

## **FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CRIMES CONTROL IN DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS IN NIGERIA.**

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### ***ABSTRACT***

This study examined forensic accounting and financial crime control in deposit money banks in Nigeria, Nigeria. Specifically, it examined the relationship between investigative audit and money laundering, as well as the relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria. The study adopted a correlational survey research design, with a population of twenty-one (21) deposit money banks in Nigeria and adopted the population of the study as the sample size, because of the small nature of the population of the study. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire, while research questions were analyzed using mean and standard deviation, and hypotheses were tested with simple bivariate regression analysis. The findings revealed that investigative audit has a significant relationship with both money laundering control and falsification of records in deposit money banks. Additionally, litigation support was found to have a significant relationship with money laundering control but no significant relationship with falsification of records. These results underscore the importance of forensic accounting practices in mitigating financial crimes in the deposit money banks in Nigeria, Nigeria. Based on these findings, the study recommends among others: that shareholders and directors in the banking industry should provide regular training on data mining techniques to strengthen the capacity of accounting staff with relevant skills, knowledge, and competencies for effective financial crime detection and prevention.

***Keywords: Investigative Audit, Litigation Support, Financial Crime Control, Money Laundering Falsification of Records.***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Financial recklessness and related offences have become a humongous challenge for businesses and other entities all over the world. It is presently a major concern of developing nations in Africa, Asia and South America. It has become an endemic situation thereby snowballing financial crime and corruption into a normal way of life in these developing countries where individuals are only looking for opportunities to commit financial crime or perpetrate acts of corruption without fear and absolute impunity. These acts of irregularities are so predominant to the extent that almost every individual cannot wash his or her hands clean of it; starting from the public sector to the private sector, from the presidential villa of a nation, down the political office-holding ladder, to the ward councilors; from managing directors of a company, through middle management cadre and to as low as messengers (Kasum, 2009).

The fact that increase in the frequency of financial crime activities in the banking sector in Nigeria as well as all over the world has necessitated that forensic accounting must be carried out as a way of eliminating the rate of financial crimes that could cause fund mismanagement and misappropriation in various financial institutions in Nigeria. The

forensic accounting tools are adopted by different financial establishments for the purpose of meeting the needs of various stakeholders in order to prevent financial crime activities and ineffectiveness of the internal control system over a given period (Krstic, 2009). To ensure the effectiveness of the forensic accounting system, practitioners require a good communication skill and information technology knowledge for the attainment of financial crime prevention. According to Okoye et.al. (2013).

The banking industry in Nigeria is one of the most controlled and regulated industries. Despite this, financial crimes have perpetually reared its ugly face in the industry (Adebisiet al., 2016). Financial crimes are illegitimate activities committed with the purpose of amassing riches either individually, in group or organizationally, thereby violating existing legislation or accounting standards and policies governing the economic activities and administration of the banking industry (Ojaide, 2020).

Today, the events of fraud and other financial crimes have gone sophisticated and even more computerized with the introduction of internet facilities. Hence, the detection and reduction of these fraudulent activities are made more difficult and committing these crimes much easier. Onodi, et al., (2019), opined those forensic investigative skills are required to expose and establish the occurrence of financial crimes. Thus, forensic accounting is a new specialty area in accounting profession that involves intellectual application of accounting, auditing and investigative expertise to collect, analyze and report financial information for the purpose of finding reliable evidences suitable for use at the law court or in administrative proceedings.

Forensic accounting refers to the application of analytical and investigative skills for the purpose of resolving financial issues in a manner that meets standards required by court of law. Forensic accounting services are often provided in the areas of litigation support engagement, financial crime investigation, expert witnessing, forensic expert consultation, dispute resolution and a host of other services, using an intuition approach (Chen & Akkeren, 2021). Imoniana et al., (2021). Also identify prominent areas of forensic accounting service to include: economic damages calculations (whether suffered through tort or breach of contract); litigation support. Business/employee fraud investigations, financial/securities frauds, business interruptions/business failures, computer forensics/discovery, discovery of hidden assets, professional negligence, matrimonial disputes.

