

Forensic Accounting as a Tool for Fraud Prevention in the Deposit Money Bank in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Key Words: Community, Development, Driven, Project, Rural, Ward

This study aimed at examining effect of forensic accounting as a tool for fraud prevention in the money deposit bank. The study seeks to ascertain the effectiveness of forensic accounting procedures in detecting fraud in money deposit. Secondary data were used for the study. A sample size of 120 was determined from a population of some selected staff of money deposit banks. The stratified sampling technique was used in selecting the sample sizes. Questionnaire was the main instrument of data collection and were analyzed using the descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that forensic accounting procedures are effective in detecting fraud in money deposit banks, forensic accounting have significant role in the management of financial resources allocated to money deposit banks, Forensic accountant is effective in curbing fraudulent activities in money deposit banks. It is therefore recommended that forensic accounting mechanisms and the use of forensic accountants services which have been perceived most effective methods should be encouraged at all levels of money deposit bank activities.

1. Introduction

Financial irregularities, frauds and corruptions are severe problems of concern globally. Fraud has been committed in most cases by those who are in the higher authority, entrusted with responsibility of taking care of funds which has made fraud to become a normal part of life in our society today. Those who should have first-hand information in these matters are those who are usually investigated (Nwaze 2020). Studies have shown that the amount of the loss businesses suffer as a result of their employees' fraudulent activities is far greater than the loss they suffer because of the customers (Ademola, 2019).

One of the key issues is that corporate failures have placed greater responsibility and function on accountants to equip themselves with skills to

identify and act upon indicator of poor corporate governance, frauds mismanagement and other wrong doings. It has become necessary for accountants at all levels to have the requisite skills and knowledge for identifying, discovering as well as preserving the evidence of all forms of irregularities and fraud. As a result of this user of financial statement, the general public expected a lot more from external auditor and accountants. Therefore fraud requires a more sophisticated approach from preventive to detection (Degboro, 2016).

The alarming rate of fraudulent activities had prompted corporate organizations to hire forensic accountants to discover through investigation, various types of wrongdoing in one hand and prevent

such occurrence on the other (Ademola, 2017). According to Degboro and Olofinsola (2017), forensic accounting has established itself as dynamic and strategic tool in combating corruption, crime and frauds through investigations and resolving allegations of frauds and embezzlements. According Bologna and Lindquistn (2015) asserted that forensic accounting as a discipline encompasses fraud knowledge, financial expertise, and a sound knowledge and understanding of business reality and the working of the legal system. Forensic accounting may be one of the most effective and efficient way to decrease and check accounting fraud. Presently, forensic accounting is gaining popularity worldwide. It has been difficulty as a major course for our educational institutions in many countries of the world. Accounting investigative style in forensic accounting used to determine if individual or organization has really engaged in any illegal financial activities.

Although, forensic accounting has been in existence for several decades, it has evolved over time to include several types of financial information scrutiny (Bologna and Lindquistn, 2015).

Forensic accounting is said to bring significant improvement to the quality of fraud prevention in Nigerian banks. It is against this background this study is undertaken to empirically study the effect of forensic accounting as a tool for fraud prevention in Nigerian bank.

Statement of the Problem

Fraud seems to have increased as new technology is born and more advanced technologies of enhancing business transactions have been developed (Enyi, 2012). Fraud in financial activities today has grown wild, and the emergence of computer software alongside with the advent of internet facilities has compounded the problem of financial crimes. Besides, the detection of these whole crimes are made more difficult and committing these crimes much easier as the case may be. The versatile of accounting services and the incapacity of the statutory auditors has further increase constrained by the related clauses in the company laws and standards, present very visible and poor show of the fight against financial crimes in corporate organizations. While varied financial crimes in the organizations take different dimensions, some basic

and common financial crimes have raised issues and find expression in employee theft, payroll frauds, and fraudulent billing systems as a platform, management theft, corporate frauds, financial institutions and insurance fraud, among others. All these, no doubt, remain outside the ambit of the statutory auditor to report on except he is placed on inquiry.

