

The Role Of Forensic Accountants In Fraud Detection And National Security In Nigeria

~ Ph. D. **Dickson Mukoro** (Department of Accounting, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria)

E-mail: mukst2000@yahoo.com

~ Ph. D. **Ogijo Yamusa** (Department of Banking & Finance, Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Nigeria)

E-mail: ogijoyamusa2@mail.com

~ Ph. D. **Samuel Faboyede** (Department of Accounting, Covenant University, Canaanland, Ota, Nigeria)

E-mail: shollyte2001@yahoo.com

Abstract: This study aims at exploring the relevance of forensic accounting in curbing crime and corruption in public sector. The objective of the research work seeks to explore the role a forensic accountant can play in the fight against corruption by applying his investigative skills, providing litigation support service and documentation and reporting. The population used in the research was the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS). The research design employed was the survey research. Data were majorly collected from primary sources. The hypothesis testing in this research work was done using regression analysis. The results of the empirical findings show that forensic accountants are relevant in investigating crime and corruption in the public sector. Forensic accountants play a role in litigation support services in the public sector, and forensic accountants are relevant in documentation and reporting. It was observed that the forensic accountants play a significant role in curbing crime and corrupt practices in any public sector since they provide a mechanism to hold people accountable, such that those who manage resources in a fiduciary capacity do not easily abuse that trust without detection. Amongst other preferred solutions, it was recom-

mended that accounting professionals should always act proactively such that the members of the profession in Nigeria are kept abreast of emerging technologies, especially in the area of forensic accounting. The legislature should also see to it that the executive grants full autonomy to the agents of government that are charged with enforcing accountability. Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, and Code of Conduct Bureau, should be fully independent entities free to do their jobs without undue meddling and interference.

Key words: FIRS, Forensic Accounting, Regression Analysis, Crimes, Corruption

Introduction

The trend and the volume are increasing on a daily basis and all levels of the society are involved. The rich, the poor, the young and the elderly, the male and the female all are neck deep in fraud and fraud related activities that say a lot about our moral and family situations. From the politicians to the bank directors/executives, from the legal officers to the law enforcement personnel, from the civil servants to the school teacher, from the trader in the market to the hawkers on the street, the tendency for fraud and fraud related crimes is endless.

For instance, if one may ask; what compels the senior level manager, the low level employee or the longtime middle manager to ultimately risk everything, convinced that their crimes will go undetected? The characters in fiction on frauds and financial crimes, as in the real world, are frequently motivated by financial need caused by avarice, gambling debts, business reversals, poor investments or trying to maintain a lifestyle well beyond their means

The first and most sophisticated way of carrying out the fraudulent activities in many organizations is through the accounting and financial records. It is a recognized fact that the management of Enron - the celebrated energy company in USA defrauded by her top management - used creative accounting

to make the company look good and powerful on paper than it really was using special purpose subsidiaries that have a single purpose and that did not need to be included in Enron's balance sheet to hide risky investment activities and financial losses. However, forensic accounting helped subsequently to determine that many of Enron's recorded assets and profits were inflated, and in some cases, completely fraudulent and non-existent. Some of the company's debts and losses were recorded in offshore entities, remaining absent from Enron's financial statements. (Folger, 2011)

In many quarters, forensic accounting is equated to financial audit but they are miles apart. Forensic accounting is usually described as the integration of accounting and auditing skills with investigative techniques and professional skepticism. Alan Zysman, a noted forensic accountant since 1987, states, "Forensic accounting provides an accounting analysis that is suitable to the court which will form the basis for discussion, debate and ultimately dispute resolution." (Hecht and Redmond, 2012). One area of similarity is the provision in the Statement of Auditing Standard (SAS 1) that requires an auditor to approach his assignment with 'professional skepticism' which requires auditors to adopt a questioning mind and a critical assessment of audit evidence in assessing audit risk of fraud. (Ojo, 2012)

Objective verification is the primary goal of forensic accounting. For this reason, many forensic accountants are asked to testify in court cases as expert witnesses for either the prosecution or the defense. It can be said therefore that forensic accounting is not limited to fraud detection but also assisting in litigations with the hope of recovering any losses, hence a forensic accountant assignment must be of such a quality that it can withstand scrutiny by attorneys, judges and juries.

