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Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Political Corruption: Implication for the Consolidation of Democracy in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the connection between democratic consolidation and political corruption which is deeply entrenched in the Nigerian society. Although successive regimes had established various anti-corruption bodies to curb corruption, all failed to yield positive results. Most of these anti-corruption bodies have rather reinforced corruption in the country by posing difficulties for the consolidation of democracy. The administration of Olusegun Obasanjo was seen as one that was serious about confronting the menace of corruption through its establishment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). The little impact which the EFCC had been able to achieve is criticized based on the fact that the arrest and prosecution is patchy, selective, and discriminatory. It is the position of the paper that the manner in which the EFCC operates is antithetical to the ideals, norms and values of democracy. It, therefore, suggests that for democracy to be consolidated in Nigeria, then the body charge with the responsibility of combating corruption should follow due process and fairness at all levels and in all cases. And also the body should be detached from the Presidency for fair, transparent and independent performance.