The statutory auditor is not primarily bound to detect fraud and errors. His responsibility is defined by Sec. 359 (CAMA, 2004) and the relevant auditing standards. Therefore the consequences and the effects of financial crimes in corporate organization are very grave where no one else acts. It responds simply to the growing sophistication and awareness of these crimes. Forensic accounting encompasses three major areas of investigation, dispute resolution and litigation support.

The researcher therefore aims at examine the effect of forensic accounting characteristic on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide this study:

To what extent does investigative approach of forensic audit affect fraud detection in deposit money banks in Nigeria?

Does litigate approach of forensic audit affect fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money banks?

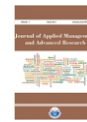
To what extend does accounting skill approach of forensic audit affect fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank?

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study is to assess the effect of forensic accounting practice and fraud detection and prevention in Nigerian deposit money banks. The specific objectives are to:

Find out if investigative approach of forensic accounting can lead to fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money banks.

Evaluate if using litigative approach of forensic accounting can help in the detection of fraud in



Nigerian deposit money banks.

Find out if accounting skill approach of forensic accounting can assist in the detection of fraud in Nigerian deposit money banks.

Statement of the Hypotheses

This study shall formulate null hypotheses to guide the study

H_{01} : Investigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant effect on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

H_{02} : Litigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

H_{03} : Accounting skill approach of forensic accounting has no significant effect on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

2. Review of Related Literature

Concept of Forensic Accounting

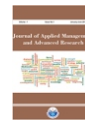
Forensic auditing as an accounting analysis that can uncover possible fraud that is suitable for presentation in court. A forensic accountant uses his knowledge of accounting, law, investigative auditing, criminology and psychology to uncover fraud committed either tensional or intentional, find evidence and present such evidence in court if required. According to him, forensic accounting is different from the old debit or credit accounting as it provides an accounting analysis that is suitable to the organization, which will help in resolving the disputes that arise within the organization. They further stated that the primary aim of forensic auditing is fraud detection, unlike the traditional auditing that focuses on review of internal control system, error identification and prevention (Adekule, 2016). Forensic auditors are experienced auditors, accountants, and investigators of legal and financial documents that are hired to look into possible suspicious of fraudulent activity within a company; or even hired by a company who may just want to prevent fraudulent activities from happened. It demands reporting, where accountability of the fraud is established and the report is considered as evidence in the court of law or in administrative proceedings (Fula, 2014).

As a forensic accountants you might involved in recovering proceeds of crime and in relation to confiscation proceedings concerning actual or assumed proceeds of crime or money laundering involved. In the United Kingdom, relevant legislation is contained in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2017. Investigative accounting, which is also known as forensic accounting is a detailed examination and analysis of financial documents and records for use as evidence in a court of law. The term forensic accounting can refer to anything from the execution of a fraud analysis to the recreation of true accounting records after the discovering that they have been manipulated.

Forensic accounting contribution toward fighting against financial crime in this present can be categorized in encompassing litigation support and investigative accounting. These two major categories form the core around which other supporting services that traditionally come within the sphere of investigative services revolve – including corporate intelligence and fraud investigation services. As a good forensic accountant, to discharge his functions effectively, a forensic auditor needs to possess certain qualities and skills. Crumbley (2013) identified the following as qualities of a forensic auditor; a good knowledge of financial and managerial accounting, corporate financial management, advanced computer skills, a good knowledge of the environment experience, strong communication skills, and a naturally suspicious state of mind. On the other hand, Singleton, (2016) opine that the forensic auditor is he is to succeed in his work, should have knowledge and understanding of fraudulent financial transactions, legal processes, and high acumen of fraud and criminological concepts and above all investigative skills.

Concept of Fraud

Fraud was defined as “deceit, trickery, sharp practice, or breach of confidence, perpetrated for profit or to gain some unfair or dishonest advantage” (Adeyemo, 2012). Also, another definition given by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners defines fraud as “any illegal acts characterized by deceit, concealment or violation of trust. These acts are not dependent on the application of threat of violence or physical force”. Frauds are committed by individuals or organizations to obtain money,



property or services; to avoid payment or loss of services; or to secure personal or business advantage.