On the other hand a forensic accountant may be asked to calculate economic damages that occurred as a result of a breach of contract or provide insight into a case based on a claim of professional negligence. In Nigeria for instance, businesses are faced with breach of contracts which may be reasons for many abandoned projects mainly the government sponsored, by contractors who might have collected more than fifty percent of the contract sum. The application of forensic accounting can bring such fake contractors to book by providing appropriate financial evidence that can aid legal actions against them. Also, forensic accounting is considered to be a mechanism for global war against money laundering, terrorism financing, as well as other fraudulent and social vices that have impeded the nation's march to development (Oguma, 2011)

Literature Review

According to Jafaru (2011), Forensic and investigative accounting should be seen as the application of financial skills and investigative mentality conducted within the context of the rules of evidence to resolve unresolved issues

Bologna and Lindquist (1995) as quoted by Chariri (2009) stated that as an investigator, a forensic accountant can be seen as those who are specialist in fraud detection, and particularly in documenting exactly the kind of evidence required for successful criminal prosecution; able to work in complex regulatory and litigation environments; and with reasonable accuracy, can reconstruct missing, destroyed, or deceptive accounting records.

Meanwhile, as economists, they are particularly effective at economic loss, damage, and social harm estimates; familiar with the assumptions, algorithms, and calculations in econometric models and opportunity cost scenarios; can measure and quantify such things as loss of goodwill and reputation.

Finally, as appraisal experts, forensic accountants should be able to reliably express informed opinion on matters of business value, based on generally accepted theory; effective at evaluating the historical and projected degrees of risk and return of any going concern as well as any and all financial transactions involving assets, property, taxes, and equities

Forensic Accounting, Crime and Corruption

To be successful as a forensic accounting professional, one must be detail oriented, persistent, ambitious, and highly organized. Forensic accounting also requires a great deal of creativity, since you must often explain complex financial concepts to an audience that lacks basic accounting knowledge. It is not surprising that the American agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) confirmed that 'one key element was the creation of a standardized, professional investigative

support position known as the forensic accountant in 2009'. The forensic accountant at FBI conducts the financial investigative portion of complex cases across a wide variety of Bureau programmes including investigating terrorists, spies, and criminals of all kinds who are involved in financial wrongdoings. The agency went ahead to list the responsibilities of forensic accountants to include:

- Conducting thorough forensic financial analysis of business and personal records and developing financial profiles of individuals or groups identified as participating in suspicious or illegal activity;
- Participating in gathering evidence and preparing search warrants/affidavits associated with financial analysis;
- Accompanying case agents on interviews of subjects and key witnesses in secure and non-confrontational settings;
- Identifying and tracing funding sources and interrelated transactions;
- Compiling findings and conclusions into financial investigative reports; and
- Meeting with prosecuting attorneys to discuss strategies and other litigation support functions and testifying when needed as fact or expert witnesses in judicial proceedings.

The agency concluded that 'today around 15 percent of agents employed by the bureau are forensic accountants' (FBI, 2012) In essence therefore forensic accounting can be used to investigate and curb all manner of financial crimes and terrorism sponsorship.

Corruption and Forensic Accounting

Most civilized societies are dependent upon people doing the right thing. Despite rewards, punishment, and deterrence, the resources required to fully enforce all the laws would be astronomical. Even deterrence is

costly to implement and does not guarantee an adequate level of compliance. The bottom line is that a person's normative values of right and wrong dictate his behavior and determine compliance or noncompliance with the law.

Corruption as a concept is usually difficult to define, because of its relativity but one can put it in a perspective when it is identified for the purpose of outlining ways and means of combating it.

