Corporate Governance and Quality of Accounting Information of Listed Firms in Nigeria: Moderating Role of Forensic Accounting

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Abstract
The aim of the study was to find out the influencing role forensic accounting on the relationship between corporate governance and quality of accounting information among listed firms in the Nigeria Stock Exchange, where the study population consisted of all external certified accountants, while the study sample consisted of a random sample of external certified accountants. The study employed primary source of data through the administration of questionnaires to external certified accountants. The study analysis was done using multiple regressions test on the study data. The findings from the analysis reveals a statistically significant impact on the application of governance rules in its dimensions (commitment of corporate governance to shareholder rights, commitment of corporate governance to equal treatment among shareholders, commitment of corporate governance to disclosure and transparency, commitment of corporate governance to responsibilities The Board of Directors) on the quality of accounting information, and there is also a modified effect of forensic accounting with statistical significance on the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules in its dimensions and the quality of accounting information with its elements (The relevance and the faithful representation of the accounting information) in the Nigeria Stock Exchange. The study recommends the necessity of continuing commitment of boards of directors in companies to the application of governance rules and laying down the necessary and strict controls to ensure their implementation. And also the necessity of holding training courses for certified accountants specialized in the field of Forensic Accounting.

Keywords: *Forensic Accounting, Corporate Governance and Quality of Accounting Information, Relevance.*

INTRODUCTION

This study aims to demonstrate the modified impact of forensic accounting on the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules in its dimensions, and the quality of accounting information with its characteristics (relevance and the faithful representation) in Jordanian public joint-stock companies, from the point of view of external certified accountants. As a result of the recent financial crisis that occurred in 2008, the level of confidence that shareholders and other stakeholders place in the financial reports issued by public joint-stock companies decreased (Ismail, 2010). Authors and experts attributed these effects and repercussions to the phenomenon of financial corruption that spread in these companies, which prompted boards of directors to give priority to their private interest at the expense of the interests of shareholders and parties related to the companies they manage. With regard to financial corruption, several reasons standing behind this phenomenon. The most important reason is the absence of corporate governance systems, or their lack of enforcement and implementation on the ground. Another reason of corruption is the absence of legislation and laws necessary to hold boards of directors accountable in these companies (Khatataba, 2014).

The application of corporate governance rules ensures transparency and disclosure of the various information contained in the financial reports, and establishes protection and safety systems for the rights of the parties associated with the company, which should be constantly informed about the financial position of companies, which requires clarity of all related details to the financial information. and enhances the confidence of stakeholders in the company, which allows it to continue and achieve a competitive advantage (Ali et al., 2012), (Al-Ramahi, Barakat & Shahwan, 2014; Susanto, 2015). The governance has focused on enhancing the quality of accounting information through two characteristics of information; relevance and faithful representation in the financial report data, as all as the relevant parties in the company (investors, lenders, creditors ,,, etc.), which showed the importance of the financial information that companies disclose. (The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2015).

The quality of accounting information in the financial reports reflects the level of credibility of this information, and ensures its integrity and provides beneficial information to different interested parties. Several aspects of information are involved in the financial reports including; results of operations, investment, marketing, and financial activities. In addition, the financial reports present accounting information related to the different economic aspects. The activities of firms is normally affected by the political consideration (Wang & Liang, 2008). The quality of accounting information refers to the set of characteristics that should be available in accounting information, such as the suitability and honest representation of the operations, in order to become feasible, and to achieve the required benefits from financial reports. (Alsalim, & Hama-Amin & Sultan, 2016).

As a result of changes and developments occurred in the work environment and different businesses, that caused more diversity in dealings among firms, keeping pace with the various developments in the accounting field, and evaluating their impact on the social, economic, legal, and technological aspects, became necessary. This led to the emergence of judicial accounting, which depends on the use of various experiences in the accounting field for judging the related issues, so the emergence of this field has led to strengthening the judicial rulings, investigations related to fraud, fraud, settlements and dispute resolution (Wadad & Bakr, 2014).