Awe (2005) defined fraud as the intentional alteration of records which accompanies by the defalcation of asset in order to deceive certain group of people for the benefit of the perpetrator. Although not all frauds are accompanied by the defalcation of asset but majority of frauds perpetrated by low and middle officers normally involve the defalcation of asset.

Kirk (2015), fraud means an act of dishonest, deceit and imposture. A person who pretend to be what he's not is a fraud, a snare a deceptive trick and a cheat. Fraud covers a range of irregularities and illegal acts characterized by intentional deception. It can be perpetrated for the benefit of or to the detriment of the organization and by persons outside as well as inside the organization. It can be seen also as diverse means which is used by resourceful people to get an advantage over another by suppressing the truth, false suggestions trickery misinformation, cunning, deceit and other methods by which to cheat.

By extension, fraud is clued embezzlement, theft, or any attempt to steal or unlawfully obtain the assets of banks (see also Revised Bank Administration Institute, 2011). Employees, customers, collude with others within and outside the bank to commit fraud. Frauds are not new in banks; they are as old as the industry itself. Therefore, it is not surprising when it is realized that many Nigerians have chosen to become a sudden millionaires by engaging themselves in all sort of manner and activities that is constitutionally and traditionally wrong all in the name of becoming millionaire overnight, as a result of this fraudsters launch different attack on the bank with the wrong notion that the banking sectors is one of the most buoyant and the most profitable sector of economy.

It is believe that the banks make a lot of profit annually and is always liquid. Consequently, any amount of financial loose to bank will not materially affects its operation existence however, this is not correct, because the published accounts of some banks show that some of their banks cannot even fully provide for losses sustained through fraud in their accounts. In view of this, management control

systems aimed at preventing fraud and reducing fraud to its barest minimum.

However, for the purpose of this paper, the study will employ the perpetrators criteria stated by Adeyemo (2012); management fraud of the banks (otherwise referred to as management fraud) insiders. These perpetrators are purely the employees of the banks. These include customers and/or non-customers of the banks, outsiders/insiders. This is collaboration of the bank staff and outsiders as described.

Concept of Detection of Fraud

The majority of successful cases occur as a result of tip-off (internal or external), whistle blowing e.g. using hotline for reporting fraud incidents. According to Bello (2012) fraud by its nature cannot be detected easily and this encourages the activities of fraudsters. Those who commit this fraud sincerely believes that they will not be caught and due to this belief, a good number of fraud have taken place without being noticed.

Fraud is usually committed secretly and cannot be detected without the cooperation of the bank staff and the members of the public. The existing laws do not provide for detection of fraud as a primary responsibility of auditors.

Moyes and Baker (2003) in Abiola (2009) conducted survey of practicing auditors concerning the fraud detection effectiveness of 218 standard audit procedures. Results indicate that 56 out of 218 procedures were considered more effective in detecting fraud. In general the most effective procedures were those yielding evidence about the existence and or the strength of internal control. McNamee (1999) introduced risk assessment as a tool to help to detect and deal with fraud in operations of organizations. He explained that managers had to take responsibilities to locate fraud. Furthermore managers could use this technique to identify and prioritizes the most likely business processes assessment.

Concept of Prevention of Fraud

In order to prevent fraud in small business organizations, most previous literature suggested reviews on fraud prevention policy within company, company's internal control and attention on code of ethics amongst members of organization. In addition

some researchers go further by proposing new ideas such as the implementation of fraud auditing and forensic accounting. These are attempts to minimize the likelihood of crime from occurring in small business organization.

The greatest part of fraud committed do occur in a small-business environment. A loss of 6% of revenues is significant for any company, however large, but a small operation whose margins are thin and reserves non-existent will go out of business. Even if an operation survives the fiscal loss, its business continuity can be in jeopardy and it may no longer be able to function as an independent entity. Failing to address these issues places a company at a competitive disadvantage when fraud becomes a cost of doing business.

Fraud is a business risk in just the same way as an organization faces the risk of a customer becoming insolvent and unable to pay their debts. The absence of an established policy means no position has been taken by the business. Therefore, the company has to come up with fraud prevention policy, for the business to communicate to its employees what is expected from them in terms of preventing, deterring and detecting fraud. Such a policy is essential as fraud prevention must always be proactive.

