

An Empirical Diagnosis of the Maladies and Therapies of Budgeting in Nigeria

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Abstract : The national budget remains an integral part of the developmental plan of the economy of any country. The budget reflects the fundamental values underlying the government's economic policies and objectives and whose execution is expected to realize national/public desires. In Nigeria, over three decades budget had failed to deliver the desired benefits, suggesting the existence of infractions, which are yet to be empirically ascertained. This paper attempts a diagnosis of the infractions peculiar to Nigeria budgetary system and their suggested panacea. Data were collected through the administration of questionnaire to a cross section of organizations/institutions representing government agencies and the general public. Mann-Whitney U test was employed to gauge the consistency in perception of the two groups. The result revealed that budget indiscipline, official corruption, allocative inefficiency and poor budget governance are the most influential infractions of budgeting in Nigeria. Consequently, it was suggested that budget transparency, target budgeting, zero tolerance on corruption and budget discipline are the most cogent therapies to the malfunctioning in Nigerian budgetary system.

Keywords : budgeting, budget maladies, budget therapies, Nigeria

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