Based on the survey and review of the prior researches and its findings, It is concluded that some studies investigated corporate governance relationship with accounting disclosure, such as Al-Sewaidi study (2015), and Karawani (2015), while other studies investigated corporate governance relationship with quality reports, such as Alsalim, Amin & Youssef (2018), and Azzoz (2016). In addition, some prior studies focused on the importance of forensic accounting and its relationship with governance, such as a Rehman & Hashim (2017), and Abbas, Mazhar and Hamid (2019). The current study is an extension of the prior studies, but it is distinguished from those when it concentrates on three variables including, judicial accounting, corporate governance, and accounting information quality. It examines whether forensic accounting has a modified effect on the relationship between corporate governance and the quality of accounting information among listed firms in the Nigeria Stock Exchange, from the standpoints of certified public accountants. The aim of the study is to ascertain the moderating role of forensic accounting on the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules (shareholder rights, shareholders' equality, disclosure and transparency, boards' responsibilities) on the quality of accounting information

LITERATURE REVIEW

Burghul, (2015) examined the statement of the complementary relationship between forensic accounting and corporate governance and their role in reducing financial and administrative corruption in Jordanian public shareholding companies. It found that forensic accounting provides the tools and means that enable the forensic auditor to investigate cases of fraud and fraud practiced in companies and that it contributes in reducing the practices of financial and administrative corruption.
Al-Suwaidawi (2015), examined the effect of corporate governance on the level of disclosure of accounting information in service companies. The study based on a sample consisting of (92) firm managers and internal audit managers. The results of the study showed that there is an effect of the principles of governance at the level of disclosure on accounting information of service firms. It discloses accounting errors and methods of treatment, and the existence of an effective basis for implementing legislation that guarantees the interests of shareholders.

Karawani (2015), examined the contributions of governance in achieving quality in financial information and accounting disclosure, and how to benefit from it. The study is based on a sample consisting of (90) financial employees and accountants working in firms. It found that there is a positive and statistically significant correlation between corporate governance and financial information, its quality level, and the importance of disclosure**.** Al-Abdi. (2016), investigated the impact of corporate governance on the quality of accounting information. The study sample consisted of (17) accounting and financial employees of firms. The study showed that there is a strong and positive correlation between corporate governance mechanisms applied on firms and the quality of accounting information**.**

Al-Najjar and Akl (2016), examined the impact of firm commitment in Palestine Stock Exchange to apply corporate governance rules on their financial performance. The study was based on a sample of 36 public shareholding listed firms, and used the data covering the period 2009-2014 of these included firms within the sample. The study found a positive significant impact of corporate governance measures on measures of financial performance, including return on assets; book value per share; and firm market value. Al-Hayari (2017), carried out a study aiming for revealing the impact of applying corporate governance principles in enhancing the reliability of financial reports

issued by joint-stock industrial companies listed at the Amman Stock Exchange. The study was conducted on a sample of (125) financial intermediaries, financial managers, and external auditors. The results showed that there is a significant effect of the principles of corporate governance on the level of the financial reports confidence issued by industrial firms in securities market **.**
The study of Fateh and Abdul-Ghani (2018), aimed to identify how to combat judicial accountability against fraud and to identify how it can be reduced. The study sample consisted of 34 institutions. The results of the study showed that spreading the culture of interest in judicial accountability plays its role and importance in reducing financial fraud and fraud, and that the interest in providing legal work services for forensic accounting helps in preventing fraud and financial fraud**.** Hammoudi and Saeed's study (2018), aimed at demonstrating forensic accounting strategies in restricting creative accounting practices, in addition to clarifying the most important means and techniques used in this issue. It found that the creative accounting practices are many, and intend to manipulate the financial statements by choosing accounting policies that are appropriate. The goals of the company's owners, such as tax evasion, and that forensic accounting are among the fields of accounting specialized in clarifying the obligations that result from the actual or expected accumulations between the conflicting parties in the court.

Stamp Study (2019), objected for revealing the role of forensic accounting in the processes of investigation and financial auditing, based on a random sample consisted of 47 certified accountants. The results showed that there is a role for judicial accountability in cases related to the financial aspect in the courts. It also showed that courts are recommended to create a specialized forensic accounting unit in its capital structure. Abbas, Mezher and Hamid (2019), carried out a study for the purpose of explain the relationship between forensic accounting and governance, in addition to the role it plays in restricting creative accounting. The sample of the study consisted of 42 academics and auditors. The results showed that there is an effect of forensic accounting and corporate governance in restricting creative accounting methods.

The study of Siam and Abdullah (2019), objected for demonstrating the effect of applying forensic accounting in managing profits of public joint-stock companies, and the extent of applying forensic accounting techniques on profit management from the standpoint of certified accountants. The study concluded that related application level techniques for forensic accounting in public firms of Jordan, was high by the viewpoints of certified accountants, and it affects management practices to manage profits in public shareholding firms. Rehman & Hashim (2017), carried out a study at the purpose of revealing the impact of forensic accounting on the maturity of corporate governance by activating the mediating effect of internal auditing. The results of the study showed that there is a role of forensic accounting in activating the principles of governance by focusing on achieving company's goals and ensuring the safety of operational performance that arising from firm's efficiency.

