

## **FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ON FINANCIAL REPORTING OF PUBLIC SECTOR IN NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This empirical study examines the relationship between forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting of public sector in Nigeria. The speculations on whether the changes introduced in forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting will bridge the gap as a major concern of the research. Time series data on information communication and relevance were collected from selected public sector organization of 18 states in Nigeria, Federal Inland Revenue service, State Board of Internal Revenue Service and Federal Bureau of statistics. Pearson product moment coefficient correlation was used in analyzing the data with the aid of social package for social sciences 20. The statistical results indicate that there is no significant relationship between the variables of forensic accounting and quality assurance on variable of financial reporting. We therefore conclude that there is no significant variation between forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting and recommend that periodic fraud and forensic account of public institutions and strategically, important private companies should form part of a new and improved corporate governance code.*

**Keywords: Forensic Accounting, Quality Assurance, Information Communication, Relevance and Public Sector.**

## INTRODUCTION

The public sector consists of organizations owned and operated by the government for the provision of social services to the people. In public sector, financial transactions have to be recognized, recorded, and measured for the purpose of accountability and stewardship of performance. But it has been observed over the years that accountants in the public sector organizations in Nigeria manipulate their accounting records for fraudulent reasons thereby distorting the quality of financial reporting. According to Uzordima (2013), the quality of financial reporting in the public sector in Nigeria is questionable. This is as a result of the inept tendencies of accountants to be involved in corrupt practices such as assets misappropriation, embezzlements, fictitious invoices to cover contracts and supplies that were never made, duplicating payments made to contractors and suppliers, etc.

In recent times, researchers in public sector accounting have revealed that forensic accounting and quality assurance services is veritable tool in the fight against fraudulent financial reporting. Okoye & Gbegi (2013) described forensic accounting as an investigative style of accounting used to determine whether an individual or organization has engaged in any illegal financial activities. It provides an accounting analysis that is suitable in the court which will form the basis of discussion, debate and ultimately dispute resolution (Gbegi & Adebisi, 2014). According to Elliot (1994), quality assurance services are evaluations and assessments that focus on identifying the quality of processes, procedures, and general operations of an organization. It involves evaluation of accounting records and procedures and confirming the accuracy and proper maintenance of accounts books.

Audit of financial statements is one of the most common forms of assurance processes. With an upsurge in financial accounting fraud in the current economic scenario experienced, financial accounting fraud detection and prevention has become an emerging topic of great importance for academic, research and industries. In this age of high technology, fraud investigators can no longer be satisfied with just auditing or accounting skills, these investigators should be trained in assurance services and forensic accounting and this training should include an extensive knowledge of accounting information systems (Bressler, 2006; Manning, 2005; Ramaswamy, 2005). The failure of internal auditing system of the organization in identifying the accounting frauds has led to use of specialized procedures to detect financial accounting fraud, known as forensic accounting (Kranacher & Stern 2004).

It is on this premise that this study tends to investigate the effect of forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting in public sector organizations in Nigeria. Indeed a more complete statement of the inconclusiveness (Seda & Ward, 2015; .Nwaiwu, 2017), incomprehensiveness (Stone & Miller, 2012), limits (Stone & Miller, 2012) and incomplete coverage of extant research (Zimbelman. , Albrecht. , Albrecht & Albrecht, 2012) on the relationship between forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting of public sector in Nigeria is deferred, a sketch of the basic approach is set out here to not only provide an overview of the lacuna in extant empirical research but also to permit immediate understanding of the objective of the paper or the gap which this study seeks to bridge

(Herbert., Tsegba., One & Onyilo, 2017). In the main, the focus of most extant Nigerian-based research on the related phenomenon of interest has been on three key areas. One strand of the research focus is on the effect of forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting (see for example, Horrison & Brown, Zoro; Mc Intyve., Vanaran., Van Rombursh & Vanzyl 2014). The second strand is on the relationship between forensic accounting and quality assurance and financial reporting of public sector in Nigeria (see, Herbert, 2014; ICPC, 2017 Nwaiwu, 2017). The third focus, which has been the dominant domain of academic research, is the relationship between forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting (see Zysman, 2004, crumblog, Heitger & smith, 2009). However, there studies and others have ignored one important trajectory; the historical role of forensic accounting and quality assurance in Nigeria's quest for financial reporting. Precisely, has the effect of forensic accounting and assurance on financial reporting of Nigeria been conclusively proved? Or, is there empirical research consensus on the effect of forensic accounting and assurance on financial reporting of public sector in Nigeria?

