

Review of: "Why Corruption in Nigeria? Experts' Accounts on the Occurrences and Persistence"

Ihor Hasiuk¹

¹ Khmelnytsky University of Management and Law

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is devoted to an extremely important and relevant topic, which is always on time - the causes of corruption in public administration. The phenomenon of corruption in public authorities is inherent not only in countries that have embarked on the path of democratic governance, according to the conditional classification, which are classified as "developing" countries, but also in countries with stable democratic institutions for organizing public power and high socio-economic development and living standards. The phenomenon of corruption is multifaceted and diverse with many social manifestations and consequences for each country. The consequences, depending on the level and depth of corruption phenomena in power, can be completely different for different countries: for countries with weak economies, subsidies, dependence on external loans, this can cause the loss of state sovereignty and economic decline and social upheaval (for example, the violent path of power change), and for countries more resistant to the risks of corruption ("highly developed countries") at least by changing the ruling beau monde in the political arena (due to the application of democratic procedures and the work of public organizations, human rights foundations, etc.), high reputational risks, economic losses, etc. The phenomenon of corruption to one degree or another is inherent in every system of public administration of all countries around the world without exception, and the level of which is estimated in annually published corruption indices for each country of the world. In this context, the authors would be advisable not only to focus the reader's attention on the presence of the phenomenon of corruption in Nigeria, but also to orient the scientific community as far as it has penetrated into the system of public administration in comparison with other countries of the world, and even better with the countries of the African continent, or countries similar in socio-economic or other indicators, which would allow the reader to form a clearer idea of the size and scale of corruption phenomena in the country.

The authors provide some statistics on the results of the fight against corruption in public institutions of Nigeria, but they are not ordered and systematized in terms of compliance with the requirements for accounting and reflection of corruption offenses on certain grounds, which complicates the process of creating a holistic view of the scale and effectiveness of the activities of the competent authorities to combat corruption in public institutions. The given single examples and figures of seized funds cannot reflect the fullness of corruption phenomena in the country, but undoubtedly indicate the work of law enforcement agencies to combat corruption, but not the effectiveness of such a struggle.

It should also be noted that it would be advisable for the authors to note what kind of corrupt actions of officials are being discussed, and what should be the subject of research - a bribe, abuse of office, receipt of unlawful monetary remuneration, seizure of property using official position, etc. After all, this would allow more specifically to determine the methodology for diagnosing the causes of corruption in state institutions and to conduct a personalized classification of corruption acts in accordance with the functions performed by a civil servant.

The advantage of the work is that the authors tried to systematize the sources of origin of corruption phenomena based on a survey of law enforcement experts, but at the same time it would be necessary to more carefully approach the features that were the basis of such a classification in compliance with the basic logical rule for constructing classification schemes: no variability of the base of classification according to certain characteristics and avoidance of duplication. In this context, the authors identify the economic sources of corruption, and at the same time, a separate source includes motivation in which the main driver is the desire to improve their poor financial condition by corrupt officials. In our opinion, it would be more appropriate to talk about the "motives" for committing corruption crimes, the causes of which may be, as the desire to improve the financial situation (economic factor), the desire to obtain status as a result of enrichment (moral factor), etc., because the motive is the driving force of a certain action, which is born from the contradictions between the available and desired capabilities of the individual, his target attitudes and aspirations. It is in this context that the formation of ideological and moral attitudes and a high threshold of tolerance for corruption among public servants and society as a whole are not formed, these are rather conditions that contribute to the spread of corruption phenomena, but they are not the source of their occurrence, because culture is formed in the process of life and development of society, the education of each member of it. But this is a separate topic for scientific discussion. This allows us to come to the conclusion that the study of the causes and sources of corruption would be more appropriate to carry out by attracting and interviewing the persons who committed such offenses, rather than the persons who carry out the fight against it.

In general, although the work is not without drawbacks of a methodological nature, it allows you to create a certain idea of the opinion of experts regarding the causes and sources of corruption in the public authorities of Nigeria.