) respondents said the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption is to advocate the need for strong political will by government in combating corruption in Nigeria; 65 (6.41%) respondents said exposing the causes and effects of corruption to the people is one of the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption in Nigeria; while 26 (2.56%) respondents found it difficult to comment.

The implication of the above presentation is that the mass media perform their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption through investigating alleged cases of corruption; exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public; ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are trailed; ensuring that individuals found culpable through corruption are prosecuted; ensuring that the money/assets suspected to be acquired from corrupt individuals are recovered; ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channeled to the appropriate quarter(s); advocating for stiff laws to made against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act; advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption; ensuring incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption; advocating the need for strong political will by government in the fight against corruption; and exposing the causes and effects of corruption.

Research Question Two: *What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are committed in combating corruption in Nigeria?*

Table 3: The Extent of Commitment by the Mass Media in combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Mass Media are Committed in the fight against corruption to a greater extent	685	67.55
Mass Media are Committed in the fight against corruption to a little extent	309	30.47
Difficult to say	20	1.97
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 3 contains opinion of the respondents on the extent to which the mass media are committed in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption. Data revealed that 685 (67.55%) respondents said the mass media are committed

performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption to a greater extent, 309 (30.47%) respondents were of the opinion that the mass media are committed in performing their surveillance responsibility of fighting against corruption to a little extent, while 20 (1.97%) respondents found it difficult to comment.

What can be deduced from the above is that the mass media are committed in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption to a greater extent.

Research Question Three: *What does the public perceive to be the most dominant pattern of the mass media surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?*

Table 4: The Most Dominant Pattern of Surveillance Responsibility of the Mass Media in combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Straight reporting	672	66.27
Investigative reporting	161	15.88
Descriptive and analytical reporting	65	6.41
Interpretative reporting	41	4.04
Entertainment Education	22	2.17
Difficult to say	54	5.33
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4 is concerned with the most dominant pattern the mass media adopt in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data revealed that 672 (66.27%) respondents said the mass media adopted straight news pattern more dominantly in their surveillance responsibility in the fight against corruption, 161 (15.88%) respondents were of the opinion that investigative reporting is the most dominant pattern adopted by the mass media in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria, 65 (6.41%) respondents said descriptive and analytical reporting is the most dominant pattern of mass media surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria, 41 (4.04%) respondents said interpretative reporting is the most dominant pattern adopted by the mass media in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption, 22 (2.33%) respondents were of the opinion that entertainment education is the most dominant pattern adopted by the mass media in their surveillance responsibility in the fight against corruption in Nigeria, and 54 (5.33%) respondents found it difficult to comment.

It is deduced from the above that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption in Nigeria is predominantly based on straight forward news pattern of reporting (66.27%).

Research Question 4: *What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the surveillance role of the mass media helps them to be knowledgeable about the degree and effects of corruption in Nigeria?*

Table 5: The Extent Surveillance Responsibility of the Mass media Contributes to the Knowledge of the audience about the Degree and Effects of corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To a great extent	703	69.33
To a little extent	279	27.51
Difficult to say	32	3.16
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 5 is concerned with the extent to which the surveillance responsibility of the mass media contributes to the audience's knowledge about the degree and effects of corruption in Nigeria. Data available as seen in the table revealed that 703 (69.33%) respondents said it was to a large extent, 279 (27.51%) respondents said it was to a little extent, while 32 (3.16%) respondents found it difficult to comment.

It is deduced from the above that the surveillance of the mass media has assisted the people to knowledgeable about the causes and effect of corruption in Nigeria.

Research Question 5: What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are professional in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Table 6: The Extent of Professionalism in Mass Media Surveillance Responsibility in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To a greater extent	305	30.08
To a little extent	679	66.96
Difficult to say	30	2.96
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 6 is concerned with the extent to which the mass media are professional in their performance of the surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data available revealed that 305 (30.08%) respondents said it was to a greater extent, 679 (66.96%) respondents said it was to a little extent, and 30 (2.96%) respondents found it difficult to comment.

It is deduced that the mass media uphold professionalism in their performance of their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption to a little extent.

Research Question 6: What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are fearless in their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Table 7: The Extent the Mass Media are Fearless in their Surveillance Responsibility in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To a greater extent	275	27.12
To a little extent	709	69.92
Difficult to say	30	2.96
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 7 is concerned with the extent to which the mass media are fearless in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data revealed that 275 (27.12%) respondents said it was to a greater extent, 709 (69.92%) respondents said it was to a little extent, while 30 (2.96%) respondents found it difficult to say. It is deduced that the mass media are fearless in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption to a little extent.

Research Question 7: What does the public perceive to be the extent to which the mass media are independent in performing their surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Table 8: The Extent the Mass Media are Independent in their Surveillance Responsibility in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To a greater extent	179	17.65
To a little extent	801	79.00
Difficult to say	34	3.35
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 8 contains views of respondents on the extent to which the mass media were independent in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data available revealed that 179 (17.65%) respondents said it was to a greater extent, 801 (79.00%) respondents said it was to a little extent, while 34 (3.35%) respondents found it difficult to comment. This implies that the mass media are independent in performing their surveillance function in combating corruption to a little extent.

