



## **PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON THE DECADENCE OF LAW MAKERS AND LAW-MAKING PROCESS IN NIGERIA; AN ASSESSMENT OF EKITI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY 2010 -2015**

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**Abstract:** National Assembly are the light of the nation saddled with the process of making laws that govern a nation. The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria empowers the legislative arm of government both at the central and at the state level on several function which make them important to the growth and development of a nation. But, in Nigeria nation there has been a flaw in this arm of government because their failure to make appropriate laws which would have ensured the sustenance of democracy and good governance in Nigeria due to corruption and corrupt practices which has been described as a cankerworm that has eaten deep the fabric of the nation just like several countries in Africa, stunting its growth and development and the legislative arm is not excepted from this menace. It is on this note that the study seeks to interrogate public perception on the decadence of law makers and law-making process among the legislative arm of government with reference to Ekiti State House of Assembly. The study employed qualitative and quantitative analysis of data collection and the thrust of analysis was systematically presented under selected themes to address the salient aspect of the objective. Findings revealed that significant number of respondents condemned the legislative arm for abstract laws that will not promote economic development in the state because of greed and corrupt practices that often come through inducement by the higher power who are the major actor in governance. The paper conclude that the legislative body fall short of their responsibility to the society and therefore amongst others recommended that citizens should be sensitized and educated on the need to vote for people of good character with intellectual capability to make good laws that will promote economic development and improve the quality of life of the citizens.

**Keywords:** Law-Makers, Public Perception, Law-Making process, Development

### **Introduction**

the three arms of government in Nigeria are the bulwark of Nigerian democracy but they have been weakened by inefficiency, incompetence, lack of commitment and corrupt practices. the legislature are to make law; have strict surveillance over the actions of the executive; amending the constitution whenever the need arises; control national finances through regulation of borrowing, taxation and supervision of governmental expenditures;

publicizing issues and bring them to public focus; plays active and decisive roles in major appointments to the executive or judicial offices; plays active part in negotiating and ratifying treaties and delegates law-making authority to certain executive ministries and quasi-legislative bodies such as boards, agencies, commissions and parastatals. Okoli (2003)

Decadence among Law makers is hinge on corruption and corrupt practices. in Nigeria, corruption often

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emanated from the corridors of power: The Executive, Legislatives and the Judiciary. According to Usman (2017), the power of the Executive arm of the government is exercised by the President in the appointment of his Vice-president and Ministers who will head the various ministries in the day to day running of government. The Legislative organ of the government on the other hand, is made up of the National Assembly (consisting of the Senate and the House of Representative). The Senate is headed by the President of the Senate while the House of Representative is headed by the Speaker of the House, who were elected by the elected representatives in the two houses. The Judicial arm of government is headed by the Chief Justice of the Federation and it is consisted of the Supreme Court and the lower federal particularly, the legislative arms of the government that has almost been handcuffed and imprisoned by the decadence in the other two organs of government and has therefore failed to deliver on their mandates. This means that the Legislative arms of government have failed to make appropriate laws which would have ensured the sustenance of democracy and good governance in Nigeria. it has been observed that corruption is the bane to socio- economic development in Nigeria. However, it has truly become people's choice of priority to work or carryout their duties for personal gains to the detriment of our dearly growing economy. Bad policies and misappropriation of public funds by the law makers (Legislative arm of government) as part of decadence has long contributed largely to this menace of corruption.

### ***Conceptual discuss***

#### ***Law Making***

In line with Section 47 of 1999 Nigerian Constitution observes that “there shall be a National Assembly for the Federation which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives” and section 90 declares that “there shall be a House of Assembly for each of the States of the Federation” (Nigeria Constitution, 1999). The legislature in Nigeria from the foregoing operates at two tiers of

government i.e. at the Federal, and the State; while at the Federal level, it operates as two distinct chambers i.e. the upper chamber (Senate) and the lower chamber (House of Representatives) due to the fact that Nigeria runs a bicameral legislature. Thus as stated in Section 4(1) of 1999 Nigerian Constitution, “the legislative powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be vested in a National Assembly for the Federation which shall consist of Senate and a House of Representatives”; while Section 4(6) holds that “the legislative powers of a State of the Federation shall be vested in the House of Assembly of the State” (Nigeria Constitution, 1999). As regards the number of individuals whose responsibilities it is to see that Nigeria is properly governed with good legislation specifically at the Federal level, Section 48 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria holds that “the Senate shall consist of three Senators from each State and one from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja” in this case, 109 members given the fact that Nigeria is made of 36 states; and Section 49 of the constitution indicates that “...the House of Representatives shall consist of three hundred and sixty members representing constituencies of nearly equal population as far as possible, provided that no constituency shall fall within more than one State” in this case, the population dynamics of closely bounded areas is the delineating parameter. Thus, the total number of the legislature at the Federal level is summed up to 469 members (Nigeria Constitution, 1999).