In other words, the study explores whether or not forensic accounting and quality assurance has a significant influence on financial reporting to objectory of Nigeria, the remainder of this paper is organized as follows: section two review relevant literature on the phenomenon of interest, Section three presents the methodology, Section four discusses the empirical result, and section wraps it with concluding remarks & recommendations.

### **Theoretical Framework and Hypotheses Development**

Forensic accounting being relatively a very new branch of accounting relies on the existing theories in other branches of accounting, like auditing and from other related disciplines like law, sociology, economics, and so on. A number of theories have been reviewed in this study in order to guide in the search to understand the intention to use forensic accounting techniques in fraud prevention and detection.

The Health Belief Model (HBM) was develop initially by social psychologist in the United States of America public health Service in the 1950s, to explain the widespread failure of people to be involve in programmes that were aimed at preventing and detecting diseases (Rosenstock, 1974). The Health Belief Model (HBM) is one of the earliest health models that used behavioural science theory (Muthusamy, Quaddus and Evans 2010a) in studying and promoting the uptake of health services. Its aim was to comprehend, explain and ultimately increase the use of preventive health services and screening programmes. Resenstock (1974) avers that HMB is based on the fact that peoples are afraid of health problems and actions taken are motivated according to the degree of fear (threat perceptions) and the possible fear reduction ability of action (behavioural evaluation).

### **Forensic Accounting and Quality Assurance**

Zysman (2001) put forensic accounting as the integration of accounting, auditing, and investigative skills. Simply put forensic accounting is accounting that is suitable for legal review offering the highest level of assurance and including the now generally accepted connotation of having been arrived at in a scientific fashion (Crumbley 2006). Coenen (2005) stated that forensic accounting involved the application of accounting concepts and techniques to legal problem. It demands 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 proceedings (Joshi, 2003). It provides an accounting analysis that is suitable to the court, which will form the basis of discussion, debate and ultimately dispute resolution (Zysman, 2001). These mean that forensic accounting is a field of specialization that has to do with provision of information that is meant to be used as evidence especially for legal purposes. The persons practicing in this field (i.e. forensic accountants) investigate and documents financial fraud and white-collar crimes such as embezzlement and investigate allegations of fraud, estimates losses damages and assets and analyses complex financial transactions.

They provide those services for corporation, attorney, criminal investigators and the government (Coenen, 2005). Zysman, (2001) the forensic accountant's engagements are usually geared towards finding where money went, how it got there, and who was responsible. They are trained to look beyond the numbers and deal with business reality of the situation. According to the Black's law Dictionary, (1979) fraud (sometimes referred to as fraudulent act) includes all the multifarious means human ingenuity can devise that are resorted to by one individual to get an advantage over another by false suggestions or suppression of the truth. It includes surprises, tricks, cunning or dissembling and any unfair way by which another is cheated.

**Economic Decision of Making Model:-** This model asserts that the basic objective of financial statements is to provide information that is useful to present and potential investors and creditors and other users in making rational investment, credit and similar decisions and/or for assessing management stewardship (FASB, 1978 para 34).

Solomon (1989) In Ihendinihu (2006) argues that "financial statements do not provide all the information that users may need to make economic decisions since they largely portray the financial effects of past events and do not necessarily provide non-trying to identify' users of financial statements and their needs". Ihendinihu (2006) however, expresses some reservations on this model particularly, as to the appropriateness so of the framework and advocates the need for a more appropriate one. His reservations which are summarized below are anchored on the emphasis on decision making and user needs. The first contention is that "decision should be based on estimates about expectations in the future and not based on financial statements which may be probably biased, outdated or even backwards looking".

The second is that “financial statements contain data which results to meaningful information if only such data were interpreted correctly”. Lastly, that “it is difficult for financial statements to meet the often conflicting needs of users because majority of have low-level of understanding of financial reports”.

### **Reasons for Forensic Accounting**

**Directors Insider Dealing:** When the directors engage in inside dealing in their companies shares they can use creative accounting to de lay (he release of in format ion (‘or the market, thereby enhancing their opportunity to benefit from inside knowledge.