According to Nye, (1967), corruption is a behavior which deviates from the normal duties of a public role because of private – regarding family, close private clique, pecuniary or status gain, or violates rules against the exercise of private-regarding influence. This includes such behavior as bribery (use of reward to prevent the judgment of a person in a position of trust); nepotism (bestowal of patronage by reason of inscriptive relationship rather than merit); and misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private-regarding use)

Mukoro, et al (2011:235) quoting Edafehirhaye and Edafehirhaye (2008:59) defines corruption as tendency and propensity to do what is wrong, evil or harmful to one's neighbour in spite of the knowledge of what is good. It is an attempt of subverting the rule of the game using trick to take public fund and using them for one's personal interest

The dishonest and illegal behavior exhibited especially by people in authority for their personal gain is corruption.(Ayobami, 2011) According to the ICPC Act (section 2), corruption includes vices like bribery, fraud, and other related offences. Corruption is the abuse or misuse of power or position of trust for personal or group benefit (monetary or otherwise). The growing corruption

in Nigeria can be traced to people holding power at the federal, state, and local government levels. Corruption does not involve just people in government, but also to people in both private and public positions and even traditional rulers.

Abayomi (2011) opined that our colonial heritage has altered our values and perception of morality; and listed some of the causes of corruption as follows:

- Trade Restriction. This is Government-induced source of rent a seeking/corruption. The restriction on importation of foreign automobiles are examples of how government officials and politicians can make quick money via rent seeking/corruption.

- Government subsidies. When government allocates scarce resources to individuals and firms using legal criteria other than the ability or willingness to pay, corruption is likely to be the result. Corruption can thrive under industrial policies that allow poorly-targeted subsidies to be appropriated by firms for which they are not intended.

- Price controls. The purpose is to lower the price of some goods below market value. For social and political reason, these are also a source of corruption.

- Low wages in civil service. When public wages are low, public servants may be compelled to use their official positions to collect bribes as a way of making ends meet, particularly when the chances of being caught are low.

- Sociological factors. Multi-ethnic societies may be more likely to fall prey to corruption as a result of failure to manage ethnic conflict in a way that is fair to everyone.

In proffering solutions to the corruption cancer, Abayomi (2011) advised that

Nigerians should emphasise transparency, integrity, and accountability in all their private and public transactions.

But the situation in Nigeria now is far more serious for the above suggested solutions. In *Businessday* publication of May 9th, 2012, Agbaje wrote 'Everyone knows, or ought to know the features and consequences of cancer – it spreads very rapidly through the host, destroying cells, weakening the body and, in due course, killing its victim. A cure from an advanced form of cancer, such as Nigerian corruption has become, is a rarity, and in the few cases in which that happens, it requires decisive surgical and other scientific or medical intervention, and some large dose of divine grace. Where cancer is treated with levity, the patient is a living dead. God forbid that Nigeria is just enjoying its last stages of mobile morbidity! But if we don't engineer a quick and decisive onslaught on corruption, it will destroy Nigeria – sooner than later.

The pension probe is not the only parade of unmitigated graft and brigandage on display in these times. The oil subsidy probe also shows, as we have all suspected, that the subsidy, rather than a mechanism to smoothen oil prices for the benefit of the poor, had become oil industry bureaucrats' (together with their allies and contractors') source of massive enrichment. Though it seems clear enough that the House committee's limited knowledge of public finance, banking, international trade and shipping, and oil and gas transactions (as well perhaps as a little exuberance) meant figures may have been somewhat exaggerated, but it is still apparent that significant impropriety took place within the oil subsidy regime, particularly during the Yar'Adua and Jonathan regimes. It is

a mystery that the lesson our people learnt from these is that subsidy must stay! (Agbaje, 2012)

Nigeria's anti-corruption agency has made feeble attempts to clean up Nigerian politics. Since 2005, it has charged 19 former state governors with corruption. But none has gone to jail despite the charges. Recently, a former state governor, quarreled with the president and was sacked. The EFCC then said he had embezzled millions of dollars and promptly declared him a fugitive. Corruption, it seems, is only a problem when you fall from grace.

