

## FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE NIGERIAN PUBLIC SECTOR: THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME COMMISSION

**Abuh A. Paul**

Department of Social Sciences and Humanities,  
Federal Polytechnic Idah, Kogi State,  
Nigeria.

&

**Acho Yunusa**

Department of Accountancy,  
Federal Polytechnic Idah, Kogi State, Nigeria.

### **Abstract**

*Forensic accounting has been globally acclaimed to be a veritable tool in fighting economic and financial crime towards achieving economic stability. This paper titled: Forensic Accounting and Economic Stability in Nigerian Public Sector: The Role of Economic and Financial Crime Commission'' is written to examine whether the use of forensic accounting has helped in combating financial crimes in Nigeria public sector through the effort of EFCC. The study elicits data from primary and secondary sources while the sample size of 116 was obtained out of the total population of 164 using Taro Yamane sample size statistical technique. The method of data analysis is the 5 points likert scale for descriptive statistics and analysis of variance (ANOVA) in testing the research hypotheses. The paper concludes that application of forensic accounting skills and techniques has contributed immensely to in the investigation of complex financial crimes thereby enhancing economic stability. Therefore, the paper recommends that Government should institutionalized forensic accounting as a course of study in the field of accounting; necessary training should be given to the employees of anti-corruption agencies like EFCC in order to detect financial and other economic related crimes in Nigerian public sector while appropriate sanctions be applied when financial crime is detected where prosecution is considered appropriate. Finally, proper forensic procedures should be followed during investigation and trained professional forensic accountant be used in investigating economic and financial frauds in Nigerian public sector with the view to enhancing economic stability.*

**Keywords:** *Forensic Accounting, Economic stability, EFCC, Public sector.*

### **Introduction**

It has been observed that "public spending has always been large but this has become so massive recently that the public through its legislators is demanding to know whether the large outlays of finances are being spent judiciously or whether they should not be spent at all." It has also been noted several times that there are instances of fraudulent activities in public spending. Fraud is seen as a menace that has been impeding development of both public and private sectors respectively. The scenario of fraud continues to increase across public and private sector sectors and across nations globally. Financial crimes (fraud) is a universal constraint as no nation is exempted, although developing countries such as Nigeria and the various states suffered of this menace in the past and this has negatively affected the nations' economy. This has unarguably affected Nigerian economic growth and development. Therefore, it can be noted that not effectively addressing economic and financial crimes greatly negates the nations' economic stability.

Officials and employees in charge of public sector activities are by virtue of their responsibilities required to render adequate accounts of their activities to the public. The true and fair opinion on the financial statements by the statutory auditors is designed to give credibility to such financial reports. Thus, in turn, this is expected to induce confidence in the users of financial statements that wish to take an investment decision. However, going by the growing spate of corporate scandals and collapse of corporate organizations, empirical evidences has proved that is could be right to argue due to corruption and other fraudulent practices on the relevance and the credibility-building clause of the true and fair view opinion of the statutory auditor. Today, there are several modern organized financial crimes which affect the credibility of the financial statement and the true and fair view of the auditor.

The Nigerian public sector has been adversely been affected by this issue of organized financial crisis. Corruption and other financial crimes have seriously affected the development of Nigerian economy. This has made Nigerian government to identified critically and subject any financial crimes to forensic accounting to determine its financial effect of any financial crime on the sector or the economy at large. Accounting and auditing personnel are expected to have training and skills to recognize the various financial crimes, at the federal, state and the local levels to ensure the prospect in the areas of fraud prevention, deterrence, detection, investigation and remediation.