Fraud and Nigerian Deposit Money Banks

The enormity of bank fraud in Nigeria can be inferred from its value, volume and actual loss. As a result of this practice, it leads to a diminishing effect in the asset quality of banks. The problem is more dangerous when accompanied by insider loan abuses. Indeed, the first generation of liquidated banks by NDIC was largely a consequence of frauds perpetrated through insider loan abuses. If this problem is not adequately handled, it could lead to distress and bank failures.

Fraud increases the operating cost of a bank because of the added cost of installing the necessary machinery for its prevention, detection and protection of assets. Moreover, devoting valuable time to safeguarding its asset from fraudulent men distracts management. Overall, this unproductive diversion of resources always reduces outputs and lead to low profit which in turn could retard the growth of the bank. Fraud leads to loss of money, which belongs to either the bank or customers. Such

losses may be absorbed by the profits for the affected trading period and this consequently reduces the amount of profit, which would have been available for distribution shareholders. Losses from fraud which are absorbed to equity capital of the bank impairs the bank's financial health and constraints its ability to extend loans and advances for profitable operations. In extreme cases, rampant and large incidents of fraud could lead to bank's failure.

Theoretical Framework

White Collar Crime Theory

The basic theory that has been established in this research work is white collar crime theory by Sutherland (1949) as cited in Michael (2014). The term white-collar crime dated back to 1933. Sutherland (1949) as cited in Michael (2004) was the first to coin the term, and hypothesis white-collar criminals, attributed different characteristics and motives than just street criminals. Sutherland originally presented his theory in an address to the American Sociological society in attempt to study two field, crime and high society which had no previous empirical correlation. He defined his ideal as "crime committed by a person respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation (Sutherland 1949, cited in Michael 2004). Sutherland noted that in his time, less than two (2) percent of the persons committed to prison in a year belong to the upper class". His goal was to prove a relation between money, social status and likelihood of going to jail for a white-collar crime, compared to more visible, typical crimes, although, the percentage is a bit higher today.

Much of Sutherlands work was to separate and define the difference in blue collar street crimes, such as arson, burglary, theft, assault, rape and vandalism which are often blamed on psychological, associational and structural factors. Finally, the three theories offer a better view of the factors leading to fraud. The three expressed why individual go into fraud and how it can be curtailed which is in line with the objective of the study.

3. Methodology

The study adopts a correlation research design. This design is considered most appropriate for this study because it allows for testing of expected relationship between two or more variables and the making of

predictions regarding these relationships. The target population of this study consists of staff of money deposit banks from the following department: audit, legal and prosecution, financial intelligence and forensic. The total senior staff members from the above departments of the deposit money banks are

one hundred and twenty (120) as obtained from the banks staff deposition list through their administrative department.

4. Results and interpretation Analysis of Data

Table 1: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
71.9	11

Source: Researcher's computation using SPSS 20.0

George and Mallery (2003) provided the following rules of thumb for the cronbach alpha: > .9 is Excellent, > .8 is Good, > .7 is Acceptable, > .6 is Questionable, > .5 is Poor, and < .5 is Unacceptable". Hence, the Cronbach alpha of 71.9% for this study is acceptable and it means that the questionnaire designed for the research work is a good instrument for the study's objectives.

Investigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant effect on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

This sub-section presents and analyses the data generated on the effectiveness of Forensic accounting procedures in detecting errors and fraud in deposit money banks in Nigeria

Table 4.2.1 shows the responses to the Likert-scale question, the sample mean (\bar{x}), and the sample standard deviation (δ) score. For the question on whether financial fraud can be prevented or at least reduced to minimal level with the use of forensic accounting, the responses show that mean score of 3.8456 which is above the average mean of 3.00. The respondents strongly agree that financial fraud can be prevented or at least reduced to minimal level with the use of forensic accounting. Question 2 also shows that forensic accounting prevents fraudulent behaviours as indicated by the mean score of 3.723 which is above the average mean score of 3.00. Question 3 shows whether forensic accounting would go a long way in fighting against fraud in Nigeria, the responses show that, the mean score of 3.229 which is above the average mean score of 3.00 of the respondents strongly agreed that forensic accounting would go a long way in fighting against fraud in Nigeria, Furthermore, question 4 on

whether forensic accounting techniques cannot help in recovering stolen resources, the responses show that, the mean score of 2.521 which is above the average mean of 3.00 the respondents strongly agreed that forensic accounting techniques cannot help in recovering stolen resources.