Specifically, the legislature is the governing body that operates in a building called the Senate building or the House of Representative building, which makes laws, amend or repeal them, for the progress and development of a country (Okoli, 2003). It should not be corrupt. Corruption is the mis-use of public power by elected politicians or appointed civil servants for private gains. Okoli (2003) further observed that government is that central authority which claims allegiance from all members of the state and which is capable of imposing its will on all members of the state if need be by means of force, and which is ready to protect the lives and



properties of all members within its confines. In the views of Ogboru (2009), corruption therefore wastes resources, distorts budgetary allocations, breeds inefficiency and unpredictability, slows and erodes development and lowers respect for constituted authority. Law making is the second variable in the subject matter ‘Corruption and Law making’. It is a general believe that all human societies have rules and regulations which guide their interactions (socio-political and economic relations), the essence of which is to bring about predictability in the behaviours of members of the society in question, the foregoing places boundary for the definition of compliance, or non-compliance to these bodies of norms (Igbaekemen, Abbah & Geidam, 2014). Very important is the fact that rules and regulations are socially created to serve defined purpose for the society. It is equally true that all societies have systems through which these rules and regulations are generated. Same can be said for all regimes (military or civilian; authoritarian, despotic, totalitarian, monarchical, democratic etc) everywhere, thus Nigeria is not in isolation as regards this. There are various systems of government, and of relevance to this study is the representative system of government; which is the selection of members of government through general election to represent their constituencies in either the House of Representative or the Senate, together known as the National Assembly. Those elected representatives work in a legislature (Usman and Umaru, 2017). Thus, the body responsible for making rules and regulations in a democratic system as far as Nigeria is concerned, is the legislature (The Upper and the Lower House), which otherwise referred to as ‘House of Senate and House of Representation’.

#### ***Sleaze and the National Assembly***

The activities and actions of the Members of the House of Representative were so appalling that Nigerians were faced with the ordeal of their representative fighting over looted public funds and sharing it among themselves. It was believed that all the State Assemblies members were simply in the pockets of their respective Governors (their

pay-masters), who ensured that there was nothing like dissenting voices. The then Governors of some state across the nation were accused of bribing some members of their , House of Assembly, for example in Kaduna State ₦15 million was offer the law makers of the state to impeach the Speaker and his Deputy. The money was displayed on the floor of the house for the citizens of Kaduna State to see. Like wise in Benue State House of Assembly, the Speaker, Margaret Icheen, resigned because according to her, the Benue State House of Assembly was stinking of corruption due to the resolve of the members to wine and dine with corruption. In the same vein, the Legislative Houses in Ondo and Kogi States were aware of the allegations that their then Governors have fraudulently enriched themselves. The same allegation goes to virtually all the law- makers across the nation. In passage of bills there has been a lot of allegation that Nigerian Legislators do demand for bribes from Ministerial nominees to facilitate their clearance at the House of Assembly, as it is at the Federal level so it is at the state level .

In 2011, the House of Representative was expected to pass the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), which was earlier passed by the Senate. But the Multi-national companies were fighting seriously to ensure that the bill if passed at all should be in their favour. Because of this, there was an allegation that the Law-makers were given the sum of \$10 million dollars to pass the PIB in a form that will favour the Oil companies. Also, the Legislators were alleged to have demanded the sum of ₦600 million before they would agree to pass the Sovereign Wealth Bill (SWB), which seek to promote fiscal discipline and ensure better utilization of excess crude profit. The Bill was sponsored by the Presidency (Suleiman, 2011).