Forensic accounting is a rapidly growing area of accounting that describes the engagement that results from actual or anticipated discrepancies or litigations. "Forensic" means "suitable for use in a court of law", and it is to that standard that Forensic Accountants generally work. Forensic Accounting is an investigative style of accounting used to decide whether an individual or an organization has engaged in any illegal financial activities. Professional Forensic Accountant may work for government or public accounting firms. Although, forensic accounting has been in existence for several decades, it has evolved over time to include several types of financial information scrutiny. Forensic accounting is the application of financial skills and investigative mentality to unsettled issues, conducted within the context of the rules of evidence (Arokiasamy & Cristal, 2009). More so, Nigeria economic stability largely depends on various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, oil, services, transportation, overseas remittances, foreign aid, labour force and human capital (Ofodile, 2013). Thus, it is only the instrumentality of forensic accounting that can help in meeting the proper utilization of all these economic sectors towards realization of national goal. EFCC is an agency established to fight financial crimes in public sector of the economy. The activities of this agency are regulated by EFCC Act 2004.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In recent times, series of frauds have been identified both in the public sector and private sectors of the economy. This is no doubt perpetrated under the supervision of the internal auditors of most organizations. It suffices to say that the independent of the internal auditors are not guaranteed because they work as employees of the government or organization. Therefore the approach of external auditors was initiated, yet fraudulent activities are still being exhibited on routine basis and this is still on the increase. Consequently, Nigerian economic fortunes have been greatly affected due to the constant economic misfortune vis- a – vis activities of financial and economic fraudsters. Series of empirical evidence have also proved that there are more development both in the information Communication Technology (ICT) world and other fields, so fraudsters would continue to groom their own methods towards fraudulent practices. The last decades has been noted with financial instability, economic crises, financial scandals and lack of trust in capital markets. This has no doubt resulted to economic downfall. Of all these, financial fraud is a significant element regarded as a disastrous phenomenon difficult to pin under safe touchlines. Economically, financial fraud is becoming an increasingly serious calamity to both developed and developing nations. The detection of accounting fraud using traditional internal audit procedures is a difficult and sometimes an impossible task to accomplish.

Forensic accounting is professed to have advanced in reaction to certain emerging fraud connected cases. KPMG's Fraud Survey (As cited in Enofe, Agbonkolor & Edebiri 2015) reveals that more firms are recently experiencing incidents of fraud than in prior years and that organizations are looking for measures to combat this fraud. Ojaide (As cited in Nwosu 2015) noted that there is an alarming increase in the number of fraud and fraudulent activities in Nigeria, thereby requiring the visibility of forensic accounting services. Consequently, there is a general expectation that forensic accounting may be able to stem the tide of financial malfeasance. Emeh & Obi, (As cited in Enofe, Agbonkolor & Edebiri, 2015). Though, forensic accounting has been identified to be helpful in curbing this financial crime, but one major problem is that the populace lacks the required knowledge of forensic accounting thereby making it difficult to eradicate this financial crime which consequently results to economic instability. It is against this backdrop that this study is being carried out to examine the extent in which forensic accounting enhancing detecting of economic and financial crimes as well as improving Nigerian economic stability.

### **Statement of Hypotheses**

#### **Hypothesis 1:**

The use of forensic accounting does not have impact on economic stability in Nigeria.

#### **Hypothesis 2:**

Forensic accounting in Nigeria does not lead to the reduction of financial crime in the public sector.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The globally acclaimed primitive recognized evidence of forensic accounting has been traced to an advertisement in a newspaper in Glasgow Scotland, appearing in 1824. At that time, arbiters, courts, and counsels, normally used forensic accountants to investigate fraudulent activities. However, it was not until the early 1900s in the United States and England, although the coining of the term Forensic Accounting by Peloubet is said to date back to 1946, therefore, the practice is relatively new in Nigeria (Kasum, 2009). Forensic accounting has been variously defined by several authors' giving their divergent opinions. Forensic Accounting is an amalgam of forensic sciences and accounting. Forensic science according to Crumbley (2003) may be viewed as application of the laws of nature to the laws of man." The author also refers to forensic scientists as trained examiners and interpreters of evidence and empirical facts in legal cases that also requires expert opinions regarding their findings in court of law. The science in question here is accounting science, which means that the examination and interpretation will be of economic information. Bologna & Lindquist (As cited in Okeye & Gbegi, 2013) defined forensic and investigative accounting which is the application of financial techniques and an inquisitive mind to controversial matters, carried within the context of the rules of evidence. More so, as a field of study, it encompasses financial expertise, basic fraud knowledge, and a sound skill and understanding of business reality and the working of the legal system. Its development has been basically accomplished with the instrumentality of on-the-job training as well as cognitive experiences as investigating officers and legal counsel.