### **Circumvent contractual Rights, obligations and Constraints:**

Where public sectors/companies are subject to various forms of contractual rights, obligations and constraints based on the amounts reported on (lie accounts, there is tendency to engage in creative accounting. For example, it is common for loan agreements to include a restriction on the total amount that a company is entitled to borrow computed as a multiple of the total share capital and reserves. If a company has borrowings near this limit, there is an incentive to:

- i. Choose accounting methods that increase reported profit and consequently the reserves. Sweeny (1 994) reports that companies nearing violation of debt covenants are two to three times more likely to make in conic increasing accounting pot icy changes than other companies,
- ii. Arrange finance in a way that will not be reflected as a liability on the balance sheet.  
**Avoid Government Regulation:** In Some countries where Companies, such as public utilities like electricity and telephone companies, are subject to the authority of a government regulator who prescribes the maximum amounts they can charge. If such companies report high profits, then the regulator is likely to respond to curbing prices. These companies therefore, have an interest in choosing accounts methods that tend to reduce their reported profits.

**Enhance Directors Bonus Scheme:** Some companies’ operate a directors’ bonus scheme which may be linked to profits or the company share price. Where the link is to the share price then the directors will be motivated to present accounts that will impress the stock market. Where a bonus is based on reported profit, the scheme often stipulates that the bonus is a percentage of profit above a minimum level, and is paid up to a maximum level. Thus:

- a) If the profit figure is between the two levels then directors will choose accounting methods that lift profit towards .the maximum.

- b) If the profit is below the minimum level, directors will choose accounting methods that maximize provisions made so that in future years these provisions can be written back to boost profit.
- c) In similar vein, if the profit is above the maximum level directors will seek to bring the figure down to that level so that the profit can be boosted in later years.

Existence of bonus schemes may encourage directors of companies to plan the timing of announcement of gains and losses which can have a major impact on such bonuses, example, Schroeder and Spiro (1992) reported that in 1991, Wrestling House announced tin- audited record earnings of \$1 billion and related hefty bonuses in February 1992 bad debts write-offs of \$975 million were announced, putting the legitimacy of bonuses in question.

**Profit Sharing Arrangement:** It is also observed that where a part or division of a business is subject to a profit sharing arrangement, then this may affect the preferred accounting methods. In the UK for example, it was reported that a local council had a contract with a company for the company to manage the councils' leisure centre.

The contract provided for profits to be shared equally between the two parties. At the end of one year, not surprisingly the company's accountants claimed that the centre had made a loss while the council's accountant said it had a profit. The problem was solved by an agreement for the company to pay a fixed amount of money each year instead of a profit share. In the USA, film companies have been notorious for claiming massive expenses against successive films so that writers, producers, and actors on 'net profit' deals receive little or no remuneration (Grover, 1991).

**Change in Management:** When a new manager takes over responsibility for a unit, there is a motivation to make provisions that ensure that any losses appear as the responsibility of the previous manager. Dahi (1 996) reports on a survey of US bank managers that found provisions for loan losses tended to be higher in the year of change in management.

### **Information and Communication Technology(ICT)**

The awareness of having forensic accounting functions in both public and private sectors in order to well off fraud becomes an importance element to being a transparent organization. The contribution and importance of forensic accountant emphasized credibility to both sectors. It has been observed at the public sector that “Government spending has always been big business, but it has become so massive today that the public through its legislators is demanding to know whether the huge outlays of money are being spent wisely or whether they should not be spent at all “Okoye and Gbegi, 2013). An understanding of effective forensic accounting techniques can assist professional forensic accountants in identifying illegal activity and discovering the preserving evidence (Hoouch etal 2006).

Interestingly, this area is designed to gather the information on the relevancy of information and communication technology (ICTs) in assisting the role of forensic accounting procedures. From the finding 90% of the respondents agreed, opposed by the remaining 10%. As we are aware that ICTs has been a tool in assisting to improve the transparency of the government service delivery in the recent years. A good example is with the implementation of the e-government in most countries. It started with the introduction of multimedia super Corridor (MSC), e-government flagship application which includes, Mykad, Smart School, Tele-health and others. The e-government managed to improve the access and better quality services, including transaction-based services, payment or even non-payment (MDC, 2009).

Furthermore, the ICT has been practically an important instrument for halting corruptions. It enhances true transparent responsibility and accountability of government administration. ICT is a means to help the forensic accountants in fraud prevention in the public sector. The strength of an internal control such as segregation of duties in approving the budgets to the government agencies can be done in real time. This study supported by David (2005), states that the paper – based system is the reason why fraud is being committed in organization.