Budget Padding is Another aspect of decadence among the law makers, it has various meanings attach to it. Padding is defined as using soft materials to give comfort or dishonestly make bills more expensive than they should be (Drenkat, 2016). Padding also means making the budget proposal larger than the actual estimates for



the project. This is done either by increasing a project's expenses or decreasing its expected revenue. The goal of project padding is to get approval committee to grant artificially high level of funding to the budget maker's proposed project. The issue of Budget Padding came to view when the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria accused the 8th National Assembly of Padding its 2016 Budget with ₦500 billion, far above the revenue projection and built-in deficit, thus making it impossible for the President to implement the budget, going by the country's economic downturn. Apart from padding the budget, the Law-makers were also alleged to have included projects such as the provisions of boreholes, town halls, football pitches as their constituency project to be funded by the Federal Government (Williams, 2016).

#### ***Description of the study Area***

The study focused on Ekiti State. Ekiti is one of the six (6) states in South West Nigeria. Ekiti is the largest homogeneous ethnic group, constituting a state within the nation. Nestle by nature amid rugged hills and other undulating terrains, Ekiti is also blessed with well-laid out arable lands. Its people are accommodating and industrious. Although, Ekiti people are best noted for their outstanding educational qualifications, the natives are also good business men and manager of human and material resources (Olomola, 2001).

Ekiti is at the centre of the tropics. It is located between longitudes 4° 45' to 5° 45' East of the Greenwich Meridian and Latitudes 7° 25' to 8° 5', North of the Equator (Ministry of Information and Civic Orientation, 2008). The state also shares boundaries with the South of Kwara and Kogi States as well as East of Osun State (Ekiti State Ministry of Information and Civic Orientation, 2008). It is bounded in the East and in the South by Ondo State. Furthermore, Ekiti State was carved out of Ondo state to become a new state on October 1, 1996 during the administration of the late military dictatorship, General Sanni Abacha. As at date, Ekiti can boast of three (3) Senatorial Districts of Ekiti State: i.e.,

Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti South divided into 16 local government councils. However, going by the state creation exercise and with the attendant influx of people to the state, Ekiti state's population as at present was put at 3,050,445 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

Ekiti state, although created under military rule, has various educational institutions ranging from primary to tertiary institutions (private and public). Furthermore, majority of the Ekiti people are farmers, educationists, Artisans and even professionals. (Ekiti State Diary, 2000). Ekiti State House of Assembly is the legislative arm of the government in the state, its a legilsture with 26 members elected from the 16 local government areas of the state. Local government areas in Ekiti are with considered larger population are delineated into two constituencies to give equal representation each one represents a constituency.

#### ***Methodology***

The research design for this study is a descriptive research design of the survey type. Questionnaire was designed and adopted to obtain information on the subject matter. The questionnaire was designed in a simple and unambiguous language which made it easy to understand by the respondents, the questions were both in open and close-ended form. One hundred and twenty (120) adults (18years and above) were sampled in Ado-Ekiti for this study. Furthermore, the respondents were selected through multi-stage sampling method. Data collected through questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A was on socio-economic and demographic characteristics of respondents while section B was on the theme of the study, public perception on the decadence of law makers and the law-making process in Ekiti State 2015-2020. Data generated from the field survey was analyzed using SPSS package presented on frequency distribution tables and represented with simple percentages. The population of this study comprised of the adults (18years & above) across the 3 Senatorial Districts and 16 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Ekiti State.



Multi-stage sampling method was adopted to select the target respondents for this study. The methods are: stratified, simple random, proportional, purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The first stage adopted stratified sampling technique to divide Ekiti State

into three (3) existing Senatorial Districts and Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely; Ekiti North, Ekiti Central and Ekiti South Senatorial Districts (see Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Stratified Sample Technique Showing the Division of Senatorial Districts by Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Ekiti State**

SN	Senatorial Districts	Local Government Areas (LGAs)
1	Ekiti Central Senatorial Districts	(a) Ado LGA (b) Efon LGA (c) Ekiti West LGA (d) Ijero LGA (e) Irepodun/Ifelodun LGA
2	Ekiti North Senatorial District	(a) Ido/Osi LGA (b) Ikole LGA (c) Ilejemeje LGA (d) Moba LGA (e) Oye LGA
3	Ekiti - South Senatorial District	(a) Ekiti South-West LGA (b) Ekiti East LGA (c) Emure LGA (d) Gbonyin LGA (e) Ikere LGA (f) Ise/Orun LGA