Alsalim, Amin & Youssef (2018), investigated the role that corporate governance plays in achieving the quality of accounting information. The study concluded that that there is an impact of governance on the dimensions of transparency and disclosure as components of accounting information. It also found that there is an effect of the role of boards of directors on activating corporate governance. The study indicated the necessity of activating forensic accounting to ensure a positive impact on preparing financial statements and raising the level of transparency and disclosure. Rehman & Hashim (2018), studied the forensic accounting at the purpose of showing the impact of forensic accountability in revitalizing corporate governance in the Sultanate of Oman. The study found a positive impact of judicial accountability in activating corporate governance in Oman . Sule, Ibrahim & Sani (2019), carried out a study aimed to reveal the impact of the forensic accountant on the investigation of the detection of financial fraud. Results revealed that judicial accountability has a role in revealing financial fraud, fraud and exploitation, in addition to its role in controlling the practices and behaviors of board members of firms.

Theoretical Review

Dimension of theories on auditors' role

There are several different theories that may explain the role of an auditor in fraud detection and prevention. Some of them are well known in research and some of them are more based on perceptions. Four audit theories according to Hayes. Dassen, Schilder and Wallage (2005) are discussed below:

The policeman theory:

The policeman theory presents the idea that it is the responsibility of the auditor to discover and prevent fraud in the course of his work. This is what obtained during the early 20th century. With more recent developments in the field of business, the main focus of auditors has been shifted to providing reasonable assurance on the quality and fairness of the financial statements.

However, the detection of fraud is still been advocated as the auditor's responsibility, and typically after events where financial statement frauds have been revealed, the pressure increases on increasing the responsibilities of auditors in detecting fraud.

The lending credibility theory:

The lending credibility theory holds that the primary function of audit is to add credibility to the financial statements. The service that the auditors are selling to the clients is credibility. When financial statements are audited by the auditors, the statements are seen to contain elements that increase the users' confidence in the figures contained in the financial statements. The users of these statements benefits from the increased credibility lent by the audit process, in the form of enhanced quality of investment decisions taken on the basis of credible and reliable financial information.

The theory of inspired confidence:

This is also known as theory of rational expectations (Limperg, 1932). The theory of inspired confidence addresses both the demand and the supply for audit services. The demand for audit services arises as a direct consequence of the participation of other interested parties in the company. These parties, also known as third parties, demand accountability from the management in return for their investments in the company. Accountability simply entails making available to users, reports of all vital information related to and/or that is capable of explaining all events (financial activities inclusive) that transpired in a company within a given period of time. (Nwoye, Abiahu, Obiorah & Ekesiobi, 2017). This implies that for a financial statement to meet this expectation and satisfy the endless desires of investors towards understanding the true productive status of their investment in a company, high quality financial information must be given commendable consideration.

Agency theory:

The agency theory suggests that the auditor is appointed in the interests of both the third parties as well as the management. (Watts & Zimmerman, 1986). A company is seen as a network of individuals with mutual beneficial contracting obligations. These are different groups of individuals (suppliers, bankers, customers, employees etc.) who make some kind of contributions to the company for a certain benefit. Management's role is therefore, to coordinate these groups and contracts so as to optimize their benefits. As such, management is seen as an agent in these relationships which tries to gain contributions from principals (bankers, shareholders, employees etc).

METHODOLOGY

Research is simply the process of arriving at a dependable solution to a problem through a planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. This research paper adopted the descriptive and analytical approach, to find out the amended effect of forensic accounting on the relationship between corporate governance and the quality of accounting information among listed firms in Nigeria. The population of the study includes all of the working certified public accountants in within the north eastern Nigeria. The survey shows that there are total 85 certified public accountants by the end of 2023. Therefore, a sample consisted of the entire 47 using the census sampling method.

Source of Data Collection

The primary data for the study is collected from respondents using the questionnaire research instrument. Cronbach Alpha had been used to test the stability and internal consistency of data collected from respondents, where the test shows 95.9 percent. This value of Cronbach Alfa is considered high when compared with the acceptable value that equals 70 percent (Tighiza, 2009). The method of data analysis that was used in this study includes inferential and the non inferential statistical tools. The inferential techniques are used to determine the relationship (corrolation) as well as the effect (regression) between the dependent, the independent and the mediating variable of the study. The software programme that was used in analyzing this study is SPSS20.