The spate of financial crime and corruption is gangantum, the weak auditing and reporting style and inadequate knowledge of forensic accounting practice and the consequences on the people and the economy of Nigeria prompted this study. The objectives therefore is to ascertain the relevance of forensic accounting in curbing financial crime and corruption in the public sector by specifically examining the relevance of forensic accountants investigating crime and corruption in the public sector, as well as determining the roles and relevance of forensic accountants in litigations support services, documentation and reporting.

According to Izedonmi, (2000) a hypothesis is a hunch or an educated guess, a logical speculation based on available information relative to a problem, or a set of problems under investigation. We therefore developed the following hypotheses (stated in the null form) for this study –

H1: The forensic accountant is not relevant in investigating crime and corruption in the public sector

H2: The forensic accountant does not play a role in litigation support services in the public sector

H3: The forensic accountant is not relevant in documentation and reporting

Research Methods

The exploratory research design was used in this study. The population is made up of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and we applied the non-probability sampling technique, specifically, the judgmental methods of sampling in selecting a sample size of federal Inland Revenue Service in Lagos State, being the hub of Nigerian businesses with a large spread of offices of the Federal Inland Revenue Service

Both primary and secondary data collection methods were adopted. The questionnaires were designed to generate concise and precise answers from the respondents using close-ended questions. The response to the questionnaires were processed using electronic statistical package (SPSS) using regression analysis as a parameter to determine the effects on the variables under study.

A total of 100 questionnaires were issued to the staff of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Lagos. 25 each were given to their branch offices (ITO) in Ikeja, Yaba, Apapa and Obalende. Of the 100 administered, 78 were returned, (78% retrieval rate) which is a reasonable level upon which research can be based and valid conclusion drawn.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 1

H1: The forensic accountant is not relevant in investigating crime and corruption in the public sector

Table 1.0 Coefficients(a)

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized		t		Sig	
	B	Std Error	Beta	B	Std Error	B	Std Error	
1 (Constant)	5.576	.954				5.847	.000	
The forensic accountant searches for evidence of criminal conduct or assist in the determination of or rebuttal of claimed damages	.021	.118	.019			.174	.863	
Forensic accounting provides assistance with the protection and recovery of assets	.051	.143	.040			.361	.719	
Investigative accounting provides coordination of other experts including private investigations, forensic document examiner, consulting engineers	.281	.110	-.284			-2.541	.013	

Interpretation

The result of the regression analysis showed how much of the variance in the dependent variable is explained by the model. The R square value is 0.41. expressed by a percentage, this means that the model

explains 41% of the variance in the dependent variable. The statistical significance of 0.002 means that the null hypothesis should be rejected. Based on the result obtained from the table, it can be concluded that forensic accountants are relevant in investigating crime and corruption in the public sector.

Hypothesis 2

H2: The forensic accountant does not play a role in litigation support services in the public sector

Table 1.1 Coefficients(a)

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized		t	Sig
	B	Std Error	Beta	Beta		
1 (Constant)	3.220	.874			3.684	.000
Forensic accountant provides expert witness in litigation support service	.093	.111	.096		.833	.407
Forensic accountants assist with the examination for discovering, including the formulation of the act regarding the financials	.157	.125	.145		1.254	.214
Forensic accountants obtain document necessary to support or refute a claim	.054	.105	.071		.614	.541

Interpretation

The R square value is 0.38 expressed in percentages means that the model explained 38% of the variance crime and corruption with a level of significance of less than 5%.

Thus the null hypothesis should be rejected while the alternate should be accepted. Based on the results, it can be concluded that forensic accountants play a role in litigation support services in the public sector.