In the second stage, simple random sampling method was adopted to select one (1) Local Government Area (LGA) from each of the Senatorial Districts in Ekiti State, making a total of 3 LGAs altogether. Therefore, the selected local government areas (LGAs) is shown in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2: Random Sampling Method for Selecting Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the Senatorial Districts in Ekiti State**

SN	Senatorial Districts	Local Government Areas (LGAs)
1	Ekiti Central Senatorial Districts	Ado LGA
2	Ekiti North Senatorial District	Oye LGA
3	Ekiti - South Senatorial District	Ikere LGA

In the third stage, proportional sampling method was employed to select one (1) town (based on their population) from each of the Senatorial Districts (i.e. the



towns that resident the local government headquarters of the selected LGAs). The selected towns were shown in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3: Proportionate Sampling Method for Selecting Population from Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the Senatorial Districts in Ekiti State Population**

Senatorial Districts	Selected Local Government Area	Local Government Headquarters	Population
Ekiti Central	Ado LGA	Ado-Ekiti	427,700
Ekiti North	Oye LGA	Oye Ekiti	187,900
Ekiti South	Ikere LGA	Ikere Ekiti	237,054

(Source of Population: National Bureau of Statistics, 2017)

Lastly, the fourth stage in this study employed convenient method in contacting respondents who participated in the study. The reason for this approach is because participants were at the reach of the researcher. As a result, one hundred and twenty (120) adults (comprising of 60 men and 60 women) were proportionately sampled across the Senatorial Districts in Ekiti State. Therefore, sixty (60) adults (comprising of 30 men and 30 women) were selected in Ado Local Government Area, forty (40) adults (comprising of 20 men and 20 women) were selected in Ikere Local Government Area and twenty (20) adults (comprising of 10 men and 10 women) were selected in Oye Local Government Area.

**Method of Data Collection**

A self-designed questionnaire was used for this study. The questionnaire was designed in sections: A and B. Section A was designed based on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of respondents while Section B was based on the theme of the study: “people’s perception on corruption and law making process in Nigeria: 2015-2020”.

**Data Analysis**

The socio-economic data of the respondents was analysed, presented on frequency distribution tables and represented with percentages. Descriptive analysis (frequency distribution tables and percentages) was used

to present the socio-economic and demographic data for easy understanding.

**Socio-Economic & Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

**Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Sex**

S/N	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	52	54.7
2.	Female	47	45.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1.1 presents the respondent’s distribution by sex. From the Table, more than half, that is, (54.7%) of the respondents were male while the female counterparts represent about 45.3 percent. The data implies that more male than female participated in the study, as indicated by 54.7% male respondent.

**Table 4.1.2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age**

S/N	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	21 – 30	6	6.3
2.	31 – 40	26	27.4
3.	41 – 50	34	35.8
4.	Above 50years	29	30.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1.2 presents the respondent’s distribution by age. From the Table, 35.8 percent of the respondents were between 41 and 50 years, 30.5 percent of the respondents were above 50 years of age while 27.4 percent of the respondents were between 31 and 40 years of age and the remaining 6.3 percent of the respondents were between 21 and 30 years of age. The data implies that most of the respondents covered by this study were above 30 years of age, which covers adults of the working population.



**Table 4.1.3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by their Marital Status**

S/N	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Single	19	20.0
2.	Married	69	72.6
3.	Divorced	2	2.1
4.	Separated	2	2.1
5.	Widowed	3	4.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1.3 presents the respondents distribution by marital status. From the Table, majority and a significant proportion, that is, (72.6%) of the respondents were married, 20 percent of the respondents were single, 4.2 percent of the respondents were widowed/widower while 2.1 percent of them were separated and the remaining 2.1 percent of the respondents were divorced. Deduction from the finding implies that most of the participants of the study were married and responsible residents of Ekiti State.

**Table 4.1.4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Religion**

S/N	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Christianity	85	89.5
2.	Islamic	10	10.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

On the religion of the respondents, Table 4.1.4 shows that majority (89.5%) of the respondents are Christians while the remaining 10.5 percent of the respondents are Muslims. The data implies that the Christians outnumbered the Muslim respondents in the study. It also shows that Christians are more than the Muslims in the study area.