Research Question 8: Which of the mass media forms is more committed in performing the surveillance role in combating corruption in Nigeria?

Table 9: Mass Media form more Committed in its Surveillance Responsibility in Combating Corruption in Nigeria

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Print media	759	74.85
Broadcast media	223	21.99
Difficult to say	32	3.16
Total	1014	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 9 is concerned with the mass media form more committed in performing surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. Data available revealed that 759 (74.85%) respondents said the print media was more committed in performing surveillance responsibility of anti-corruption fight in Nigeria, 223 (21.99%) responsibility were of the opinion that the broadcast media were more committed in performing their surveillance responsibility in the fight against corruption in Nigeria, while 32 (3.16%) respondents found it difficult to say. It means therefore that print media of communication is more committed in performing surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria than the broadcast media of communication.

Discussion/Results

The mass media perform their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption through investigating alleged cases of corruption (12.72%); exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public (39.55%); ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are trailed (9.66%); ensuring that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted (7.79%); ensuring that the money/assets suspected to be acquired through corruption are recovered (6.02%); ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channeled to the appropriate quarter(s) (2.17%); advocating for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act (3.06%); advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption (3.45%); ensuring incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption (3.35%); advocating the need for strong political will by government in the fight against corruption (3.25%); and exposing the causes and effects of corruption (6.41%). The implication of this finding is that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption has been performed by the media in different forms to ensure that corruption does not find any position in the Nigerian society. This finding is in tandem with the provision of the agenda setting theory on the surveillance role of the media as McCombs (2005, pp. 555-557) explains that the traditional agenda-setting role of the media:

... Involves both the surveillance and consensus functions of communication, calling attention to the new and major issues of the day and influencing agreement about what are the priorities of these issues...

The finding also agrees with the finding of Nogara (2009) in Mara (2013, p. 2) which revealed:

There are various ways in which the media help combat and prevent corruption. A news story can have a direct and "tangible" effect, such as resulting in the launch of an investigation, impeachment, and forced resignation of corrupt political leaders.

Another finding of the study revealed that the mass media are committed in their surveillance responsibility of fighting against corruption to a greater extent. This is evident in the greater responses of 67.55%. The implication of this finding is that the mass media are committed in their surveillance responsibility in reporting corruption cases in Nigeria to a greater extent. This finding corroborates the observation of Tsegay (2014, p. 28) on the level of the contributions of the mass media in the fight against corruption thus:

The mass media are important instrument for achieving accountability in any democratic system. They are potential tools in the fight against corruption in any system. They have helped to deepen democracy and promote good governance and transparency in Nigeria since the inception of the fourth republic in 1999. The media does this through their constitutional roles of information dissemination, education, and surveillance of the environment.

Finding also revealed that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption in Nigeria is predominantly based on straight forward news pattern of reporting. This is evident in the majority proportion of 66.27%. The implication of this finding is that in their performance of the surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria, the mass media employ the use of straight news pattern of reporting more than other forms like investigative, descriptive, analytical, interpretative reporting as well as Entertainment Education (EE). The finding in the study conducted by Bello, Abubakar and Abba (n.d, p. 1) justifies thus finding thus:

The newspapers did not indeed fulfill their statutory responsibility of watch dogging the society. The coverage was not significant compared to other stories like politics and economy; prominence was also not given to the stories...the stories are not in-depth as there was little investigation and follow-ups enough to set precedence for public discourse.

Another finding revealed that the surveillance function of the mass media has assisted the people to be knowledgeable about the causes and effects of corruption in Nigeria. This is evident in the majority proportion of 69.33 percent which indicates that the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption has assisted Nigerian to be aware of the causes and effects of corruption to a large extent. In line with this finding, Nogara (2009) in Mara (2013, p. 2) underscores that:

Media coverage of corruption can also have longer term, more indirect effects. The media can help mobilise the public against corruption and build pressure for reforms. They can raise standards of public accountability by monitoring and investigating the actions of those who were granted public trust, exposing corruption cases, and increasing the costs and risks associated with corrupt behaviours. Informing the public and presenting different points of views can also encourage public participation as well as support political competition by putting politicians under pressure to take a stand against corruption.

Another finding revealed that the mass media uphold professionalism in the performance of their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria to a little extent. This is evident in the majority proportion of 66.96 percent. The implication of this finding is that in their performance of the surveillance responsibility in combating corruption, the level of professionalism display by the mass media in performing this function is not significant.