RESULT

Data Presentation

The distribution of responses to the questionnaire is presented according to gender, age, education, job position, and work experience. Table 1 presents the distribution of respondents based on gender. The results show that the majority (89.6%) of respondents were males while only (10.4%) were females. This result indicates that the majority of employees in Saudi listed companies are males. Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents based on age. The results show that 17% of surveyed samples were 20 - 29 years old, whereas 31.9% and 48.9% of sample were aged 30 - 39 and 40 - 49 years old. Overall, 80.85% of respondents were between the age of 30 - 49 years. These results are consistent with expectations because employees who work at top
Management usually obtains their jobs after having many years of experience. Table 3 presents the qualification of the respondents. 63.8% of participants had a bachelor's degree, 31.9% had a master's degree, and 4.3% had a PhD. All the participants had completed their bachelor's degrees. None of the participants had a diploma, and this result reflects the high qualification needed for an entry requirement for hiring in listed Nigeria firms.

Table 1. Frequency distribution of gender.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	42	89.4%
Female	5	10.6%
Total	47	100.00%

Table 2. Frequency distribution of age group.

Age	Frequency	Parentage
20 – 29	8	17.02%
30 – 39	15	31.91%
40 – 49	23	48.94%
50 – 59	1	2.13%
Total	47	100.00%

Table 3. Frequency distribution of education.

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Diploma	0	0.00%
Bachelor	30	63.83%
Master	15	31.91%
PHD	2	4.26%
Total	47	100.00%

Table 4 illustrates the distribution of the respondents by job position. The highest percentage goes to internal auditors (36.2%). The percentages for other jobs were 46.8%, including a mixture of fund managers, senior accountants, budget manager public managers, division managers, legal officers, software engineers, and some others.

Table 5 shows that 23.4% of the respondents had 1 - 5 years of work experience. (19.1%) had 5 - 10 years of work experience. Also, (19.1%) of respondents had 11 - 15 years. Those with work experience of more than 15 years comprised 38.3% of the sample. (76.5%) had at least five years of work experience.

Table 4. Frequency distribution of job position.

Education	Frequency	Percentage
CFO	4	8.5%
Audit Committee	1	2.1%
Internal Auditor	17	36.2%
External Auditor	3	6.4%
Other	22	46.8%
Total	47	100.00%

Table 5. Frequency distribution of experience.

Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1 - 5 years	11	23.40%
5 - 10 years	9	19.15%
11 - 15 years	9	19.15%
more than 15 years	18	38.30%
Total	47	100.00%

Descriptive Analysis of the Study Variables

The 5-point Likert scale had been followed in the questionnaire development, where a definite number is given to each possible selection among the 5 alternatives that the respondent can select a single alternative for each item. The 5th alternatives are given grades as follows.

Choice	**Weight**
Strongly agree	5
Agree	4
Neither agree, Nor disagree	3
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

Table (2): The arithmetic means and standard deviations of the study variables

Item number	Item name	Variable type	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation
1	Corporate governance commitment to shareholders' rights	independent	4.052	0.677
2	Corporate governance commitment to equal treatment between shareholders	independent	4.042	0.599
3	Corporate governance commitment to disclosure and transparency	independent	4.190	0.614
4	Commitment of corporate governance to the responsibilities of the board of directors	independent	4.201	0.603
5	Quality of accounting information	dependent	4.120	0.445
6	Forensic Accounting procedures	Moderating	3.923	0.628

Hypotheses testing

Before testing the hypotheses, the possibility of linear overlap existence among the variables, had been used, where the test shows that there is no linear interference among variables. The results of correlation test showed supporting finding to the finding of linear overlap, when the correlations among the independent variables were less than 80 percent. Moreover, variance Inflation Factor (VIF), and tolerance variance were used to ensure that the data is appropriate, and can lead to study credibility. The entire values support study credibility. The coefficients of inflation of variation were greater than 1 and less than 10, in addition to the variation values allowed were limited to between 0.1 and 1, which means the integrity of the study variables of the linear interference problems.