**Table 4.1.5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Ethnic Group**

S/N	Ethnic Group	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yoruba	89	93.6
2.	Igbo	3	3.2
3.	Others like Idoma, etc	3	3.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1.5 presents the distribution of respondents by their ethnic background. From the Table, majority (93.6%) of the respondents are from Yoruba ethnic group while 3.2 percent of the respondents are from Igbo ethnic group and the remaining 3.2 percent are from other ethnic groups like Ebirá, Edo, etc. The data implies that most of the people in the study area are majorly Yoruba ethnic group.

**Table 4.1.6: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by their Educational Level**

S/N	Educational Level	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No formal education	8	8.4
2.	Below Secondary	10	10.5
3.	Secondary	39	41.1
4.	Post-Secondary	38	40.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

On the level of education of the respondents, table 4.1.6 shows that 41.1 percent of the respondents had secondary education, 40 percent of the respondents claimed to have education to above secondary school level while 10.5 percent of the respondents claimed to have education not more than primary school level and the remaining 8.4 percent of the respondents have no formal education. The data implies that most of the mothers covered by this study are well schooled because (81.1%) of the respondents, that represent the majority acquired secondary and post-secondary education, which reflects the attributes of Ekiti people and the status of Ekiti as the “Fountain of Knowledge”.

**Table 4.1.7: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by their Occupation**

S/N	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unemployed/Student	24	25.3
2.	Artisan	21	22.1
3.	Trading	18	18.9
4.	Civil servant	13	13.7
5.	Farming	12	12.6
6.	Others (e.g. clergy, nurse, etc)	7	7.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.1.7 presents the respondent's distribution by occupation. From the Table, 25.3 percent of the respondents were unemployed, 22.1 percent of the respondents were artisans, 18.9 percent of the respondents were traders, 13.7 percent of the respondents were civil servants, 12.6 percent of the respondents claimed to engage in farming and the remaining 7.4 percent of the respondents claimed other occupations like clergy, nurses, etc.

**Roles of the Legislatures in Ekiti State: 2015-2020**

Table 4.2 presents the responses on the roles of the legislatures in Nigeria: 2015-2020. From the Table, Item 1 shows that a significant majority (75.8%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that there are roles of the legislatures in Nigeria while 12.6 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 11.6 percent of the respondents are neutral in

their decision on the statement. The data implies that there are roles of the legislatures in Nigeria.

Moreover, Item 2 shows that majority (84.2%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that the roles of the legislatures includes to make laws, to debate on things that would be beneficial to the generality of the people, to ensure that the activities of the government are checked and to push forward bills that would enhance socio-economic development of the nation while 5.3 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 10.5 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that the roles of the legislatures includes to make laws, to debate on things that would be beneficial to the generality of the people, to ensure that the activities of the government are checked and to push forward bills that would enhance socio-economic development of the nation.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by the Roles of the Legislatures in Ekiti State: 2015-2020 (N=95)**

SN	Items	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1.	Do you know that there are roles of the legislatures in Nigeria	72	75.8	11	11.6	12	12.6
2.	The roles of the legislatures include some of these; To make laws; To debate on things that would be beneficial to the generality of the people; To ensure that the activities of the government are checked; To push forward bills that would enhance socio-economic development of the nation?	80	84.2	10	10.5	5	5.3
3.	In your own view, do you think the law makers have performed well between 2015 and 2020 in their roles to the people and the nation at large?	63	66.3	12	12.6	20	21.1
4.	Some of the achievements of legislatures include approval of annual budget, oversighting, protection, etc	78	82.1	8	8.4	9	9.5
5.	The Nigerian legislative arms of government have not been performing effectively between 2015 and 2020.	32	33.7	15	15.8	48	50.5
6.	I see nothing good done by the legislature in the years (2015-2020) towards promoting socio-economic development of	82	86.3	10	10.5	3	3.2



	Nigeria.						
7.	The legislature had done greatly well between 2015 and 2020 in Nigeria.	30	31.6	14	14.7	51	53.7
8.	There is no sound bill passed by the legislatures that favours Nigerians.	49	51.6	11	11.6	35	36.8

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Furthermore, Item 3 shows that slightly two-thirds (66.3%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that the law makers have performed well between 2015 and 2020 in their roles to the people and the nation at large while 21.1 percent of the respondents disagree with the statement and 12.6 percent of the respondents were neutral in their decision about the statement. The data implies that the law makers have performed well between 2015 and 2020 in their roles to the people and the nation at large.

