

# DEATH PENALTY NOT SOLUTION TO CORRUPTION

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Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have said that using death sentence to check corruption among government officials in Nigeria is not a solution.

The lawmakers disclosed this in separate interviews with our reporter over the weekend, saying that this would not provide solutions to the menace.

On her part, Hon. Funmilayo Tejuosho, representing Mushin constituency I, said death penalty would not be a solution to corruption in Nigeria as people are not perfect in giving judgments.

“I believe that sometime when things happen, people are not perfect when they give judgment, you can appeal the judgment. When they give someone death penalty, you might find out after such person didn’t do such things. “After death, you cannot bring that person back to life, it is only God that gives and takes life,” she said.

Tejuosho added that Nigerian should study why China adopted the system before embracing it.

She said that Nigeria should not adopt the Chinese system because China applied the system mainly to control her population. The lawmaker charged government at all levels to wake up to their responsibilities by providing essential infrastructure through the taxes collected from the people.

Tejuosho who is also the chairman House committee on Finance said if a civil servant knows that after 35 years of service, he would be entitled to a 3-bedroom apartment and some other benefits, he would not embark on corruption while in service. She went on: “We should look for a way to curb the menace of corruption, because people want to see the outcome of taxes being paid.

In his contribution, Hon. Sanai Agunbiade, representing Ikorodu I, said that corruption problem in Nigeria cannot be resolved through death penalty.

Agunbiade, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, said the country should not adopt such a system to tackle corruption as people were kicking against death penalty worldwide as punishment for corruption.

He said that the proposal would be subjected to the peoples’ choice to determine their demand. “If that is the opinion of the people so be it, but there are so many ways that corruption could be fought not the extreme punishment.

“People are kicking against death penalty worldwide, I don’t see any reason why Nigeria should adopt such system to tackle corruption now,” he said.

They however advocated the use of life imprisonment as a deterrent to others who might wish to engage in such social ills.

It would be recalled that controversies have trailed the Arewa Consultative Forum's demand for death penalty for corruption cases in Nigeria.