TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, PROSPERITY AND CORRUPTION OUTLOOK IN AFRICA: A MEDIATION ANALYSIS

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc) DEGREE IN ECONOMICS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COLLEGE OF MANAGEMANT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY.

FEBRUARY, 2021

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Sciences in Economics in the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies**)** Signature & Date

DECLARATION

I, **AMONU, OGECHI CHIAGOZIE (12AF013295)** declares that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Ese Urhie of the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that the dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

AMONU, OGECHI CHIAGOZIE **Signature & Date**

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled **"TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, PROSPERITY AND CORRUPTION OUTLOOK IN AFRICA: A MEDIATION ANALYSIS"** is an original research work carried out by **AMONU, OGECHI CHIAGOZIE (12AF013295)** in the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Urhie Ese. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Economics.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Abba, the Creator of the ends of the earth, whose knowledge is past finding out.

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ABSTRACT

As the lowest scoring region on the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index with an average score of 32, Africa's performance gives a bleak impression of inaction against corruption. Though it is the second most populous continent on earth, Africa has the lowest internet penetration rate globally. Over the past decade, global prosperity has increased significantly but in Africa, some nations became poorer, while the bulk barely maintained the same level of average prosperity. This research empirically examines the role of technological innovation (internet access) in curbing corruption through prosperity, citing all 54 African countries as a case study. The mediating role of prosperity in estimating the effect of innovation on corruption was carried out by employing the Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International, Prosperity Index by Legatum Institute, and Individuals' access to Internet by WDI in the presence of some covariates. The coefficients of the direct, indirect and total effects showed that internet access can only be significant in reducing corruption if it first leads to socio-economic prosperity for individuals, households and African nations as a whole. Hence, this study recommends that to create more prosperity, internet access be made more accessible, and affordable in Africa. However, to reduce corruption, internet access must be engaged in activities that create national prosperity for all-jobs, profits, infrastructural development.

Keywords: Corruption, Prosperity, Technological Innovation, Internet Access, Mediation Analysis, Hayes.