Also, Item 4 shows that a significant number (82.1%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that some of the achievements of legislatures include approval of annual budget, oversighting, protection, etc while about 9.5 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 8.4 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that some of the achievements of legislatures include approval of annual budget, oversighting, protection, etc.

Item 5 shows that 33.7 percent of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that the Ekiti legislative arms of government have not been performing effectively between 2015 and 2020 while slightly more than half (50.5%) of the respondents disagree with the statement and about 15.8 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision on the statement. Deduction from the finding implies that the Ekiti legislative arms of government have not been performing effectively between 2015 and 2020.

More so, Item 6 shows that majority and a significant number (86.3%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that they see nothing good done by the legislature in the years (2015-2020) towards promoting socio-economic development of Nigeria while 3.2 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 10.5 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data indicates that they see nothing good done by the legislature in the years (2015-2020) towards promoting socio-economic development of Ekiti State.

Item 7 shows that a few, about 31.6 percent of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that the legislature had done greatly well between 2015 and 2020 in Nigeria while more than half, (53.7%) of the respondents disagree with the statement and 14.7 percent of the respondents were neutral in their decision about the statement. The data implies that the legislature had not done well between 2015 and 2020 in Ekiti.

Lastly, Item 8 shows that slightly more than half, that is, (51.6%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that there is no sound bill passed by the legislatures that favours Nigerians while about 36.8 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 11.6 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that there is no sound bill passed by the legislatures that favours Nigerians.



**Impact of Corruption on the Functions of Legislature in Ekiti State**

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by the impact of corruption on the functions of legislature in Ekiti (N=95)**

SN	Items	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1.	I believe corruption is common among the law makers in Nigeria.	77	81.1	10	10.5	8	8.4
2.	I know that law makers are not performing well in the due to their corrupt practices.	64	67.4	12	12.6	19	20.0
3.	Corruption had impeded the law makers to perform their over-sight functions by passing bill that would enhance socio-economic growth and development of the people and the nation at large.	70	73.7	9	9.5	16	16.8
4.	The corruption within the legislature has made the legislative arm of government to be fruitless.	80	84.2	5	5.3	10	10.5
5.	Corruption within the legislature has not enabled the law makers to push-up good bills particularly during 2015 and 2020.	74	77.9	10	10.5	11	11.6

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4.3 presents the impact of corruption on the functions of legislature in Ekiti. From the Table, Item 1 shows that majority (81.1%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that they believe corruption is common among the law makers in Ekiti while 8.4 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 10.5 percent of the respondents are neutral in their decision on the statement. The data implies that they believe corruption is common among the law makers in Ekiti.

In addition, Item 2 shows that slightly more than two-thirds (67.4%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that they know that law makers are not performing well in the due to their corrupt practices while 20 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 12.6 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that they know that law makers are not performing well in the due to their corrupt practices.

Item 3 also shows that more than two-thirds (73.7%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that corruption had impeded the law makers to perform their over-sight functions by passing bill that would enhance socio-economic growth and development of the people and the nation at large while 16.8 percent of the respondents disagree with the statement and 9.5 percent of the respondents were neutral in their decision about the statement. The data implies that corruption had impeded the law makers to perform their over-sight functions by passing bill that would enhance socio-economic growth and development of the people and the nation at large.

In the same vein, Item 4 shows that a significant number (84.2%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that corruption within the legislature has made the legislative arm of government to be fruitless while about 10.5 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 5.3 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that corruption within



the legislature has made the legislative arm of government to be fruitless.

Lastly, Item 5 shows that majority (77.9%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that corruption within the legislature has not enabled the law makers to push-up good bills particularly during 2015 and 2020 while 11.6 percent of the respondents disagree with the statement and the remaining 10.5 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision on the statement. The data implies that corruption within the legislature has not enabled the law makers to push-up good bills particularly during 2015 and 2020.

**4.4 Challenges of the Legislature in Law Making Process in Ekiti**

Table 4.4 presents the responses of respondents on the challenges of the legislature in law making process in Nigeria. From the Table, Item 1 shows that majority (93.7%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and

mild terms that corruption is one of the challenges of the legislature in law making process in Nigeria while 2.1 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 4.2 percent of the respondents are neutral in their decision on the statement. The data implies that corruption is one of the challenges of the legislature in law making process in Ekiti.