Testing the First Hypothesis

Table 3, shows the results of the related regression analysis for the 1st hypothesis. The table shows that the coefficient of determination (R^2) equals 75.5%, which means that 75.5 percent of the change taking place in the quality of accounting information is due to the application of corporate governance rules in all its dimensions including, commitment of corporate governance to the rights of Shareholders, the company's governance commitment to equal treatment among shareholders, the company's governance commitment to disclosure and transparency, the company's governance commitment to the responsibilities of the board of directors. The computed F-Value as a measure indicated by F = 163.749), with a moral significance of less than 1%. Based on which means rejecting the null hypothesis and accepting the alternative hypothesis that It states, “There is a statistically significant impact at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 5\%$) for the application of governance rules in its dimensions on the quality of accounting information in Nigeria Stock Exchange firms.” This result was in agreement with the study of (Al-Abdi ,2016) and (Hamidat and et al, (2016)

Table 3. The results of the first main hypothesis test

Independent variables		Statistical results of the first hypothesis test (H01)	
	B	T	Sig.
Constant	1.028	8.235	0.000***
Shareholders' equity	0.182	5.44	0.000***
Equal treatment	0.278	9.172	0.000***
Transparency disclosure	0.149	3.505	0.001***
Responsibilities of the Board of Directors	0.144	3.234	0.001***
R^2		75.50%	
Adjusted R^2		75.10%	
Sig		0.000***	
F		163.749	

, the hypothesis is accepted at the significance level 5%, *, the hypothesis is accepted at the significance level 1%

The table also shows that the most influencing governance rule on the dependent variable, is corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' equality treatment, since the related Beta value for this variable is the highest, and equals 0.278, where the t-value regarding this independent is 9.172. Based on the impact strength, independent variables are ranked as follows; shareholders' equality treatment, commitment corporate governance with shareholders' rights, disclosure, transparency, and board responsibilities, .

Second Hypothesis Test

Table (4) shows the results of the multiple regression test when the modified variable (the procedures performed by the forensic accountant), is inserted to the dimensions of corporate governance, represented by, commitment towards shareholders' rights, commitment towards shareholders' treatment, corporate governance commitment towards disclosure and transparency, and corporate governance commitment towards the firm. With regard to board of directors responsibility, the test reveals that the related R^2 to this variable increased by 1.3 percent, and became equals 76.8%. The regression model representing the second main hypothesis is significant because f-value equals 76.273, and the computed coefficient of significance is less than 1 percent. Because the related coefficient of significance is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected, where instead its alternative is accepted. Using different words, the attest shows that there is a modified effect of judicial accounting on the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules and the quality of accounting information of listed firms in Nigeria Stock Exchange.

Table (4) The results of the second hypothesis test

Independent variables		Statistical results of the first hypothesis test (H01)	
		T	Sig.
B			
Constant	2.723	4.524	0.000***
Shareholders' equity	0.607	3.3902	0.001***
Equal treatment	0.564	3.239	0.001***
Transparency disclosure	0.778	3.164	0.002***
Responsibilities of the Board of Directors	0.663	2.358	0.019**
Forensic Accounting	0.329	2.008	0.046**
Shareholders' equity*Forensic Accounting	0.094	2.035	0.043**
Equal treatment*Forensic Accounting	0.121	2.689	0.008***
Transparency disclosure*Forensic Accounting	0.179	2.802	0.006***
Responsibilities of the Board of Directors*Forensic Accounting	0.155	2.133	0.034**
R^2		76.80%	
Adjusted R Square		75.80%	
Sig		0.000***	
F		76.273	

Source researchers, (2024)

Table 4, also shows that the results of multiple regression when the modified variable of forensic accounting is inserted to the dimensions of the corporate governance, represented by corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' rights, corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' equality treatment, corporate governance commitment towards disclosure and transparency, and corporate governance commitment towards the firm. The related coefficient of determination (R^2) to the variable of the Board of Directors increased by 1.3 percent, and became equals 76.8%. The study model representing the second main hypothesis is significant since f-value as equals 76.273, and the coefficient of significance is less than 1%. Because the computed coefficient of significance is higher than the predetermined one, which equals 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected, where the alternative one is accepted instead. In other words, the test shows that there is a modified significant effect of judicial accounting on relationship between the application of corporate governance rules and the quality of accounting information in Nigeria Stock exchange.

It is clear from the table that the rule most influencing the dependent variable after entering the modified variable (the procedures that the judicial accountant performs) is the commitment of the company's governance to disclosure and transparency, where the value of ((Beta) was (0.179), and the value (T = 2.802) with a less statistically significant level From 1% to the modified variable represented by the modified effect of the procedures carried out by the forensic accountant on the relationship between the company's governance commitment to disclosure, transparency and the quality of accounting information, which means that there is a positive impact with statistical significance of the modified effect of the procedures performed by the forensic accountant on the relationship between the company's governance commitment to disclosure and transparency And the quality of accounting information .