Unfortunately, Nigeria has been bedeviled with corruption in all facets of her polity and economy with the banking sector as a major victim from the late 1980s till today, not excluding Nigeria (Dike, et al., 2016). For instance, the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) annual reports for various years revealed colossal frauds and forgeries in the banking sector soaring to billions of Naira (Emeh & Obi, 2021; Adebisi, et al., 2016; Dike et al., 2016; Abaje & Adeniran, 2017; Oseni, 2017).

The growing magnitude of fraudulent activities and other forms of corrupt practices across different sectors of the economy have not left the financial service sector without its attendant negative effect (Adebisiet al., 2016). This has to a large extent prompted the current study to investigate the role of forensic accounting and financial crime control in deposit money banks, using Nigeria as a case study. Today, in Nigeria, several cases of funds misappropriation, cash larceny, assets misappropriation and other forms of financial crime and corrupt practices have been reported across the financial service industry with a lot of negative effect on the financial performance of deposit money banks. Considering the above scenarios, it is widely believed that the incorporation of modern forensic auditing

techniques in an audit in Nigeria is required to equip the accounting profession to deal appropriately with the challenges of detecting creative financial crime schemes arising from audit failure to detect financial crimes. However, this study intends to provide further empirical evidence that forensic accounting can detect and mitigate the occurrence of crimes in deposit money banks in Nigeria. Hence, this study filled the gap in literature by examining forensic accounting and financial crime control in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The aim of this study was to examine forensic accounting and financial crimes control in deposit money banks in Nigeria. Specifically, the study attains the following objectives to:

1. Determine the relationship between investigative audit and money laundering control in deposit money banks in Nigeria
2. Determine the relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.
3. Determine the relationship between litigation support and money laundering in deposit money banks in Nigeria.
4. Determine the relationship between litigation support and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What is the relationship between investigative audit and money laundering in deposit money banks in Nigeria?
2. What is the relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria?
3. What is the relationship between litigation support and money laundering in deposit money banks in Nigeria?
4. What is the relationship between litigation support and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria?

### **RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

In order to provide answers to the research questions raised, the following hypotheses stated in null form are presented below:

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between investigative audit and money laundering control in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between litigation support and money laundering control in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>4</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between litigation support and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Review:**

#### **Concept of Forensic Accounting**

Howard and Sheetz (2019), opined that forensic accounting is the process of interpreting, summarizing and presenting complex financial issues clearly, succinctly and factually often in a court of law as an expert. In the view of Okunbor and Obaretin (2010), it involves the

use of accounting discipline to help determine issues of facts in business litigation. According to Skousen and Wright (2018), forensic accounting is an accounting field of study that has its own methodologies and models of investigative techniques that search for assurance, attestation and advisory viewpoint to produce legal evidence. It is concerned with the evidentiary nature of accounting data, and as a practical field tied up with fraud and forensic auditing; compliance, risk assessment and due diligence; financial statement fraud and detection of financial misrepresentation, tax evasion, bankruptcy and valuation studies; violation of accounting regulation. Curtis (2018), added that fraud can be subjected to forensic accounting, since fraud comprise of acquisition of property or economic advantage by means of deception, through either a misrepresentation or camouflage. Bhasin (2007), notes that the design of forensic accounting include: assessment of damages caused by an auditor's neglectfulness, fact finding to see whether an embezzlement has taken place, in what amount, and whether criminal proceedings are to be initiated; collection of evidence in a criminal proceeding.

Hence corporate enterprises like banks are essentially made-up physical actors; persons who execute some functions or tasks that lead to the attainment of certain goals and these stakeholders who are probably within and outside the enterprise may for various reasons have engaged in financial crimes, (Akenbor & Oghoghomeh, 2021). The banking industry in Nigerian is one of the most controlled and regulated industries. Despite this, financial crimes have perpetually reared its ugly face in the industry. Financial crimes are illegitimate activities committed with the purpose of amasses riches either individually, in group or organizationally, thereby violating existing legislation or accounting standards and policies governing the economic activities and administration of the banking industry, (Ojaide, 2020).