Also, Item 2 in Table 4.4 shows that majority and a significant number (86.3%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that large number of one party in the legislature affects the effectiveness of law making in Nigeria while 3.2 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 10.5 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data indicates that large number of one party in the legislature affects the effectiveness of law making in Ekiti.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by the Challenges of the Legislature in Law Making Process in Ekiti (N=95)**

SN	Items	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1.	Corruption is one of the challenges of the legislature in law making process in Nigeria.	89	93.7	4	4.2	2	2.1
2.	Large number of one party in the legislature affects the effectiveness of law making in Nigeria.	82	86.3	10	10.5	3	3.2
3.	Insincerity on the part of some law makers contribute to poor law making process in Nigeria.	74	77.9	8	8.4	13	13.7
4.	Interference of the executives in the legislature matters affects the law making process in the legislative chambers.	76	80.0	10	10.5	9	9.5
5.	Poor selection of people to the key posts in the legislature would have adverse effect on law making process in the legislative chambers.	72	75.8	4	4.2	19	20.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Furthermore, Item 3 in Table 4.4 shows that majority (77.9%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that insincerity on the part of some law makers contribute to poor law making process in Ekiti while 13.7 percent of the respondents disagree with the

statement and 8.4 percent of the respondents were neutral in their decision about the statement. The data implies that insincerity on the part of some law makers contribute to poor law making process in Ekiti State.



Similarly, Item 4 in Table 4.4 shows that a significant number and a majority (80%) of the respondents agreed in strong and mild terms that interference of the executives in the legislature matters affects the law making process in the legislative chambers while about 9.5 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement and only 10.5 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision. The data implies that interference of the executives in the legislature matters affects the law making process in the legislative chambers.

Lastly, Item 5 shows that majority (75.8%) of the respondents agreed in both strong and mild terms that poor selection of people to the key posts in the legislature would have adverse effect on law making process in the legislative chambers while 20 percent of the respondents disagree with the statement and the remaining 4.2 percent of the respondents were indifferent in their decision on the statement. The data implies that poor selection of people to the key posts in the legislature would have adverse effect on law making process in the legislative chambers.

comments on corruption and law making in Ekiti State: 2015-2020, most of the respondents that answered the question affirmed that there is high corruption in the legislative arms of government and the high corruption rate in law making in Nigeria have negative effect on the socio-economic development of the country, Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

This study examines people's perception on corruption and law making process in Ekiti State 2015-2020. The study also investigated the roles of the legislatures: 2015-2020 and assessed the impact of corruption on the functions of the legislatures in Nigeria. The study further examined the challenges of the legislatures in law making process in Ekiti State. In the study, in the fourth republic the legislature has enormous as well as tasking responsibility of enunciating human face policies and not monstrous ones. The study did actually dent the image of the legislature in Ekiti given the fact that they have

achieved much in its efforts at deepening the country's democracy as well as giant strides and efforts made by some honest and integrity non compromising legislators in the fold; but to cry out (mourn) against the ills of corruption which has gradually turned into a monster destroying all the efforts made and positive results achieved over the years by the legislature in Nigeria. Therefore, the study concluded that those *hell bent* on tarnishing the image of the legislature should resign honourably, or forced to cease to be part of these hollowed chambers, or change for the better so that this menace will no longer be mentioned in the legislative

### **Recommendations**

The paper presents the following recommendations; Membership of the legislative arm of government should be on part-time basis, and there should be reduction in the number of sitting per term in office as all the sittings waste a lot of resources.

Members of the legislative arm should be paid just sitting allowance as against placing them of salaries with numerous allowance, this will make the office unattractive to people who does not have any good thing to offer the society.

The paper is strongly recommending amendment of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, recommendations of various committee put in place by the House of Assembly should ensure that their opinion meet public expectations.

Furthermore, the Code of Conduct Bureau should take their responsibilities on accountability very serious. they should ensure that at the end of each legislator's tenure, his/her assets and liabilities declared before taking his/her seat in the House of Assembly, as provided for by Section 54(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, are scrutinized and compared with the present worth of the legislator, if found to have illegally enrich himself/herself, he/she should be made to face the wrath of the law. Finally legal action should be taking against corrupt member of the house.



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