

Corruption In The Regime's Apparatus And State Institutions In Libya During Gaddafi's Rule

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Abstract:- Corruption is the misuse of public office for private profit or political gain. This dissertation comprehensively studies, the causes and consequences of corruption left by individual governance regime ruled Libya for 42 years. Under Gaddafi's regime, corruption became engrained in the country's political and economic structures, largely as a result of the overwhelming centralization of power in the hands of Gaddafi and small elite of family members and close acquaintances which dominate and control of oil resources. The researcher used the qualitative method. Data is collected through semi-structured interviews with public servants, executive officers. The result of study shows that there is a negative relationship between corruption and economic growth. Corruption increases the income inequality decreases. It means that the decreasing inequality is the result of increasing amount of corruption. The study recommended that the government must introduce an equitable wages and incentive system. This will inevitably reduce people's vulnerability and susceptibility to corruption. It must introduce transparency devices that can detect and prevent corruption in all areas. Besides, the government should introduce a national reorientation program to educate people on the crucial need to eradicate corruption in all sectors of Libya's economic and socio-political systems.

Keywords:- Corruption, democracy, bureaucracy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Libyan Council for Public Planning (LCPP) in its 2004 report had affirmed that Libya facing corruption challenges as indicated by the country low score in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and that the crisis of corruption has become the major cause accounting for why the ruling regime in Libya was unable to achieve its socio-economic and development objectives. [1] Gaddafi during his forty-two years as the eccentric and despotic ruler, embezzled, stole, and otherwise illicitly acquired as much as USD 200 billion in assets which would amount to USD 30,000 per Libyan Person. [2] Corruption in Libya is believed to be widespread within the public administration, involving low ranking civil servants as well as major officials. the various forms of corruption to be present across the country, including direct and indirect stealing and embezzlement of public money; nepotism and favoritism in employment and performing personal favours for relatives and friends, and money Laundering as a mean to evade the law. Gaddafi's regime never took serious precautionary procedures against the elements of corruption. [3]

Since taking over power, Gaddafi issued hundreds of laws in various areas, including laws directly related to public freedoms and the exercise of political, cultural and economic activities. The majority of the laws reflected the regime's interest in protecting itself by filling gaps and closing the door in the face of any other opinion or power that may compete with his authority, thus finding legal justification to oppress and exclude others. [4] Gaddafi's family and tribe were openly looting government funds causing education and health service to deteriorate beyond repair. He had appointed his sons to run various sectors of Libya's economy such as Muhammad, the oldest son, dominated the telecommunications sector and Muatassim Gaddafi was National Security Adviser. Hannibal was influential in maritime shipping, and Khamis commanded a top military unit. Saadi was involved in setting up an Export Free Trade Zone in western Libya, and another son, Saif al-Islam, also benefited from government financing and political backing in his business endeavors. [5] Under the Gaddafi's regime, corruption became engrained in the country's political and economic structures, largely as a result of the overwhelming centralization of power in the hands of Gaddafi and small elite of family members and close acquaintances which dominate and control on oil resources. Since the Libyan Revolution began in 2011, the United States and most of Europe took swift action, freezing the foreign assets of Gaddafi and twenty-six members of his entourage. Those acts immobilized approximately USD 37 billion in the United States and another USD 30 billion throughout Europe. [6]

The dissertation commences by examine to the causes of corruption left by individual governance regime ruled Libya for 42 years. Also observes that there is negative relationship between corruption and the

economic development in current Libya and corruption considerably increases the income inequality in Libya. The study provides evidence that corruption has negative effects on economic development, and attempts to reliably identify the relations between corruption and other relevant factors. This study is expected to make a substantial contribution to the research of the causes and consequences of corruption, and therefore to add to effective policy guidelines to curb corruption. Therefore, this study aims to answer the question what were the causes and the key elements that led to the emergence of the phenomenon of corruption in the Libyan state during the period from 1969 to 2011?

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Type of Research

This research uses qualitative approach. Survey conducted for data collection with Libyan public servants where the data came from public sector in Libya.

Place and Time of Research

The study was conducted in Libyan public sector from February to April 2013.