Question 5 shows that that forensic accounting is a special tool for fraud detection as indicated by the mean score of 3.408 which is above the average mean score of 3.00.

Descriptive Statistics on litigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

The shows that question on whether we intend to use forensic accounting technique in the near future in our establishment, the responses show that mean score of 3.845 which is above the average mean of 3.00. The respondents strongly agree that forensic accounting technique in the near future in our establishment will be used. Question 7 also shows that forensic accounting has come to stay hence our establishment will soon acquire its service as indicated by the mean score of 3.229 which is above the average mean score of 3.00.

Question 8 shows that additional training required to become a forensic accountant is a barrier, the responses show that, the mean score of 3.229 which is above the average mean score of 3.00 of the respondents strongly agreed that additional training required to become a forensic accountant is a barrier.

Furthermore, question 9, said that we cannot use forensic accounting because it is expensive the responses show that, the mean score of 3.528 which

is above the average mean of 3.00 the respondents strongly agreed that forensic accounting is very expensive which the establishment may be able to afford.

Question 10 shows that forensic accounting is technological based hence we cannot afford it as indicated by the mean score of 3.931 which is above the average mean score of 3.00.

Accounting skill approach on forensic audit affect fraud detection in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

This shows that question on legal knowledge, the responses show that mean score of 3.845 which is above the average mean of 3.00. The respondents strongly agree that legal knowledge is paramount.

Question 12 also shows that risk assessment as indicated by the mean score of 3.023 which is above the average mean score of 3.00.

Question 13 shows that fraud detection skill, the responses show that, the mean score of 3.229 which is above the average mean score of 3.00 of the respondents strongly agreed that Furthermore, question 14, said that investigating skill possessed by forensic accountant prevent fraud, the responses show that, the mean score of 3.21 which is above the average mean of 3.00 the respondents strongly agreed that skill possessed is very important for forensic accountant.

Question 15 shows that that audit skills possessed by forensic accountant prevent fraud it as indicated by the mean score of 3.078 which is above the average mean score of 3.00.

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses formulated in this study were tested using p-value statistics. A p-value less than $\alpha=0.05$ indicates that there is enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypotheses, and thereby, indirectly accept the alternative hypothesis. If $p>0.05$, then we do not have adequate statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis or accept the alternative hypotheses.

Test of Hypothesis One

H0 Investigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant effect on fraud detection in

Nigerian deposit money bank

To test this hypothesis, table 4.3.1 is used. Investigative approach of forensic accounting has no significant effect on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank is measured by p-value = 0.00 and a significance level (α) of 0.05. Since the computed p-value is less than the significance level (α) of 0.05 ($0.00 < p\text{-value} < 0.05$), the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, we conclude that forensic accounting procedures are effective in detecting errors and fraud in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Test of Hypothesis Two

H₀: Litigate approach of forensic accounting has no significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank.

The result from the above table 4.3.2, to test this hypothesis, Litigate approach of forensic accounting has no significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank is measured by p-value = 0.00 and a significance level (α) of 0.05. Since the computed p-value is less than the significance level (α) of 0.05 ($0.00 < p\text{-value} < 0.05$), the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, we conclude that Litigate approach of forensic accounting has no significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money banks.

Test of Hypothesis Three

H0: Analysis of the Challenges Militating against the Effective Use of Forensic Accounting in deposit money banks in Nigeria

The result from the above table 4.3.3, to test this hypothesis, Analysis of the Challenges Militating against the Effective Use of Forensic Accounting in deposit money banks in Nigeria is measured by p-value = 0.00 and a significance level (α) of 0.05. Since the computed p-value is less than the significance level (α) of 0.05 ($0.00 < p\text{-value} < 0.05$), the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, we conclude that Analysis of the Challenges Militating against the Effective Use of Forensic Accounting in deposit money banks in Nigeria

Discussion of Findings

This study revealed that Investigative approach of forensic accounting has significant effect on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank. This imp-

lies that forensic accountant investigative approach of forensic accounting for gathering of evidence are very importance for effective investigation of fraud in the deposit money banks. This is consonance with Taiwo and Frank (2018) cited in Boli (2016) who opined that as investigators, forensic accountants, can be seen as those who are specialist in documenting exactly the kind of evidence required for successful criminal prosecutors. Casey (2001) also asserted that forensic accountant's skill are required for collecting analysing , and evaluating financial evidence, as well as the ability to construes and communicate findings.