Hypothesis 3

H3: The forensic accountant is not relevant in documentation and reporting

Table 1.2 Coefficients(a)

Model	Unstandardized	Coefficients	Standardized	t	Sig
	B	Std Error	Beta	B	Std Error
1 (Constant)	3.626	.651		5.568	.000
The forensic auditor leaves audit trail in carrying out his investigation.	.215	.122	.199	1.759	.083
The forensic accountants expert's report is designed to support the client and rebut his opponent if the facts, issues, answers and authorities will lead to these conclusions.	.031	.085	-.042	-.370	.712

Interpretation

The test of the hypothesis showed an R square value of 38% variance and with a level of significance of 3.07, as such we rejected the null hypothesis. The result of the test informed our conclusion that the forensic accountants are relevant in documentation and reporting.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Forensic accounting and the forensic accountants play significant roles in the curbing of crimes and corruption in the public sector. The following findings were made from this study:

- The relevance of forensic accounting is growing worldwide as rising crimes, corruption, malfunctioning of regulators,

security scams and many up-coming issues of this kind all are openly indicating the increasing demand for forensic accountants.

- The causes of corruption in Nigeria are mostly as a result of obsession with materialism, compulsion for a shortcut to affluence, glorification and approbation of ill-gotten wealth by the general public. These reasons, among others, account for the persistence of corruption in Nigeria

- The forensic accountant plays an important role in litigation support services.

- The forensic accountant, in fighting crimes and corruption, has a better advantage within his distinct functions or roles performed compared to the regular auditor. If Nigeria desires to be 'deranked' as the most corrupt nation by Transparency International, she must rush to embrace this emerging trend in the accounting profession

so that crimes and corruption can be combated adequately both in the private sector and most especially the public sector of the nation.

- This is the age of knowledge economy and the accountancy professional bodies should increase their effort in providing functional and cutting edge education to their members and develop curriculum that would incorporate forensic accounting with a view to make them globally competitive.

- Educational institutions should lead the way while the legislative arm of government should enact legislations that will not

make all anti-graft, financial crimes and corruption agencies to not only be autonomous, but effective and efficient in performing their duties. It is not when a corrupt government official has lost face with powers that be that he should face investigation and trials.

Finally, it is no doubt this study could not have covered all areas of forensic accounting. It is therefore suggested that other researchers expand to the private sector and even increase the population to be covered. In an economy such as the Nigerian economy, forensic accounting is needed as it goes deeper to uncover fraud and hidden records.

APPENDIX

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics

Question	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Bsc/HND	23	29.5	29.5	29.5
Msc	34	43.6	43.6	73.1
Post Grad. Dip	11	14.1	14.1	97.2
Ph. D	10	12.8	12.8	100.0
0-5yrs Work Experience	12	15.4	15.4	15.4
6-10yrs Work Experience	29	37.2	37.2	52.0
11-15 yrs Work Experience	26	33.3	33.3	85.9
Above 15yrs W. Experience	11	14.1	14.1	100.0
Top Mgmt Staff	26	33.3	33.3	33.3
Middle Mgmt. Staff	32	41.0	41.0	74.4
Lower Mgmt Staff	11	14.1	14.1	88.5
Others	9	11.5	11.5	100
Q6 Forensic accountant review factual situation and provides suggestions regarding possible course of action				
Disagree	5	6.4	6.4	6.4
Undecided	11	14.1	14.1	20.5
Agree	26	33.3	33.3	53.8
Strongly Agree	36	46.2	46.2	100