### **Investigative Audit**

Oseni (2017) defines investigative audit as an in-depth confirmation and explanation of distrust concerning transactions and events. It is a very important element of forensic accounting and auditing procedure. It is needed in a situation of a lapse to find out the person involved, the reason and the level of damages and losses. Forensic accounting is an area in accounting that is growing at a fast rate. "Forensic" means "suitable for use in a court of law", Forensic Accounting is an investigative method of accounting used in determining if people and organizations have indulged in unlawful financial actions. Joshi (2003) stated that forensic accounting is the use of expert knowledge and special expertise in stumbling upon the facts relating to financial transactions. It offers accounting investigations which are appropriate in the court and also form the base of dialogue, argument and eventually ruling of disputes. The forensic audit or investigative audit covers a wide range of investigation activities, it is often conducted to arraign a criminal for fraud, embezzlement, and other pecuniary crime (Okoye & Gbegi, 2013). The forensic accountants also known as the investigative auditors receive training which enables them to tackle the realities of businesses (Zysman, 2004).

### **Litigation Support**

Litigation is a term encompassing the use of court processes to resolve a dispute, in line with the rules in place in that jurisdiction. According to Harwood (2016), stages in litigation involves before litigation starts, preparing a case and finally, trial and enforcement. Before litigation begins various forms of preliminary investigations takes place also, various forms

of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) are encouraged to be examined. It is encouraged that parties consider alternative means of resolving the disputes first. The more conventional alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options include: Arbitration, a confidential form of dispute resolution where one or more arbitrators decide a case rather than a court appointed judge. Mediation is a facilitated negotiation assisted by an independent third-party mediator appointed by the parties. An independent expert is appointed to resolve the matter by producing a legally binding decision (Harwood, 2016). In preparing cases for litigation claim forms and particulars of claims for both parties are drafted and served accordingly, this is usually followed by defense and counter claims and replies by the parties involved. Allocations and directions for future conducts of the case are done, presentation of documents, statements by witnessing, expert reports and meetings with experts all form part of the preparation of cases for litigations. This stage is now followed by the trial and enforcement stage as well as appeals by the parties involved. The concept of litigation and business advisory adopted in this study is how the fear and possible avoidance of a court process as well as yielding to expert's objective and independent advice as a forensic accounting technique can serve as an instrument for mitigating as well as possible curbing of financial crimes in the public sector organizations by the perpetrators of these crimes (Harwood, 2016).

### **Concept of Financial Crime Control**

Financial crimes are a form of theft or larceny that occur when a person or entity takes resources (money or property), or uses them in an illegitimate manner, with the intent to gain a benefit from it. These crimes typically involve some form of deceit, subterfuge or the abuse of a position of trust, which distinguishes them from common theft or robbery. Financial crimes may involve falsification of records (fraudulent loans, and diversion of financial investment crimes) litigation of money laundering crimes, and bribery (financial statements crimes by employees and auditors, management and other frauds or financial crimes in the organization) theft; embezzlement, tax evasion, scams or confidence tricks, identity theft, forgery and counterfeiting (production of counterfeit money and consumer goods), Fraud (mortgage fraud, cheques fraud, credit card fraud, corporate fraud, securities fraud such as insider trading, market manipulation, medical fraud, insurance fraud, bank fraud, payment (point of sale) fraud, health care fraud). Financial crimes may be carried out by individuals, corporations, or by organized crime groups. Victims may include individuals, corporations, governments, and entire economies, (Amahalu, et al., 2018).