Economic stability deals with the cumulative economic attributes such as the fiscal policy, debt policy, activities of the private and public sectors (Crumbley, 2003). For every nations economy to be stable emphasis must be anchored on cumulatively avoiding macro – economic risks, increased exports of its local commodity, improves local consolidated revenues as well as improved manufacturing activities. Monetary economics which according to Kasum (2009) is the primary instrument for the nations' open market operation. Thus, this requires effective management of money in circulation with the techniques of exchange of various financial instruments. This would be not only lead to economic stability but also serves as veritable tool in strengthening the operational lapses for economic and financial crimes.

In many quarters, forensic accounting is equated to financial audit but they are miles apart. According to Kranacher *et al* (As cited in Okoye & Gbegi, 2013) Forensic accounting is likely to be similar in several ways to a statutory audit of financial information, in that it will include a planning stage, a period when evidence is gathered, a review process, and a report to the client. The difference would be to identify if a fraud had actually taken place, to identify those involved, to quantify the monetary amount of the fraud (i.e. the financial loss suffered by the client), and to ultimately present findings to the Board of client and potentially to court.

Forensic accounting is usually described as the integration of accounting and auditing skills with investigative techniques and professional skepticism. Also, Manning (As cited in Izedonmi & Ibadin, 2012) stated that forensic accounting is the combination of accounting, auditing and investigative skills to a standard which is required by a court of jurisdiction to address issues in dispute in the context of civil and criminal litigation. Forensic accounting can invariably be defined as the practice of rigorous data collection and systematic analysis in the areas of litigation support, consulting, expert witnessing, and fraud examination, this measures largely contributes to the nations' economic stability and improves the living standard of the citizens, Rezaee, Crumbly & Elmore, 2003;2004 (As cited in Okeye & Gbegi, 2013). Forensic Accounting is the applications of specialized knowledge and specific skills to stumble up on the evidence of economic transactions.

Simply put, forensic accounting is branch of accounting that is suitable for legal review offering the topmost height of confidence thus includes the new widely accepted understanding of being arrived at in a scientific fashion, Crumbly 2006(As cited in Okoye & Gbegi, 2013). Coewen (As cited in Azih & Okoli, 2015) stated that forensic accounting involves the application of accounting concepts and techniques to a legal problem. Howard and Sheetz (As cited in Kennedy & Anyaduba, 2013) defines forensic accounting as the systematic process of interpreting, summarizing and presenting holistic financial matters clearly, unequivocally and sometimes in a court of law as an expert. Mehta and Mathur,(As cited in Okoye & Gbegi, 2013) posited that forensic accounting involves a financial detective with an inquisitive mind, a financial bloodhound, individual with a deep thought that enables reconstruction of past accounting transactions and an individual who looks beyond the numbers.

In the view of Dagboro and Olofinsola (As cited in Kennedy & Anyaduba, 2013), Forensic accounting is the application of criminalities methods and integration of the accounting investigative activities and law procedures to detect and investigate financial crimes and related economic misdeeds. To them, Forensic accounting is a highly technical and specialized area of practice within the principles, norms and ethics of accounting profession. They further noted that it is not every forensic accounting engagement that ends up in the court of law. The harmonization of accounting, auditing and investigative skills leads to special field known as forensic accounting. Crumbly, (As cited in Okoye & Gbegi, 2013). Therefore, forensic accounting deals with the interpretation and integration of financial statement by forensic accountants as to whether or not it shows a true and just view in the court of law. Hence, the activities of forensic accountants have played a significant role to the nation's economy.

