Title: CORRUPTION AND THE CRISIS OF INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN NIGERIA: A FORENSIC ACCOUNTING PERSPECTIVE.

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Abstract: It is eloquently clear that corruption impedes economic development and that it is a major obstacle constraining the process of change currently taking place in Nigeria. Institutions are important to the macroeconomic performance of a nation. The lack of well-designed rules and effective institutions such as an independent judiciary, a police force worth the name, or a professional civil service to enforce compliance and maintain law and order in Nigeria has resulted in interest groups capturing the government easily and using governmental institutions for their own benefit at society's expense. This paper traces corruption not just to the development model of statism which many African countries chose after independence, but also to the failure of African leaders after independence to reconstruct the neo-colonial state to make it a tool for development. It highlights the role of the forensic accounting expert in bringing about a lasting solution to the endemic/socio-economic malaise of corruption still bedeviling the Nigerian institutional reforms process. It argues that the incentive structure is the most critical determinant of the involvement of individuals in corruption and that the attempt to deal effectively with corruption in Nigeria must begin with institutional reforms which aim at altering the existing incentive structure. It recommends the use of public choice and governmental intervention in the economy achieved through constitutional provisions as tools for surmounting corruption in Nigeria through the crafting of effective rules and institutions. These, it posits, will avert the futility of the variety of traditional anti-corruption techniques already in use.