### **Measures of Financial Crimes:**

#### **Records Falsification**

Falsification of records is the act of destroy, alter, mutilate, or falsify any original documents considered as falsifying. In the accounting context, it is referred as false accounting which is the falsification, concealment, or destruction of records, (Shah, et al., 2011) and is commonly used as the way to trick people into parting with money or any other property, or to cover up what have been done by falsifying the account (Rantanlal & Dhirajlal, 2007). Falsification of documents, forgery, and fraud are categorized as white collar crime. To establish successful prosecution and civil claim, the prosecutor and claimant must prove the intention and conduct of the accused person and the presumption of intention that fall under respective statutory provision. Falsifying financial statements involves the manipulation of financial accounts by overstating assets, sales and profit, or understating

liabilities, expenses or losses. This paper explores the effectiveness of an innovative classification methodology in detecting firms that issue falsified financial statements (FFS) and the identification of the factors associated to FFS (Ibu et al., 2019).

### **Money Laundering**

This is a financial crime of concealment in the flow of fund. It represents the illegal flow of money across the borders of states or nations. Corporate enterprises could be victims especially deposit money banks. The Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004 makes various provisions prohibiting laundering of money as proceeds of crimes or illegal activity, and provides for appropriate penalties for money laundering infringements. According to the Money Laundering Act, no person or corporation or enterprise is allowed to make or accept cash payments of a sum in excess of five hundred thousand naira (N500, 000.00) and two million naira (N2, 000,000.00) or its equivalent in the case of an individual, and enterprise respectively, unless such cash payment or acceptance is undertaken through a deposit money banks, (Owojori & Asaolu, 2019).

### **Forensic Accounting and Financial Crime Control**

Numerous third world and developing countries are perplexed with either falsification of records or high falsification of records index perception due to weak regulatory environments. Thus, many times statutory audit has shown passive and disinterested attitude towards financial crimes fighting and have failed to inform the public with the needed guarantee and professionalism of their preparedness to stand up to falsification of records, bribery, money laundering, etc. The Nigerian Economy has been attributed traditional problem of financial crime has hindered the economic growth and development of the nation. Financial crime in deposit money banks have taken the center stage in both private and public financial discourse and is assuming a position of preeminence. Hence is of utmost believe that since the traditional auditing can't properly laid down guidelines to control and prevent financial crimes, forensic accounting can be used in prosecuting and or controlling financial crimes in corporate enterprises especially deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Forensic accounting is field of specialization that has to do with provision of information that is meant to be used as evidence of internal control and especially for legal purposes, (Cole, 2019). The persons practicing in this field (i.e. forensic accountants) investigate and documents financial crimes and white-collar crimes. They provide those services for corporation, attorney, criminal investigators and the government. Coenen, (2005), in Zysman (2001), that forensic accountant's engagements and job descriptions are usually geared towards finding where money went, how it got there, who was responsible, filling documents for litigation and finally establishing control measures for reoccurrences. In the view of Bhasin (2007), "forensic accountants are trained to look beyond the numbers and deal with the business realities of situations; summarization, analysis, interpretation, and the presentation of complex financial business-related issues and recommendations are prominent features of the profession. He further reported that the activities of forensic accountants involve investigating and analyzing financial evidence by developing computerized applications to assists in future analysis and presentation of financial evidence. Their findings in the form of reports, exhibits and collections of documents and assisting in legal proceedings, including testifying in courts, as an expert witness and preparing visual aids to support trial evidence".

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

### **White Collar Crime Theory**

White-collar crime refers to a non-violent crime committed by individuals or organizations for financial gain. Sutherland, 1949 cited in Michael (2004), defined white collar crime as crime committed by a person of respectable and high social status in the course of his occupation stating that white collar crime are crimes committed respectable and of high-status staff in his place of work. White collar criminals are intelligent, opportunists, affluent and educated individuals who believed they can take advantage of circumstances to accumulate financial gain. Commercial banks and their staff are highly educated and Fraudulent financial activities are illicit activities committed with the purpose of acquiring riches either individually, in group or organized manner thereby violating existing legislation or accounting policies governing the economic activities and administration of the organization. Hence, forensic accounting is needed to fast track these highly educated fraudulent staff of banks. via relating effectively with litigation of money laundering crimes, litigation of fraudulent loans, adjudication of diversion of financial investment crimes and adjudication of financial statements crimes.

