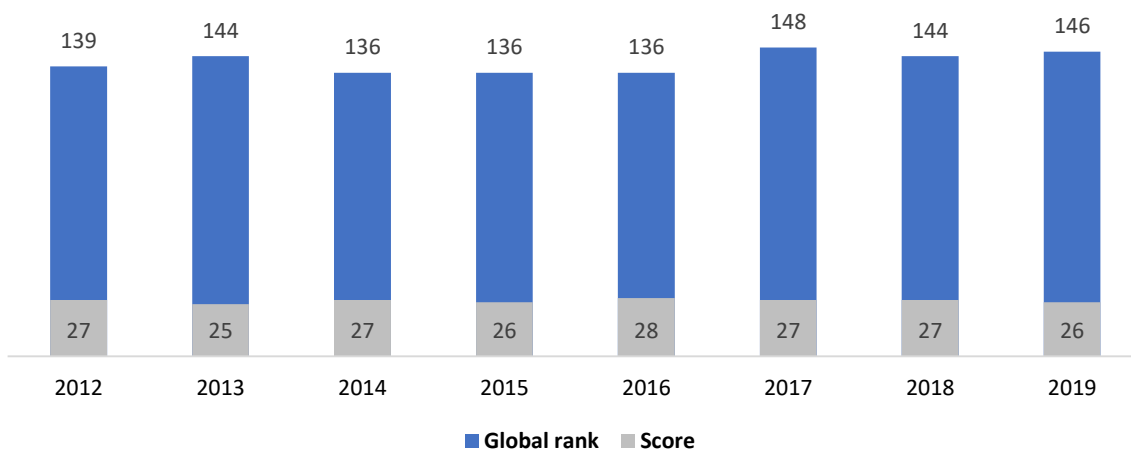


2019 Corruption Perception Index: Nigeria drops two places on the CPI, ranks 146th

In 2019, the Transparency International ranked 180 countries on its Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which was basically predicated on the relationship between politics, money and corruption.¹ Traditionally, the participating countries were ranked on the scale of 0 to 100; where 0 score means highly corrupt and a score of 100 indicates absence of corruption. Nigeria's ranking on the CPI dropped from 144th (with a score of 27 points) in 2018 to 146th (with a score of 26 points) in 2019. Historically, Nigeria has not fared well in terms of global corruption ranking. The current position represents a worst performance relative to the country's ranking of 139th out of 176 countries in 2012 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Nigeria's global corruption ranking (2012-2019)



Source: Transparency International and NESG

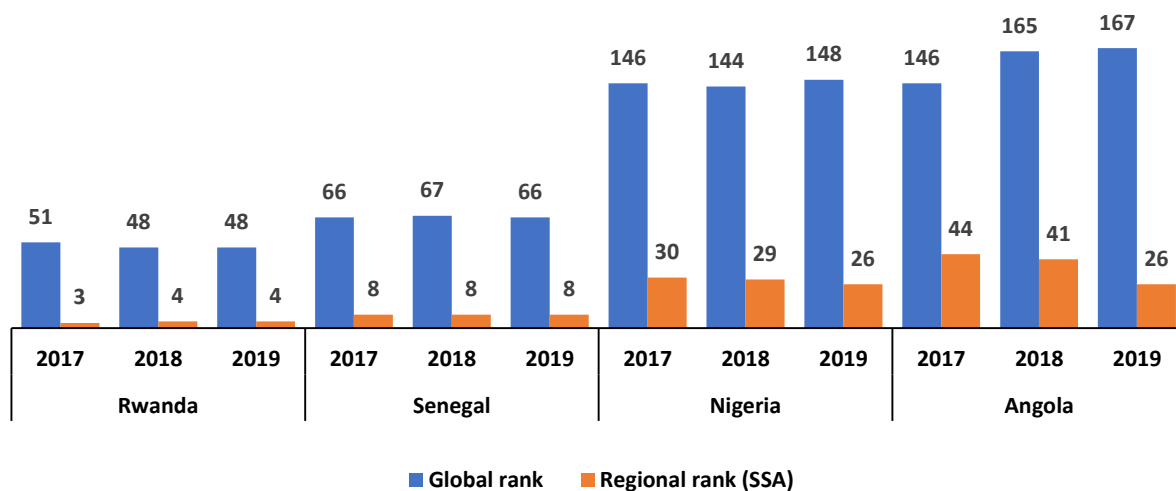
Nigeria's corruption ranking improves in SSA, albeit maintaining the bottom 30% position

In terms of its corruption ranking within Sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria occupied between 26th and 30th position out of the 49 SSA countries sampled over the period of 2017 and 2019 (see Figure 2). Similarly, Angola, which is Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, had its corruption ranking within SSA improve from 44th in 2017 to 26th. On the other hand, non-resource rich countries, particularly Rwanda and Senegal, have consistently maintained their respective positions as the 4th and the 8th least corrupt SSA nations in 2018 and 2019.²

¹The CPI measures the perception of experts and business people on the levels of public sector corruption.

² Rwanda and Senegal are among the top 5 fastest growing economies in SSA (see, IMF, 2019 Regional Economic Outlook for SSA; retrieved from <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2019/04/01/sreo0419>).

Figure 2: Regional ranking of SSA countries



Source: Transparency International and NESG

Corruption in Nigeria exists in many forms including bribery, kick-backs and vote-buying

The 2019 corruption survey carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes revealed that out of the 63% of total respondents (33,000 households across Nigeria) who had contacts with at least one public official in 2019, 30% of them (or 6,237 households) paid bribes. The reported bribery cases took the form of cash payment (93%), while the remaining 7% of bribes were paid in kind (food and valuables). The report also estimated the prevalence of vote buying within a range of 18%-24%.³ Vote-buying was observed to be highly prevalent in three geo-political zones including South-South (24%), North West (23%) and North Central (21%).⁴

Conclusion

To improve the country's ranking on the corruption perception index, there is need for the Nigerian government to consider the following action points:

- ✓ The operations of the anti-graft agencies should not be marred by political interference. This would enhance the autonomy and strength of those public institutions.
- ✓ There is need for continuous supervision and review of the activities of public officials to enhance transparency and accountability in public affairs. The fight against corruption strategies should not be one-off measures.
- ✓ The Nigerian government should also ensure that the opinions of ordinary Nigerians are heard through granting unflinching freedom to the press as reflected in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2011. This would help subject high-level decisions to wide-ranging consultation.

³The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (2019) defined the prevalence of vote-buying as the share of adult Nigerians that were personally offered money or some other favour in exchange of a vote during the past election.

⁴United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (2019). Corruption in Nigeria: Patterns and Trends. Second survey on corruption as experienced by the population as at December 2019. Retrieved from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/nigeria/Corruption_Survey_2019.pdf.

About NESG

The NESG is an independent, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization, committed to fostering open and continuous dialogue on Nigeria's economic development. The NESG strives to forge a mutual understanding between leaders of thought so as to explore, discover and support initiatives directed at improving Nigeria's economic policies, institutions, and management.

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