Computerized system for all the transactional activities would reduce fraud. Information technology can reduce corruption by promoting good governance Zysman, (2001), strengthening reform initiative Smith, (2012, redusting for corrupt behaviours Owolabi, (2010), enhancing relationship between good administrators and citizen (Shim and Eom, 2008). Furthermore, according to Shim & Eom (2008); ICTs hold great deal of potential for and already demonstrating benefits in anti-corruption, particularly by enhancing the effectives of internal and managerial control over corruption behaviours and by promoting government accountability and transparency. A good flow of internal control is an effective and efficient mechanism in preventing fraud, hence reduce the cost of curbing it.

## **Financial Reporting**

The True blood Report which was published in 1973 in New York attempted, among other things, to properly define the objectives of financial reporting. This was to provide the basis for easily determining the level of reporting that will ensure full, fair and adequate disclosure. The report stated twelve objectives which are:

1. Decision making the basic objective of financial Statements is to provide information useful for making economic decisions:
2. Financial Statement an objective of financial statements is to serve primarily those users who have limited authority, ability or resources to obtain information and who rely on financial statement as their principal source of information about an enterprises economic activity:
3. Cash Flows an objective of financial statement is to provide users with information useful to investors and creditors for predicting, comparing and evaluating potential cash flows to them in terms of the amount, timing and related uncertainty;
4. Earnings an objective of financial statement is to provide users with information for predicting, comparing and evaluating enterprise earning power;
5. Management Ability an objective of financial statement is to supply information useful in judging management's ability to utilize enterprise resources effectively in achieving the primary enterprise goal.
6. Disclosure an objective of financial statement is to provide factual interpretive information about transaction and other events which are useful for predicting, comparing and evaluating enterprise earning power. Basic underlying assumptions with respect to matters subject to interpretation evaluation predication or estimation should be disclosed;
7. Statement of Financial Position an objective is to provide a statement of financial position useful for predicting, comparing and evaluating enterprise earning power. This statement should provide information concerning enterprise transactions and other events that are part of incomplete earning cycles. Current values should also be reported when they differ significantly from historical costs. Assets and liabilities



should be grouped and segregated by relative uncertainty of amount and timing of prospective realization or liquidation.

8. Uncompleted Transaction an objective to provide a Statement of periodic earnings useful for predicting, comparing and evaluating enterprise earning power. The net result of completed earnings cycles and enterprise activities resulting in recognizable progress toward completion of incomplete cycles should be reported. Changes in values reflected in successive statement in financial position should be reported, but not separately since they differ in terms of their certainty of realization.
9. Expected information another objective is to provide a statement of financial activities useful for predicting, comparing and evaluating enterprise earning power. This statement should report mainly on factual aspects of enterprise transactions having or expected to have significant cash consequences. This statement should report data that require minimal judgment and interpretation by the preparer.
10. Forecasts an objective of financial statements is to provide information useful for the predictive process. Financial forecasts should be provided when they will enhance the reliability of user's predications;
11. Governmental an objective of financial statements for government and not-for-profit organizations is to provide information useful for evaluating the effectiveness of the management of resources in achieving the organization goals. Performance measures should be quantified in terms of identified goals.
12. Social Concern an objective of financial statements is to report on those activities of enterprises that affect society which can be determined and described or measured and which are important to the role of the enterprise in its social events.

International Accounting Standard Board (IASB, 2008) explicitly express the desirability of constructing a comprehensive measurement tool to assess the quality of financial reporting considering all dimensions of decision usefulness. Hence, this measurement tool considers all the qualitative and quantitative characteristics because these characteristics determine the decision usefulness of financial reporting information. IASB (2008) highlights that financial reporting qualities can be broadly divided into fundamental quantitative characteristics

relevance and the enhancing qualitative characteristics (understandability, comparability, verifiability and timeliness).

**Fundamental Qualitative Characteristics:**

There are the most important and determine the content of financial reporting information (IABS). They comprise relevance and faithful representation.

### **Relevance:**

This refers to the capability of making a difference in the decisions made by users in their capacity as capital providers. This concept will be tested in order to improve the comprehensiveness of the quality assessing measurement tool by considering a broader perspective on predictive value including both financial and non- financial information ( ).

