

## **Deregulation and Corruption in Nigeria: An Ethical Response**

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**KEYWORDS** Deregulation; privatization; corruption; ethics; accountability

**ABSTRACT** It has been widely accepted that one of the reasons for the efficient operation of capitalist economy, is deregulation and privatization. The discourse here centers on the ethical dimension of the level of corruption in Nigeria vis-à-vis deregulation. The question that looms large here is whether it is only the economy that has been deregulated or has corruption also been deregulated? This paper opines that the endemic problem that has bedeviled Nigeria over time, i.e. corruption both in low and high places, would have been appreciably reduced, if the managers of the political economy (leaders) had recognized and accepted the ethics of accountability. The paper further argues that corruption, as it seems, has been deregulated. It is the recommendation of this paper that Nigerians will only enjoy the merits of a thoroughly deregulated economy, if and only if a genuine attention is paid to the deregulated nature of corruption and leaders being made to be accountable in its all entirety.