The study samples

The samples came for the study were Libyan public servants.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Gaddafi's regime was failed to provide the democratic approach and availability of public freedoms for citizens to participate in public policies guidance, in addition to the lack of transparency and legal accountability in guiding public policy of the country, Indifference and lack of responsibility sense based on the affairs of the state at various levels thwarted the economic development process in the country and lack in respect of human rights. And corruption was related with public servants behavior when they were deal with citizens, such as: bribery, extortion, functional position abuse, embezzlement, money and goods smuggling and Performance and productivity of state institutions had decreased, and quality of public services for citizen in declined and the bribe was spread; therefore lacked the trust of citizens in government programs, credibility and legitimacy .

Gaddafi's regime was failure to attract of the foreign investment and led to flight of domestic capital, because financial and administrative corruption incompatible with the existence of a free competitive environment that was a prerequisite to encourage domestic investment and to attract foreign investment alike. Also led to a widening gap between the power wealthy and ordinary people, the poverty had doubled rates than total number of Libya's oil. It had been recognized by the political authority that more than one million Libyan citizens lived in poverty which represented more than 16 % of the Libyan people, therefore Libya deserved to be described as "a rich country with poor people". The condition increased the proportion of the people wanted to leave Libya requested for a living in other countries such as Gulf countries, Europe and the United States were raise significantly.

Corruption drags the regime and society into fatal conflicts between certain social groups when the private interests of those groups collide ,particularly when Libyan government was confiscated private land, some of which was redistributed to the landless or to political favorites, this led to a rise in social tension and lack of investor confidence. Gaddafi's longstanding divide-and-rule strategy set communities against one other, each vying for a share of resources and the regime. Some towns grew wealthy thanks to connections with the ruling elite; others suffered badly. Meanwhile, the security apparatus at once fomented, manipulated and managed intra-communal conflicts .

Corruption in Libya during Gaddafi's regime offended the reputation of the political system and foreign relations, especially with countries and companies that had interest in investing in the fields of the national economic. Corruption weakens political participation as a result of distrustful public institutions and accountability mechanisms.

Financial corruption was causes moral values to unfasten (moral corruption), and led citizens to frustration, carelessness, and negativity in a tribal community, it was causes fanaticism and extremism against state and social institutions. More dangerously, it causes individual as well as organized crime to thrive in reaction to the collapse of values and unequal opportunities among individuals. Corruption led to a lack of professional in carrying out the duties and the loss of the value of work, and acceptance of the idea alienated in functional performance criteria, and retreated of interest by the public right .

Gaddafi's regime was failure in privatization program, that is transition followed by corruption, particularly when the ownership of those facilities or production units and development projects a general strategy was sold and moved to individuals through incorrect basis, and the values estimates was non-objective, also the privatization process itself was under political pressure in untrustworthy financial, which affected the process of economic development in Libya.

Gaddafi's group were seizure of the state property and public enterprises and agricultural land, thus they were divided and sold it by corrupt entourage and members of the ruling family. The power holders were given the advantages to their families and relatives of influence by virtue of their relationships and their association with political leaders by what they got from special privileges.

The regime authoritarian totalitarian eliminated of the scientific method and professional decision-making and unseen role of scientists and professionals in the preparation of the decision-making on the basis of scientific research and scientific methods, which had undergone the decisions of special and interests personal to the governor and to individuals or social groups dominating the decision-making which led to the deterioration of the administrative system and the failure of the development process.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

- The study addressed four research questions: 1) The causes of corruption in Libyan government during Gaddafi's rule, 2) The policies and actions to reduce corruption, within the Libya context during Gaddafi's rule, 3) The general effects of corruption during Gaddafi's rule, 4) The major factors that led to the aggravation of corruption in Libya during Gaddafi's rule, To answer the four main questions underlying this research study.
- Firstly, based on the interview; the absence of media and press freedom and lack of access to public information and records have resulted in the absence of transparency in decision-making concerning the affairs of the State in effect corruption rise and controllable.
- Secondly, corruption has been promoted by the absence of political willingness of the leader.
- Thirdly, the corruption is also supported by corruptive behavior of the bureaucracy.
- Fourthly, the aggravation of corruption is due to administrative factors. These factors closely relate to multiplicity and the fragility of SAIs, shortage of the qualified personnel, the complacency in addressing of the administrative deviations, prevalence of authoritarian style between hierarchical administrative levels.

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