Total	78	100	100	
Q7 F.A. searches for evidence of criminal conduct or assist the determination of or rebuttal of claimed damages				
Disagree	3	3.3	3.8	3.8
Undecided	10	12.8	12.8	16.7
Agree	29	37.2	37.2	53.8
Strongly Agree	36	46.2	46.2	100
Total	78	100	100	
Q8 Forensic Accounting provides assistance with the protection and recovery of assets				
Disagree	4	5.1	5.1	5.1
Undecided	12	15.4	15.4	20.5
Agree	24	30.8	30.8	51.3
Strongly Agree	38	48.7	48.7	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	
Q9 Forensic accounting provides coordination of other expert including, private investigations, forensic document examiner, consulting engineers				
Disagree	0	0	0	0
Undecided	4	5.1	5.1	5.1
Agree	27	34.6	34.6	55.1
Strongly Agree	35	44.9	44.9	100
Total	78	100.0	100.0	
Q10 Forensic accountant provide expert witness in litigation support services				
Disagree	4	5.1	5.1	5.1
Undecided	12	15.4	15.4	20.5
Agree	24	30.8	30.8	51.3
Strongly Agree	38	48.7	48.7	100
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.3 Forensic accountants review the relevant documentation to form an initial assessment of the case in an identified area of loss

Q11 Forensic accountants review the relevant documentation to form an initial assessment of the case in an identified area of loss	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	9	11.5	11.5	11.5
Undecided	14	17.9	17.9	29.5
.Agree	26	33.3	33.3	62.8
Strongly Agree	29	37.2	37.2	100
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.4 Forensic accountants assist with the examination for discovering including the formation of the act regarding the financial`

Q12. Forensic accountants assist with the examination for discovering including the formation of the act regarding the financial	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	2	2.6	2.6	2.6
Undecided	3	3.8	3.8	6.4
.Agree	28	35.9	35.9	42.3
Strongly Agree	45	57.7	57.7	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.5 Forensic accountants attend the examination for discovery to review the testimony, assist with the understanding the financial issues and to formulate additional questions to be asked

Q13 Forensic accountants attend the examination for discovery to review the testimony, assist with the understanding the financial issues and to formulate additional questions to be asked	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	5	6.4	6.4	6.4
Undecided	26	33.3	33.3	39.7
.Agree	30	38.5	38.5	78.2
Strongly Agree	17	21.8	21.8	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.6 Forensic accountants obtain documents necessary to support or refute a claim

Q14 Forensic accountants obtain documents necessary to support or refute a claim	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	6	7.7	7.7	7.7
Disagree	4	5.1	5.1	12.8
Undecided	16	20.5	20.5	33.3
Agree	26	33.3	33.3	66.7
Strongly Agree	26	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.7 The forensic accountant provides relevant parties with report to judge the expert's opinion and the basis for these opinions

Q15 The forensic accountant provides relevant parties with report to judge the expert's opinion and the basis for these opinions	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	3	3.8	3.8	3.8
Disagree	4	5.1	5.1	9.0
Undecided	14	17.9	17.9	26.9
Agree	31	39.7	39.7	66.7
Strongly Agree	26	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.8 The forensic auditor leaves audit trail in carrying out his investigation

Q16 The forensic auditor leaves audit trail in carrying out his investigation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	2.6	2.6	2.6
Disagree	3	3.8	3.8	6.4
Undecided	17	21.8	21.8	28.2
Agree	33	42.3	42.3	70.5
Strongly Agree	23	29.5	29.5	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 2.9 The forensic accountant's report is designed to support the client and rebut his opponent if the facts, issues, answers and authorities will lead to these conclusions

Q17 The forensic accountant's report is designed to support the client and rebut his opponent if the facts, issues, answers and authorities will lead to these conclusions	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree				
Disagree	4	5.1	5.1	5.1
Undecided	13	16.7	16.7	21.8
Agree	29	37.2	37.2	59.0
Strongly Agree	32	41.0	41.0	100.0
Total	78	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.1 Forensic accountants review factual situation and provide suggestions regarding possible courses of action.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountants review factual situation and provide suggestions regarding possible courses of action.	78	2	5	4.19	.913
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.2 Forensic accountant searches for evidences of criminal conduct or assist in the determination of or rebuttal of claimed damages.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountant searches for evidences of criminal conduct or assist in the determination of or rebuttal of claimed damages.	78	2	5	4.26	.829
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.3 Forensic accounting provides assistance with the protection and recovery of assets