### **The Nigerian Public Sector**

According to Appiah (2010) the public sector is the part of the economy identified with providing various public services. The composition of the public sector varies by country, but in most nations like Nigeria, the public sector include services such as Military, Police, basic Infrastructure (public roads, bridges, tunnels, water supply, electrical grids, telecommunications etc.), public transit, public education, along with health care and those working for the government itself, such as elected officials. The public sector might provide several services that a non-payer cannot be excluded from like street light. Such services which benefits all the society rather than just the individual who uses the services.

Firms and organizations that are not part of the public sector are part of the Private sector. The private sector is composed of the enterprises sector which is intended to earn a profit for the owners of the enterprise, and the voluntary sector which include the charitable organizations.

The organization of the public sector (public ownership) can take several forms, including;

- Direct administration managed through taxation: The delivering organization generally has no specific requirement to meet commercial success criteria, and production decisions are determined by the public.
- Public owned corporations (in some context especially manufacturing, state owned enterprises), which differs from direct administration is that they have greater commercial freedom and are expected to float according to commercial criteria and production decisions are not generally taken by government (although goals may be set for them by government).
- Levels of public sector are organized at three levels; Federal or National, Regional (state or provincial), and Local (municipal or country).
- Partial out sourcing (of the scale many business do, e.g. for IT services) is considered a public sector model.

A boarder line form is as follows:

- ✓ Complete out sourcing or contracting out, with a privately owned corporation delivering the whole services on behalf of the government. This may be considered a mixture of private sector operations with public ownership of assets, although in some firms the private sectors controls and or risk is so great that the services may no longer considered part of the public sector (Bar Lo *et al*, 2010).
- ✓ Public employee union represents workers since contract negotiations for this employees are dependent on the size of government budgets. This one segment of labour movement that can actually contribute directly to the people with ultimate responsibility for its livelihood. While their giving pattern matches that of other union. Public sector union also concentrates contributions on members of congress from both parties who sit on committees that deal with federal budget or organizations.

### **Uses of Forensic Accounting in the Public Sector**

The use of forensic accounting in public sector cannot be underestimated since it had been useful in the reducing the rate of financial crimes in both public and private sectors of the economy. Forensic accounting has been used in calculation of economic damage, determining the level of bankruptcy or insolvency for an organization, act as a guide in re-organization of organizational financial activities, used to check on security fraud, used for valuation of a business, using electronic means to discover certain facts and handling of cases like money laundering etc. Forensic accounting expert opinion is useful in litigation involving loss of profits, breaches of contract, fraud, tax investigations and professional negligence. Much of Forensic accounting as described by Krell (As cited in Okoye & Gbegi, 2013) involves an exhaustive, detailed effort to penetrate concealment tactics.

Appiah (2010) noted that issues of fraud is rampart in the Nigerian public sector to the extent that every segment of the public service could seem to be involved in one way or the other in some of the nasty acts. Fraud causes large loss to the business world and creates morale problems in the workplace. Fraud losses are serious problems to the organizations that need to be managed, controlled and monitored. He further observed that the act of fraud investigation comprises of several activities including preliminary discovery, public record search, interviews of various types of document recovery and search, legal prosecution and computer forensic. This calls for forensic accounting to be used in the public enterprises for easy detection of fraudulent practices in the public sector. Forensic accounting seeks out errors, operational vagaries and deviant transactions before they crystallize into fraud. This could go a long way in preventing “legacy crimes” where the perpetrators have tampered with the footprints and audit trails and left the organization.

Agreeing to this view Okoye & Gbegi (2013) stated that it is pertinent that forensic accounting be introduced and practiced since the external auditors do not or may not have the required training to be able to tackle modern frauds like white collar crimes such as security fraud, embezzlement, bankruptcies, contract disputes and possible criminal financial transaction including money laundering by organized criminals, also is the ability of the forensic accountant to provide litigation support for investigative accounting. The forensic accountant tries to fish out errors, vagueness in operations and poorly recorded transactions before they culminate into fraudulent practices. This could be based on the fact that forensic accounting involves identifying, recording, extracting, reporting and verifying past financial data necessary for settling prospective legal disputes or using the required information to settle past financial data in legal disputes.