Sutherland noted that in his time, less than 2 percent of the persons committed to Prison in a year belong to the upper class. He tried to establish a relationship between money, social status, and the likelihood of going to jail for a white-collar crime with a more visible, typical crime. He tried to separate and define the difference between the blue-collar street crimes like burglary, theft, rape, arson and vandalism which are often blamed on psychological, associational and structural factor with white collar crimes committed by criminals who are opportunists who overtime learn that they can take advantage of their circumstances to accumulate financial gains. These criminals are educated, intelligent, affluent individuals who can get a job which allows them unfettered and unmonitored access to often large sum of money. White collar crimes include such illegal acts which are characterize by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust and which are not dependent on the application of physical force or violence. This study will be anchored on white collar crime.

## **EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many researchers have attempted to examine forensic accounting and financial crime control, some of these eminent scholars includes: Aksu (2024), in his journal of management sciences examined forensic accounting and its effect on fraud prevention and detection in Nigerian banks. Research data was collected from commercial banks staff in Nigeria adopting a simple questionnaire as the study instrument. Convenience sampling approach was adopted in the selection of 53 respondents from the population of the study. Fifty of the questionnaires were completed and returned. The study objectives included: to determine the effect of forensic accounting services rendered by forensic accountants on the prevention of fraud in banks. The survey approach was adopted in the conduct of the study while formulated hypotheses were validated using ordinary least square method (OLS) regression technique. Findings from the study unveil that there is a significant relationship between litigation support services, crime investigation services and documentation and reporting as forensic accounting functions and the prevention of fraud in banks. Arising from the findings, it was recommended that litigation support service should be enhanced to achieve optimal utilization in banks to reduce the occurrence of fraud; forensic Accountants functions should be performed by well-trained individuals and

professionals in the profession. Furthermore, bank staff should be well remunerated with enhance packages that increases their motivation to contribute to organizational performance without seeing the performance of the organization as beneficial to management only but a joint beneficiaries of improved corporate performance while crime investigation should be enhanced to ensure continuous delivery to avoid lapses and gaps in the review of criminal acts by employee and other stakeholders in the banking sector of the financial service industry.

Oseni (2017), examined the effects of forensic accounting services on fraud and financial crime detection and prevention in Nigeria. The survey designed was used in the study with a sample size of 160 consisting of Auchu Polytechnic, Edo State Ministry of Finance, Audit Firms and Federal Inland Revenue Services. The simple random technique was used as the sampling technique, while the chisquare was employed in the data analysis. The tests of hypothesis were done using Microsoft Excel 2010 version. Tests were carried out at a significant level of 5% and three degree of freedom. The paper concludes that financial crimes and fraud have serious negative effect on human capital and infrastructural development in developing economies, especially countries like Nigeria. Forensic accounting services provide corporate organizations with the necessary tools to detect and prevent frauds and financial crimes. The study therefore recommends that professional accounting bodies should constantly conduct forensic accounting training for accountants and Nigerians should embrace integrity, objectivity, fairness and accountability in their daily activities.

### **METHODOLOGY RESEARCH DESIGN**

The research design is structured in order to ensure relevance of the data collected. This study basically adopted correlational research design.

### **POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

The population of the study consists of twenty-one (21) deposit money banks in Nigeria Exchange Group as at, 2025. The population of the entire staff in these financial institutions were one thousand hundred and ninety-seven (1197).

### **SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**

The researcher adopted the population of the study as the sample size.

### **METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

Data were collected from field reports from the 21 deposit money banks staff enrollment files 2025, derived from staff respondent from the 21 deposit money banks under review.

