

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AS ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTOR IN NIGERIA: ROLES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

In the wake of democratic transition in the late-1980s, civil society organizations (CSOs) have emerged as critical actor in promoting democracy, human rights and rule of law. After the transition from military rule to civil rule in May 1999, CSOs have become dominant force in anti-corruption struggle following the ineffectiveness of the state anti-corruption initiatives. This article, based on secondary data, examines the roles and challenges of CSOs as anti-corruption actor. It argues that CSOs have contributed immensely in anticorruption struggle, they are however constrained by various challenges such as overhanging laws, general hostile disposition of state actors, limited space for engagement with the state in public policy process, the slow pace of justice delivery by the judiciary, a hollow sense of citizenship, accountability and state engagement. These challenges from the state and within the CSOs need to be tackle if the CSOs would be more effective as anti-corruption actor.

Keywords: the State, Civil Society, Anti-corruption, democratic transition