Predictive value explains information on the firms ability to generate future cash flows. Financial/economic information has predictive value if it has value as an input to predictive process used by capital providers to form their own expectation about the future (IASB, 2008) predictive value is considered as the most important indicator of relevance in terms of decision usefulness and measured in three items. These items are “item”, this item measures the extent to which annual reports provide forward looking statement. The forward-looking statement usually described management’s expectations on future year’s operations and is made available to capital providers and other users of the annual report. The information is relevant since management has access to private information and able to produce a forecast that is not available to other stakeholders” (Bastar and Mahanran, 2004 cited in Beest, Bream and Boelens, 2009).

Item 2: “This item measures the extent the annual reports discloses information in terms of business opportunities and risks.

Item 3: Item three discloses and measures company use of fair value”. Beest, Bream and Boelens (2009) refer” to the use of fair value versus historical cost when discussing the predictive value of financial reporting information”.

Hypotheses:

### **Analytical Method and Model Specification**

### **Sampling/Sample Size Determination**

A sample is a statistical representative of a population from which inferences about the population can be made (Maccodo, 2006; Smith, 2006). However, considering the limited number of the population of the study, all the subjects that constitute the population will be studied, therefore, without any need for sampling.

### **Data Collection**

Many research methods can be used to collect data such as survey, experimental and using of secondary data (Ticehurst and Veal, 2000; Herbert & Tsegba, 2013; Nwaiwu, 2015). The study made of data from the selected public sector organization of 18 states in Nigeria.

However, the use of secondary data in which data already exists, is considered to be the most appropriate for this research. The major purpose of this research is to test hypotheses. This is because the study investigates the existence of any causal relationship between the combination of both Forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting organization in Nigeria. Thus, the information needs for this research are data which are available in selected civil service commission and board of internal revenue service. Data from secondary data source exist in data recorded and reported by accountants for each period. Using the secondary data has the advantage of saving time and costs involved in data collection (Zimund, 2001; Eketu, 2007; Ihendinihu, 2010; Nwaiwu, 2014). In addition, secondary data have been used in the forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting of public sector organization in Nigeria by the majority of pervious researchers (Eketu, 2007; Ibanichuka, 2010).

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

This study investigates the existence of any causal relationship between forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting. Correlation and general linear model procedures provide regression analysis and analysis of variance for one dependent variable by one or more factors and/or variables.

### **Model Specification**

The analytical model to consider in this study takes ratio analysis and information and communication technology, predictor variables; and accruals quality and relevance as criterion variables. These variables are used to obtain a reliable parameter estimate of time series regression.

Following the theoretical propositions explored in the theoretical framework, on the relative influence of predictor variables on criterion variables and having regard to the work of Ihendinihu (2009). The specified model in an attempt to determine the influence of ratio

analysis, ICTs on Accruals quality and relevance of public sector organization in Nigeria is as follows:

$$FR_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AQ_{it} + \beta_2 R_{it} + \beta_3 ICT_{it} + \mu_{it} \quad (1)$$

$$FAEAQ_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AQ_{it} + \beta_2 R_{it} + \beta_3 ICT_{it} + \mu_{it} \quad (2)$$

Where

$FP_{it}$  = “Financial Reporting: From period RF time”

$AQ_{it}$  = Accruals quality “from the period of time”

$R_{it}$  = Relevance from the period of time

$FA_{it}$  &  $QA_{it}$  = Forensic Accounting and Quality Assurance from period of time

$ICT_{sit}$  = Information and Communication technology from the period of time

$B_{oit}$  = Constant

$B_1, B_2$  = Coefficient of determination

$it$  = The period of time.”

### Empirical Result and Discussion

This study was aimed at determining the extent of relationship between Forensic Accounting and Quality Assurance and Quality of Financial Reporting in Nigeria. Other specific objectives were equally set and reflected in Hypotheses two to seven (HO2-H07). The Pearson correlation analytical tool was utilized to test the null hypothesis (HO1) since the determination of relationship between the independent variable and dependent variable was the main focus. The General Linear Model (Univariate Analysis of Variance) was utilized for testing hypotheses two to seven, because the objective was mainly to test the effect of each independent variable on the correspondent dependent variable.

It should be noted that, the GLM Univariate procedures provide regression analysis and analysis of variance for one dependent variable by one or more factors and/or variables. What the factor variable does is to divide the population into groups, using the general linear model/procedure to test null hypothesis about the effect of other variable on the means of various grouping of a single dependent variable.