Finding also revealed that the mass media are fearless in performing their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption to a little extent. This is evident in the majority proportion of 69.92 percent. The implication is that the level at which mass media are fearless in performing surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria is little. The finding in the study conducted by Oladokun (2010, p. 24) clearly justifies this finding. His study found that "if the media had been fearless in performing their watchdog role, corruption in Nigeria would not have assumed the present embarrassing level". Oladokun (2010, p. 24) maintains that:

Media performance or responsibility has a relationship with the level of corruption. In other words, corruption in a polity is not simply a result of leadership incompetence or corrupt practices, but significantly the inability or refusal of the country's mainstream media to hold the leadership accountable in order to prevent or alleviate corruption.

Finding further revealed that the mass media are independent in performing their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria to a little extent. This is evident in the majority proportion of 79.00 percent. It implies therefore that the mass media are not independent enough in their surveillance responsibility of combating corruption in Nigeria. The observation by Eshwara (2010), cited in Ravi (2012, pp. 320-321) is apt here:

Actual media independence could be meaningful and realized only when the three terms- Independence, Responsibility and Objectivity- when as integral parts of each other in a gestalt form. But there are detrimental factors against genuine independent working of the press. Apart from Government pressure against media

independence, many other pressures from different sources are those which come from the laws, ownership monopoly, internal pressures, self-instilled pressures, advertisers' pressures and public pressures.... So, the integral component of a responsible media, particularly social responsibility is of paramount importance.

Finding lastly revealed that print media of communication is more committed in performing surveillance responsibility of combating corruption in Nigeria than the broadcast media of communication. This is evident in the significant proportion of 74.85 percent. This implies that print media is more committed in the performance of surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. This finding agrees with that of Skolkey and Istokova (2016, p. 138) which indicated that the printed press paid, in general, more attention to corruption than other media.

Conclusion

Corruption is one of the issues that every country of the world confronts it with vigour. This is as a result of its devastating impact on the economy of the nation. In realization of the crucial responsibility of the mass media in combating corruption, the mass media in Nigeria perform their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption by investigating alleged cases of corruption; exposing corrupt individuals to members of the public; ensuring that individuals accused of corruption are trailed; ensuring that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted; ensuring that the money/assets suspected to be acquired through corruption are recovered; ensuring that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channeled to the appropriate quarter(s); advocating for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act; advocating for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption; ensuring incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption; advocating the need for strong political will by government in the fight against corruption; and exposing the causes and effects of corruption. The mass media are committed in doing this to a greater extent. However, the surveillance responsibility of the mass media in the fight against corruption in Nigeria is predominantly based on straight forward news pattern of reporting.

The surveillance function of the mass media has assisted the people to be knowledgeable about the causes and effect of corruption in Nigeria. In their performance of this surveillance responsibility, the level of professionalism display by the mass media is not significant. The level at which mass media are fearless in performing their surveillance function in combating corruption in Nigeria is little. The mass media are also not independent enough in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. The print media is more committed in the performance of surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria.

Based on the above observations, it is pertinent to finally conclude that the mass media through their surveillance function have contributed significantly in exposing corrupt

individuals in Nigeria but have done so little in the area of investigation and follow-up to ensure that corruption cases are treated to their logical conclusion.

Recommendations

- The following recommendations are therefore essential for more effective mass media surveillance responsibility in ensuring a society free of corruption in Nigeria:
- i. The mass media should continue to perform their surveillance responsibility in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. By this, the mass media will continue to investigate alleged cases of corruption; expose corrupt individuals to members of the public; ensure that individuals accused of corruption are trailed; ensure that individuals found culpable of corruption are prosecuted; ensure that the money/assets suspected to be acquired through corruption are recovered; ensure that the money/assets recovered from corrupt individuals are channeled to the appropriate quarter(s); advocate for stiff laws against corrupt individuals to discourage those who may wish to carry out the act; advocate for stiff punishment against individuals culpable of corruption; ensure incorruptible and independent judiciary in the fight against corruption; advocate the need for strong political will by government in the fight against corruption; and expose the causes and effects of corruption.
 - ii. The mass media in addition to exposing corrupt individuals in the country should also pay greater attention to investigation and follow-up of corruption cases. This will help to ensure that such cases have been treated in the way that can effectively help to combat corruption in Nigeria.
 - iii. The mass media must adhere to high professional standards in their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. This the mass media should do by being objective, accurate, fair, balance as well as rejecting any form of gratification and reward aimed at thwarting further investigation and follow-up of corruption cases(s).
 - iv. The mass media must exercise their surveillance responsibility to combat corruption in Nigeria without any fear or favour. This will help them in recording more success in the fight than being afraid of certain corrupt individuals in the country.
 - v. The mass media must in independent in the discharge of their surveillance responsibility in combating corruption in Nigeria. That means, the mass media must be independent of their owners and all other forces in the society for more effective contributions to the fight against corruption in Nigeria.
 - vi. The broadcast media like the print media through its surveillance responsibility should pay greater attention to combating corruption in Nigeria. This is in view of the fact that corruption is a powerful issue that requires very aggressive approach from all media platforms if the war must be won.

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