### **MODEL SPECIFICATION**

According to Nmesirionye et al., (2019), regression analysis is concerned with the study of how one or more variables affect changes in another variable. Thus, on the basis of the theoretical framework, the study adopted the regression formula adopted in the work with some modifications. The model is specified as:  $Y = f(a_0 + bX_1) + ET$

Y = criterion variable

f = function

X = independent variable

a = intercept

$b = \text{slop}$

In functional form, our hypotheses models are:

$$FCC = f(FA) + ET \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$FCC = f(MLC + BC) + ET \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

**The First Model:** The first hypothesis test model shows the relationship between investigative audit and money laundering

$$H_{01}: MLC = f(IA) \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

**The Second Model:** The second hypothesis test model shows the relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records

$$H_{02}: FLS = f(IA) \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

**The Third Model:** The third hypothesis test model shows the relationship between litigation support and money laundering control:

$$H_{03}: MLC = f(LGS) \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

**The Fourth Model:** The fourth hypothesis test model shows the relationship between litigation support and falsification of records:

$$H_{04}: FLS = f(LGS) \dots\dots\dots (iv)$$

## METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The research questions were analyzed using Mean and Standard Deviation in distributive statistics tables. The formulated hypotheses were tested using the simple bivariate regression analysis.

## DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

### DATA PRESENTATION

**Table 4.1;** Population distribution of respondents in 21 deposit money banks in Nigeria

S/N	Names of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria.	Respondents			Total
		Bank's Management Staff	Bank's External Operatives	Bank's Middle Class Staff	
1	Access Bank Nigeria Limited	27	8	33	68
2	Citibank Nigeria Limited	18	3	21	42
3	Trust Bank Nigeria Limited	21	6	24	51
4	Eco bank Nigeria Plc	26	5	29	60
5	Fidelity Bank Plc	22	7	35	64
6	First Bank Nigeria Plc	29	9	31	69
7	First City Monument Bank Plc	17	5	24	46
8	Guaranty Trust Bank plc	24	7	37	68
9	Heritage Bank	18	3	26	47
10	Globus Bank	13	4	21	38
11	Keystone Bank Limited	19	5	24	48

12	Polaris Bank Nigeria	22	6	24	52
13	Stanbic IBTC Bank Ltd.	26	8	37	71
14	Standard Chartered Bank	29	4	35	68
15	Sterling Bank Nigeria Ltd.	21	6	31	58
16	Premium Trust Bank	18	5	26	49
17	Union Bank of Nigeria Plc.	27	6	30	63
18	Unity Bank Nigeria Ltd.	27	5	36	68
19	United Bank for Africa Plc.	26	8	32	63
20	Wema Bank Plc	17	5	24	46
21	Zenith Bank Plc	25	4	26	55
Total					1,197

## DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

**Table 4.2;** Analysis of population distribution of respondents in 21 deposit money banks in Nigeria, using mean and standard deviation in descriptive statistics.

S/N	Names of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria	Bank's Management Staffs	Bank's Middle-Class Staffs	Bank's External Staffs	X	X - Mean	(X - Mean) <sup>2</sup>
1	Access Bank Nigeria Limited	27	33	8	68	11	121
2	Citibank Nigeria Limited	18	21	3	42	-15	225
3	Trust Bank Nigeria Limited	21	24	6	51	-6	36
4	Eco bank Nigeria Plc.	26	29	5	60	3	9
5	Fidelity Bank Plc.	22	35	7	64	7	49
6	First Bank Nigeria Plc.	29	31	9	69	12	144
7	First City Monument Bank Plc.	17	24	5	46	-11	121
8	Guaranty Trust Bank plc.	24	37	7	68	11	121
9	Heritage Bank	18	26	3	47	-10	100
10	Globus Bank	13	21	4	38	-19	361
11	Keystone Bank Limited	19	24	5	48	-9	81
12	Polaris Bank Nigeria	22	24	6	52	-5	25
13	Stanbic IBTC Bank Ltd.	26	37	8	71	14	196
14	Standard Chartered Bank	29	35	4	68	11	121
15	Sterling Bank Nigeria Ltd.	21	31	6	58	1	1
16	Premium Trust Bank	18	26	5	49	-8	64

17	Union Bank of Nigeria Plc.	27	30	6	63	6	36
18	Unity Bank Nigeria Ltd.	27	36	5	68	11	121
19	United Bank for Africa Plc.	26	32	8	66	9	81
20	Wema Bank Plc.	17	24	5	46	-11	121
21	Zenith Bank Plc.	25	26	4	55	-2	4
Total		472	606	119	1197		2138