This work also revealed that Litigate approach of forensic accounting has significant impact on fraud detection in Nigerian deposit money bank. The mean that forensic accountants conduct a thorough financial litigate approach in banking sector for proper fraud prevention in Nigeria deposit money banks. This finding is in agreement with finding of some authorities like Mokoro, Neli (2011) who argued that forensic accountants investigate and document financial fraud and white collar crimes and embezzlement.

In a related study, authorities like Phili (2015) revealed that forensic accountants provide an accounting analysis that is suitable to the court, which will form the basis of discussion, debate and ultimately dispute resolution. Dickson and Samuel (2013) also a asserted that forensic accountants play a role in litigation support service in the banking sector and are relevant in documentation and reporting. Casey (2000) also opined that forensic accountants are used to giving expert opinion based on his investigation and may require possible courtroom testimony.

Finally, Joshi (2003) corroborate by stating that forensic accountants demand reporting where the accountability of the fraud is established and the report is considered as evidence in the court of law or in the administrative proceeding.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The central focus of this study is to empirically investigate the effect of Forensic accounting in the detection and prevention of fraud in banking sector, using deposit money banks in Nigeria for the study.

The study was able to establish the tremendous importance of Forensic Accounting in the reduction and prevention of fraud cases in banking sector. Furthermore, the findings of this study revealed that the higher practitioners perceived the benefits of using forensic accounting techniques the more they will intend to use it in their units/departments. Also, the lower the perceived risk of using forensic accounting techniques, the higher the intention of using forensic accounting services. This study therefore confirms that the perceived benefits of using forensic accounting services will positively influence the behavioural intention of accounting practitioners in using forensic accounting techniques in fraud prevention and detection. The implication here is that the more practitioners perceive the benefits, the more they will intend to use forensic accounting techniques and the less they perceive the risks, the more likely they will intend to use forensic accounting techniques.

Several factors were identified as hindering the application of forensic accounting techniques in Nigeria. However, these factors were the training requirement, expensive and the technological challenges involved.

Furthermore, it examines the opinions and behavioural intentions of practitioners to use forensic accounting techniques as a mechanism of fraud prevention and detection in the establishments. The findings of the study shows that the mechanisms of fraud prevention and detection in current usage by practitioners are perceived to be the most effective in combating the menace of fraud. The findings of the study further suggest that decrease of awareness in forensic accounting will ultimately translate into decrease on intentions to use forensic accounting techniques in fraud prevention and detection in Nigeria.

Recommendations

In view of the findings of this study and to ensure that all hands are on deck to reduce financial frauds in Nigeria and elsewhere, it is recommended that

I. Deposit money banks should adopt the most effective mechanisms in their fraud prevention and detection drive. This is because the study has shown that current fraud prevention and detection mechanisms commonly used are perceived as the

least effective in combating fraud menace. Forensic accounting mechanisms and the use of forensic accountants which have been perceived most effective methods should be encouraged at all levels of government including, local, state and federal.

ii. The deposit money banks at these levels should provide the enabling environment for forensic accounting profession to thrive in the country by strengthening the legal, educational and political frameworks in the country (Nigeria) to move with the global trend in fraud prevention and detection. This is in view of the fact that legal, educational and political factors have been identified to hinder the application of forensic accounting techniques in Nigeria.

Again, more staff training and re-training in the field of forensic accounting should be encouraged to increase specialisation in forensic accounting techniques at the federal and state level. This is would provide solution to the problem of fraud.

iii. Regulatory bodies, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Association of National accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) should include forensic accounting techniques in the curriculum of their professional examinations.

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