The GLM Univariate variable can be used to analyze regression, ANOVA, AWOCOVS. The tests of between- subjects affects helps researchers to determine the significance of a factor.

**H<sub>04</sub> : There is no significant relationship between Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Accruals Quality of Public Sector Organizations in Nigeria.**

Table 1 Univariate Analysis of Variance of the Test of Subjects Effects on Information Communication Technology (ICT) on Accruals Quality of Public Sector Organizations in Nigeria.

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	.086 <sup>a</sup>	1	.086	4.060	.061
Intercept	10.363	1	10.363	487.699	.000
ICT	.086	1	.086	4.060	.061
Error	.340	16	.021		
Total	11.052	18			
Corrected Total	.426	17			

a. R Squared = .202 (Adjusted R Squared = .153)

Table 1 shows the Test of Subjects Effects from the Univariate Analysis of Variance on the effect of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Accruals Quality of Public Sector Organisations in Nigeria. This is equivalent to an ANOVA table which provides the F-test. The Table shows F-value at .086 and p-value at 0.061. The *p*-value (.061) is greater than the standard value .05 indicating that Information Communication Technology (ICT) does not have significant effect on Accruals, thus we accept the null hypothesis.

**H<sub>05</sub>: There is no significant relationship between Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Relevance in Public Sector Organizations in Nigeria.**

Table 2. Univariate Analysis of Variance showing the Test of Subjects Effects Information Communication Technology (ICT) on Relevance in Public Sector Organizations in Nigeria.

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	7551.277 <sup>a</sup>	1	7551.277	.614	.445
Intercept	268675.533	1	268675.533	21.860	.000
ICT	7551.277	1	7551.277	.614	.445
Error	196649.488	16	12290.593		
Total	468247.210	18			
Corrected Total	204200.765	17			

a. R Squared = .037 (Adjusted R Squared = -.023)

Table 2 shows the Test of Subjects Effects from the Univariate Analysis of Variance on the effect of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Relevance in Public Sector Organizations in Nigeria. This is equivalent to an ANOVA table which provides the F-test. The Table shows F-value at .614 and p-value at 0.445. The *p*-value (.445) is greater than the standard value .05 indicating that Information Communication Technology (ICT) does not have significant effect on Relevance, thus the study accepts the null hypothesis.

**Concluding Remark and Recommendations**

There is a growing acceptance of forensic accounting and quality assurance on financial reporting of public sector across the world. This momentum represents fundamental changes for both “National and International Accounting system and profession”. Using a research instrument adopted from a similar “U.S.A and China survey”, a major conclusion from this is that truly, the future “market” for holders of forensic accounting qualification is very bright and its relevance to “national and global socioeconomic development is undeniable”. The affirmative contents of forensic accounting include (i) strengthening the credibility of financial reporting and information communication can help widen the employment horizon, and opportunities of graduates. Finally, help to rebuild investors’ confidence and trust in financial reports. The empirical conclusion of this study supports the theoretical conclusion

reached by Herbert et al (2017) in their review of the “rise of fraud and forensic accounting education”.

There is a positive and significant relationship between information communication technology and accruals quality of public sector organization in Nigeria.

There is a positive and significant relationship between Information Communication Technology and Relevance of public sector organization in Nigeria.

The present empirical study conclusion led to the following recommendations:

1. Periodic fraud and forensic audit of public institutions and strategically important companies should form part of a new and improved corporate governance code.
2. Professional standard code of conducts and guidelines for the practice of forensic accounting and investigation should be established to check the incessant cases of corruption in the public sector.
3. Training and retraining programme on the area of forensic accounting should be knowledge of handling forensic accounting issues.
4. Forensic auditor should regularly undergo training and development programmes to acquaint them with relevant knowledge and skills for effective forensic auditing

### **Limitation and further suggestions for further studies**

The study face some limitations such as measurement of data, statistical tools be adopted and areas to be covered. Above all, the study suggests that further research can extend this study by replicating the methodology to investigate data of both private and public sector of organization in Nigeria.

Finally, this study has its own limitations. Apart from the inherent limitation of being a replication study as already pointed out, the study suffers from measurement of quantitative data contexts. These limitations notwithstanding, the implications of an empirical analysis of this nature are not necessarily tainted nor are the reliability and analysis of the data collected compromised. We suggest the use of ratio analysis and auditor lay of private sector in Nigeria.



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