### SUMMARY OF RESULT FINDINGS

**Table 4.8; Result Summary of Hypotheses Analysis**

Hypotheses	Statistical Tool	Coefficient	T - Test	P - Test	Statistical Decision	Remark
HO <sub>1</sub>	Simple Bivariate Regression Test	2.298	5.254	0.000	Significant	Reject
HO <sub>2</sub>	Simple Bivariate Regression Test	4.325	5.311	0.000	Significant	Reject
HO <sub>3</sub>	Simple Bivariate Regression Test	3.018	3.247	0.002	Significant	Reject
HO <sub>4</sub>	Simple Bivariate Regression Test	-2.030	-4.057	0.805	Not Significant	Accept

The hypotheses of the study were presented in line with the statistical decision rule: if the probability value (PV) in is less than 0.5 alpha level, we reject the null hypotheses and accept significant relationship. Meanwhile, if the probability value (PV) is greater than 0.05 alpha level, we accept the null hypothesis and accept insignificant relationship. Hence null hypothesis H<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>3</sub> were rejected and that of H<sub>4</sub> accepted.

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the summary of hypotheses table above the result of the hypotheses of the study were presented in line with the statistical decision rule: if the probability value (PV) in is less than 0.5 alpha level, we reject the null hypotheses and accept significant relationship. Meanwhile, if the probability value (PV) is greater than 0.05 alpha level, we accept the null hypothesis and accept insignificant relationship. Hence:

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is significant relationship between investigative audit and money laundering control in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>2</sub>:** There is significant relationship between investigative audit and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>3</sub>:** There is significant relationship between litigation support and money laundering control in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**HO<sub>4</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between litigation support and falsification of records in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

## **CONCLUSION**

Forensic accounting is seen as encapsulating all the other areas in the use of accounting for investigative purposes. The increasing need for forensic and investigative accounting in the banking sector results from the nature of modern-day banking involves large volume of complex data which makes it difficult to monitor those transactions by applying manual audit processes. This in turns makes the control utility of auditing ineffectual. Forensic accounting may offer some respite to the seeming vulnerability of conventional accounting and audit systems to financial crime. Consequently, the incorporation of modern auditing techniques in an audit in Nigeria is seen as timely in order to prepare the accounting profession to deal effectively with the problem of unearthly ingenious financial crime arising from audit failure to detect financial crimes.

Financial crimes have increased considerably over the past years and experts believes that the trend is likely to keep on growing if adequate measures are not taken to curb this perfidy. So in the quest to combat this economic monster (financial crime) in Nigeria precisely, the study of forensic accounting and financial crime control in deposit money banks was carried out in Nigeria. The following conclusions were arrived at, that:

- Financial crime gave birth to forensic auditing and the incessant occurrence of financial crime in our banking sector has become the major reasons behind bank failures in the country and the effects of the crimes cuts across every sector in the economy, because the financial sector is the custodian and engine house of every nation's economy.
- Investigative audit has been playing a vital role in fraud detection and prevention and also been regarded as a useful technique in unearthing and prevention of financial crime and falsification of documents in the business world. Based on findings, the researcher hereby concludes that forensic accounting is a better way to combat financial crime in deposit money banks in Nigeria.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are therefore made:

1. Shareholders and directors of banking industry should provide regular training on data mining techniques to equip their accounting staff with the relevant and up-to date skills, abilities, attitude and competences for financial crime detection.
2. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigerian should organize regular conferences, seminars and workshops for their members where emerging trends in anonymous communication are highlighted to help professional accountants and auditors detect and prevent financial crimes or at least reduce the incidence to save their employers.

3. Bank staff should endeavor to support forensic auditors with relevant background information that could lead to financial crime detection to ensure that the occurrence of fraud is minimized to the barest minimum.
4. Shareholders and directors in the banking industry should provide regular training on data mining techniques to strengthen the capacity of accounting staff with relevant skills, knowledge, and competencies for effective financial crime detection and prevention.

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