It was determined above that the most influencing independent variable is corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' equal treatment. Table 4, shows that the independent variable of corporate governance commitment towards boards responsibilities, when forensic accounting inserted, directly comes next to shareholders' equal treatment, because the related beta equals 0.155, and t-value equals. Because the coefficient of significance regarding the modified effect of forensic accounting procedures on the relationship between corporate governance commitment towards boards responsibilities and the quality of accounting information, the null hypotheses is rejected, and its alternative is accepted. This result means that there is a significant positive impact of the modified effect of the procedures performed by the forensic accountant on the relationship between the corporate governance commitment towards boards Responsibilities the quality of accounting information.

The third variable according to the strength of effect, when forensic accounting is inserted as a modified factor is corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' equal treatment, where the value of Beta is 0.0.121, and t-value equals 2.689, with 0.121 coefficient of significance. These statistics indicate that there is a significant positive impact of the modified effect of the actions taken by the forensic accountant, on the corporate government commitment relationship with shareholders equal treatment quality of accounting information.
The fourth variable according to the impact strength on the dependent variable, when the forensic accounting is inserted as a modifier, is corporate governance commitment towards shareholders' rights. Hypotheses testing indicate that the related Beta value to this independent is 0.094, and t-value equals 2.035, while the coefficient of significance is less than 005. Because t-value is less than 5 percent, the null hypothesis is rejected, whereas its alternative is accepted. This means that there is a significant positive impact of the modified effect of the procedures performed by the judicial accountant on the relationship between the commitment of the company’s governance towards the rights of shareholders, and the quality of accounting information.

Summary of findings

The study aimed to determine the impact of forensic accounting on the relationship between corporate governance and the quality of accounting information in Nigeria stock exchange. The study found that a significant impact is existed of corporate governance applications, in its dimensions of; shareholder rights, equality among shareholders, disclosure and transparency, and the responsibilities of the board of directors. With regard to the quality of accounting information in NSE companies, the more adherence to corporate governance rules, the higher the quality of accounting information. The existence of modified effect of forensic accounting has a significance effect on the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules, in its various dimensions, and the quality of accounting information among listed firms in Nigeria. This means that the procedures carried out by judicial accountants affect the nature of the relationship between the application of corporate governance rules in its different dimensions and the quality of accounting information. Also, the study found that forensic accounting had a positive effect in increasing its impact when combined with the application of governance rules, on the quality of accounting information, based on the value of R^2, and there is an integrative relationship between them.

Conclusion

Forensic auditing, as an administrative function, has a role to play in the overall protection of public sector assets. Forensic auditors have a mandate to detect any potential public sector fraud and, if occasioned, conduct investigations of cases at hand and at least suggest effective ways of preventing the occurrence of such frauds. This can be effective where the environment is conducive for them to fulfill this mandate using available detective and investigative techniques to counter public sector frauds.

Most forensic auditors have a police background whilst a few have a banking background. The forensic auditors are not professionally and academically qualified to investigate complex fraud cases. As experience is the best teacher, most public sector frauds, which are not intricate, are successfully investigated and the accused are prosecuted. The majority of the forensic auditors is above five years in service and had undergone in-house training. Public frauds vary from simple, easily detectable, and investigable to those, which are complex and difficult to detect and investigate. Those that are difficult to detect and investigate include those which are computer-related or which computer is used as a conduit to commit fraud.

Also, it was concluded based on the study's analysis that forensic auditing/Accounting has significant mediating effect on financial Accounting quality financial fraud control in Nigeria Stock Exchange and that forensic audit report can significantly enhance court adjudication on financial fraud in Nigeria Stock Exchange. Having ascertained the effect of forensic auditing on financial fraud in Nigeria Stock Exchange. through the various hypotheses formulated for the study,

Based on the results the study recommends the necessity to continue applying the corporate governance procedures in NSE companies, with follow-up by the Securities Commission and the Nigeria Stock Exchange to activate the application of corporate governance rules, and set the necessary and strict controls to ensure their implementation, as it reflects positively on the quality of accounting information, which positively affects the decisions of users of financial statements. It also recommends the necessity to hold training courses for the specialized certified accountants in the field of forensic accounting, to increase their experience with the procedures they perform, by developing them in line with the issues at hand. The need for cooperation by boards of directors is also recommended, and their support to forensic accountants is required.

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Conflict of interest

There was no case of misunderstanding, misconception and conflict of interest among the various parties to the research work

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