### **Forensic Accounting Techniques Used In Detecting Fraud in Nigerian Public Sector and its Role on Economic Stability**

Internal control systems have been described as the basic means of preventing and detecting fraud (Wells, 2008). However, Barra (2010) observed that, what constitutes an effective internal control system is more of opinions that are based on definite knowledge established through research. Mayes & Baker (2003) carried out a survey on auditing belief about the fraud detection effectiveness of standard audit procedures. The result showed that out of the 218 standard audit procedures, 56 were considered more effective in fraud detection. This study further reveals that the most effective procedures were those that are related to internal control in terms of its existence and strength.

Also, Bierstaker, Burnaby & Hass (2004), investigated the extent to which internal auditors used the perceived effectiveness of the various fraud prevention and detection mechanisms. The outcome of the study suggest that internal control review and improvement, operational audits and reference checks on employees were the commonly used mechanisms of fraud prevention and detection, yet software and digital analysis with generally high rating of effectiveness were the fast often used. Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) 2008 has provided relevant findings regarding how fraud can be uncovered using the formal mechanisms such as internal audits and internal control features. Nevertheless, informal techniques have served as the most frequent precursor to fraud detection. About 42 percent of fraud precursors have come through tips, 23 percent through internal control, 20 percent by outsiders and 19 percent by internal audit, external audit and the police account for about 9 and 3 percent respectively (ACFE, 2008; Drew & Drew, 2010).

It has been noted that an effective internal control system is not protected against fraud (Blake, 2011). However, Mushmat & Hamid (2012) examined the role of internal audit in fraud prevention in government owned hospitals in a Nigerian setting. Through survey research design, the study revealed that audit staff in the hospital lacks the basic knowledge of fraud prevention, thereby making the hospital to be more prone to fraudulent practices. While the study reveals that Audit staff tried to prevent some fraud incidence in the hospital, the auditors have ever believed that if better skill is acquired the unit could perform better. This implies that, internal control do not deter fraudsters from committing fraud. Moreover, accounting literature has accepted the fact that the effectiveness of internal system can be weakened by collusion (Barra and Griggs, 2007). Therefore, the need for the understanding of forensic accounting technique cannot be overemphasized. Specifically, Mushmat & Hamid (2012) noted that forensic accounting techniques has been able to improve the nations ' economic fortunes through building of confidence in investors at the private sector as well as improving the corporate image of public institutions and reducing cost of doing business in Nigeria.

The following are techniques used in forensic accounting.

- Demonstrates how to use Access, Excel and Power Point in a forensic setting
- Explores use of statistical techniques such as Benford's law, descriptive statistics, and correlation fine-series analysis to detect fraud errors.

- Detection of financial statement fraud using various statistical approaches.
- Explores how to score locations, agents, customers or employees for fraud risk.

## Research Methodology

### Research Design

The research design adopted is based on survey method. In doing this questionnaires were used as a method of seeking information and classification of data were also obtained where appropriate. The study sought the views of respondents from selected ministries in Kogi State on forensic accounting as a tool for fighting financial crime in the Nigerian public sector through the administration of questionnaire. The questionnaires consist of two main sections. The first section of the questionnaire elicits background information from the respondents, while the second section of the questionnaire elicits information about forensic accounting as a tool for fighting financial crime in Nigerian public sector. For the distribution of the questionnaire respondents were randomly selected in accounting departments in ministries of finance, education, and health given credence to the senior accounting officers believing to have the knowledge of forensic accounting.

### Population of the study

The population of this research comprises of all staff in the accounting departments in the ministries of finance, education and health which empirical evidence showed that they are (164) one hundred and sixty four.