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accounting provides assistance with the protection and recovery of assets	78	2	5	4.23	.896
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.4 Investigate accounting provides co-ordination of other experts including: private investigations, forensic document examiner, consulting engineers

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Investigate accounting provides co-ordination of other experts including: private investigations, forensic document examiner, consulting engineers	78	2	5	4.24	.776
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.5 Forensic accountants provide expert witness in litigation support services

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountants provide expert witness in litigation support services	78	2	5	4.40	.690
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.6. Forensic accountants review the relevant documentation to form an initial assessment of the case in an identified area of loss.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountants review the relevant documentation to form an initial assessment of the case in an identified area of loss	78	2	5	3.96	1.012
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.7 Forensic accountants assist with the examination for discovering, including the formulation of the act regarding the financial evidence

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountants assist with the examination for discovering, including the formulation of the act regarding the financial evidence	78	2	5	4.49	.698
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.8 Forensic accountants attend the examination for discovery to review the testimony, assist with understanding the financial issues and to formulate additional questions to be asked

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountants attend the examination for discovery to review the testimony, assist with understanding the financial issues and to formulate additional questions to be asked	78	2	5	3.79	.871
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.9 Forensic accountant obtain document necessary to support or refute a claim

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
Forensic accountant obtain document necessary to support or refute a claim	78	1	5	3.79	1.188
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.10 The forensic accountant provides relevant parties with report to judge the expert's opinion and the basis for these opinions

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
The forensic accountant provides relevant parties with report to judge the expert's opinion and the basis for these opinions	78	1	5	3.94	1.036
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.11 The forensic auditor leaves trail in carrying out his investigation

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
The forensic auditor leaves trail in carrying out his investigation	78	1	5	3.92	.950
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

Table 3.12 The forensic accountant's expert's report is designed to support the client and rebut his opponent if the facts, issues, answers and authorities will lead to these conclusions.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	STD Deviatio
The forensic accountant's expert's report is designed to support the client and rebut his opponent if the facts, issues, answers and authorities will lead to these conclusions	78	2	5	4.14	.879
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Source: Field Survey 2012

REFERENCES:

1. **Agbaje, O.** (2012) *Corruption in Nigeria*. Businessday Online. Wednesday, 09 May 2012
2. **Ayobami, O. O.** (2011) *Corruption Eradication in Nigeria: An Appraisal*. Library Philosophy and Practice. ISSN 1522-0222
3. **Balogna, G.J. and J.L. Robert.** (1995). *Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting: New tool and Techniques*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
4. **Chariri, A.** (2009) *The Relevance of Forensic Accounting in Detecting Financial Frauds*. Published by Centre for Accountability, Shariah & Forensic Accounting Studies
5. Federal Bureau of Investigation (2012) *FBI Forensic Accountants: Following the Money*
6. **Izedonmi, O. J.** (2000) *Introduction to Auditing (1st Edition)* Amik Press, Benin City
7. **Jafar, J.**(2011) *Forensic Accounting Practice in Nigeria: A New Paradigm For Stakeholders*. Available from www.iuued.ed.press/journal/sds
8. **Marion Hecht and MaryEllen Redmond** (2010) *Unveiling the Mystery of Forensic Accounting*. Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants. Published by AccountingToday Retrieved on 12/11/2012 from www.orcpa.org.
9. **Mukoro, D. O., Faboyede, S. O., and Edafejirhaye, V. I** (2011). *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Management Perspective: An Integrated Approach*. H-Link Excel, Lagos.
10. **Nye, J.**(1967) *Corruption and Political Development: A Cost-benefit Analysis*, American political science review, Vol.16, No2, June 1967
11. **Oguma, S.**(2011) *Why We Train Our Members in Forensic Accounting*. The Nigerian Accountant, April/ June 2011. Vol.22.N2 (p.15)
12. **Ojo, M.** (2012) *Forensic Accounting and The Law: The Forensic Accountant in the Capacity of An Expert Witness*. Retrieved from <http://ssm.com/abstract=2026071>