### Sampling Techniques /Sampling Size

The sample size is usually the type of size gotten from the population. Since a sample size is usually a compromise between what is desirable and what is feasible. For the purpose of this study (116) respondents from accounts departments in the ministries of finance, education and health was selected as a sample. The researchers used a non probability sampling to select 116 staff of the selected ministries. However, out of the total questionnaires distributed only 80 were duly completed and returned given retrieval rate of 69%. Hence the use of statistical formula was adopted to arrive at the sample size 'n' with 5% level of significance (Adefila, 2008).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Where: n = sample size

N = population size  
 e = level of significance  
 I = constant

$$n = \frac{164}{1 + 164(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{164}{1 + 164(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{164}{1.41}$$

$$n = 116$$

The sample sizes of 116 selected from the ministries are tabulated below:

**Table 1. Population and sample size**

S/NO	Ministries	Population	Sample
1	Finance	73	52
2	Education	41	29
3	Health	50	35
Total		164	116

Source: Field Research, (2018).

### Method of Data Collection

The method through which data were gathered and sampled to facilitate this research is primary and secondary methods of data collection. In addition, the researchers used closed ended questionnaires in order to source information from the respondents. The questionnaire was structured in 5 points - likert rating scale: where strongly agree (SA) = 5 points, Agree (A) = 4 points, Undecided (U) =3, Disagree (SD) = 2 points, and Strongly disagree (D) = 1 points.

### Method of Data Analysis

The study adopts tables, percentages and mean in analysis of data collected from the respondents. The statistical tool used for testing of the hypotheses is the analysis of variance (ANOVA). The formula is given below:

### Test of Hypothesis

The hypothesis earlier formulated would be tested using ANOVA.

#### Hypothesis I:

Ho: The use of forensic accounting does not have impact on economic stability in Nigeria.

#### ANOVA SUMMARY TABLE

Source	SS	DF	MS	Fcal
Between	1523.4	4	380.85	90.7
Within	241	5	48.2	
Total	1764.4	9		

Critical value at 5% level of significance with degree of freedom 4 to 5 is 5.19

**Decision rule:** Since the calculated value of 90.7 is greater than the critical value of 5.19, the alternative hypothesis (Hi) is accepted and the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected. Therefore, the study concludes that the use of forensic accounting have impact on economic stability in Nigeria.

#### Hypothesis 2:

Ho: Forensic accounting in Nigeria does not lead to the reduction of financial crimes in the Nigerian public sector.

#### ANOVA Summary table

Source	SS	DF	MS	F.cal
Between	2007.6	4	501.9	22.61
Within	222	10	22.2	
Total	2229.6	14		

Critical value of 5% level of significance with degree of freedom 4 to 10 is 3.48



**Decision rule:** Since the calculated value of 22.61 is greater than the critical value of 3.48, the null hypothesis (Ho) stands rejected and the alternative hypothesis (Hi) is accepted. Therefore, the study concludes that forensic accounting leads to the reduction of financial crime in the public sector.

### **Conclusion**

Forensic accounting practices are neither new to developed nor developing nations like Nigeria. Financial crime in the Nigerian public sector is alarming and is not only crumbling the economy but also affecting the nation standard of living and cooperate image outside the shore of Nigeria. Conclusively, this study has analyzed why concrete attention should be given to the problem of financial crimes in the Nigerian public sector with the aid of forensic accounting. It has been discussed and it should be emphasized that whether within the business world or in the public sector, the ultimate responsibility for investigating financial crime cases rest with anti-corruption agency (EFCC) while discouraging and preventing financial crime and corrupt practices rest with the government and management but specifically forensic accountants. Above all, result of the study reveals that the uses of forensic accounting reduce the rate of financial crimes in the Nigerian public sector thereby leading to economic stability. The application of forensic accounting skills and techniques has contributed immensely to anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria in the investigation of complex financial crimes.

### **Recommendations**

Consequent upon several findings from this research, the study therefore recommends that Government through tertiary institutions and Professional cooperate organisations should institutionalized forensic accounting as a course of study so as to strengthen and consolidate the skills required to detect economic and financial crimes effectively. More so, economic variables that affect financial related matters should be rigorously harmonised in order to broaden the socio-economic fortunes of the citizenries. In addition, necessary periodic training should be given to forensic accountants as well as employees of anti-corruption agencies such as EFCC, ICPC in order to detect financial crime in Nigerian public sector as this would go a long way in improving the nation's economy. Appropriate sanctions should be applied when financial crimes are detected where prosecution is considered appropriate. More so, proper forensic procedures should be followed during investigation and trained professional forensic accountants be used in investigating financial and economic related cases. For the Nigerian public sector to properly embrace the practice of forensic accounting, the set standard required to detect economic and financial crimes be modernized and streamlined to meet up with modern technology and international best practices. In addition, more professional accountants in the area of forensic accounting should be employed by government to facilitate the processes of detecting economic and financial crimes. Finally, employees should be well motivated by government to encourage them carryout their duties properly as this measure will discourage them from indulging in economic and financial crimes.

### **References**

- Adefila, J.J. (2008). *Research Methodology in the Behavioural Sciences*. Kaduna: Aprni Publication
- Alabdullah, T.Y. Alfad, M.M. Yahaya S. & Rab, A.M (2014). The Role of Forensic Accounting in Reducing Financial Corruption, *International Journal of Business and Management*. Vol. 9 (1), 26-34
- Anyanwu, A. (2000). *Research Methodology in Business and Social Science*. Owerri: First Publication.
- Arokiasamy, L.& Cristal-lee, S. (2009). Forensic Accounting: public acceptance towards occurrence of fraud Detection. *International Journal of Business and Management*. 8(3).
- Azih, N. & Okoli, B. E (2015). Forensic Accounting as a veritable tool for efficient management of state owned public sectors in Ebonyi State: The Accountants perspective. *British Journal of Education* 3 (8), 55-62

- Bressler. L. (n.d). The role of forensic accountants in fraud investigations: Importance of attorney and judge's perceptions. *Journal of Finance and Accountancy*. 1-9
- Crumbley, D. L. (2001). *Forensic accounting: Older than you think*. *JFA*, 2(2),181
- Egbulonu, K. G. (2009). *Statistical Inference for Science and Business*. Owerri: Peace Publication
- Enofe, A.R., Agbonkpolor, O. R. & Edebiri, O. J. (2015). Forensic Accounting and Financial Fraud. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*. 2 (10).
- Gbegi, D.O. & Adebisi J.F. (2014). Forensic Accounting Skills and Techniques in Fraud Investigation in Nigerian Public Sector. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Science*. Vol. 5
- Izedonmi, F. & Ibadin, P. O. (2012). Forensic Accounting and Financial Crimes: Adopting the Inference, Relevance and Logic Solution Approach, *International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia*. Vol. 6 (4) pp. 125-139
- Joshi, M. S. (2003). Definition of Forensic Accounting. Retrieved on May 22, 2010, [www.forensicaccounting.com](http://www.forensicaccounting.com)
- Kennedy P.M. Anyaduba J.O. (2013). Forensic Accounting and Financial Fraud in Nigeria: An Empirical Approach. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*. Vol. 4 (7) pp 281-289
- Les N. Brian L. M. Carrie W. & Eric J. (2006). Forensic Accountants: Financial Investigators. *Journal of Business and Economics Research*. Vol. 4 (2) pp 1-6
- Nwosu, M. E (2015). Forensic Auditing and Financial Accounting in Nigeria: An Assessment. *International Journal of Economics and Management* 2 (4) pp. 6-12
- Ofordile, U.D (2013). Public Sector Accounting: the Nigerian Experience. *International Journal of Accounting*. Vol. 2 (8): PP. 444-451
- Okoye, E.I. & Gbegi, D.O. (2013). Forensic Accounting: A Tool for Fraud Detection and Prevention in the Public Sector. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences* 3(3) pp. 1-19