

**FORENSIC AUDIT AND FRAUD CONTROL IN NIGERIAN PUBLIC SECTOR****Dr. Solomon Egbe**

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**Abstract**

*The rate of economic and financial crimes in the world today which has manifested in various ways including financial statement fraud that has bedeviled the corporate world today globally, and the resultant effect of corporate failures have placed greater responsibility and function on accountants and auditors to equip themselves with the necessary skills to identify and act upon indicators of poor corporate governance, weak management, poor internal control system, etc. The widespread of frauds in modern organizations has made traditional auditing and investigation inefficient and ineffective in the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities confronting business world-wide, the present paper is on forensic audit and fraud control in Nigerian public sector.*

**Introduction**

The high level of frauds particularly corporate and occupational frauds perpetuated by top management of renowned corporate organizations, a phenomenon that assumed a worrisome dimension during the last two decades as well as the sad revelation of the active involvement or negligence of audit system, have combined to attract the need for fraud control. Indeed in the business world today, there are cases of fraudulent practices which resulted to many companies downfall, ranging from lack of accountability, company crisis, misappropriation of funds, excess- expenditure that are usually not compactable with the real budget among others. In line with this, the public has witnessed a number of well known examples of auditing failures, accounting scandals and bankruptcy consequent upon fraud and fraudulent activities involving large and prestigious companies in developed countries. The top executives of these and other corporations were accused of one financial irregularities and Nigeria is not exempted either from incidences of fraudulent practices and business failures. Take the case of five banks (Afri Bank, Fin Bank Union Bank Intercontinental Bank and Oceanic Bank) that failed the central bank of Nigeria (CBN) Stress test in 2009. These banks had one thing in common. They were certified distressed by CBN barely few months after their auditors had given them clean bill of health. Perhaps the greatest audit failure in Nigeria in recent times is accounting scandal of the Cadbury Nig Pic which came to the public attention in 2006. Investors and indeed, the general public expect an auditor to detect all forms of fraudulent activities. As Izedonmi (2000) put it, "it is the primary responsibility of the management audit to ensure that fraud and errors are prevented or detected in the enterprise". Similarly, Okunbor and Obaretin (2010) reported that the spates of corporate failures have placed greater responsibilities and function on accountant to equip themselves with skills to identify and act upon indicators of poor corporate governance, mismanagement frauds and other wrong doings, it has become imperative for accountants at all levels to have the requisite skills and knowledge for identifying, discovering as well as preserving the evidence of all forms of irregularities and fraud. Consequently, the general society of accounting profession and legal professions in particular have sought to formulate and implement more stringent fraud control mechanisms through regulatory frameworks as statement of accounting standards, No 99 in regulating the activities of accounting and auditing practitioners towards effective control of fraud.

Hansen (2009) stated that computer forensics is currently the investigators best tools in detecting and controlling white collar crimes and improving the firm's performance. Indeed, accounting procedures generally record the financial and operational activities of businesses while basic auditing verifies and validates the accuracy of the recording, noting any errors and irregularities. But forensic accounting auditing goes beyond this to investigate the history and circumstances that gave rise to the transactions and the entries and combines strong auditing procedures with sophisticated investigative techniques. In verifying the accuracy and legitimacy of financial reporting, forensic accounting actually blends auditing, accounting and investigative skills, not just looking at analyzing the numbers but looking behind the numerical data with the deliberate intention of uncovering accounting irregularities. The underlying principle is to use financial records to find evidence of crimes and to track criminals. Indeed, incorporation of modern forensic auditing techniques in public sectors in Nigeria is seen as timely in order to prepare the accounting professions to deal effectively with the problem of unearthing ingenious fraud schemes arising from audit failures to detect frauds in Nigeria and to improve on the performance of Nigerian public service (Okwoli, 2004). Centre for Forensic Studies (2010) report in Nigeria states that if well applied forensic accounting could be used to reverse the leakages that cause corporate failures with these vital roles of forensic accounting, some private and public organizations in Nigeria are yet to give recognition to the office of a forensic accounting and auditing. Some are yet to fully comprehend the importance of forensic accounting and auditing in organizations. Consequently Hence, the focus of this study therefore is to examine the effect of forensic auditing and fraud control in Nigerian public Sectors.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Owojori and Asoula (2009) opines that the failure of statutory audit to prevent and reduce misappropriation, corporate fraud and increase in corporate crime has put pressure on the professional accountant and auditors to find a better way of exposing fraud in business world (Ramaswamy, 2009). Although, financial irregularities affects private and public sector, the magnitude of public office fraud together with the extent to which citizen are affected calls for alarm. Consequently, effective corporate and occupational frauds control has been a major problem of Nigerian economy over the years (Ribadu, 2005). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and other key players like ICPC, SERVICOM, CBN, as well as other government agencies often times have had to rely on the engagement of the services of professional auditors who unfortunately are statutory more concerned with compliance with the laid down guidelines than fraud control in their operations. As a result, the problem of fraud has continued unabated by the audit system. Therefore the inability of the audit system to check the fraud menace through effective detection and prevention of fraud traces and occurrences have fraudsters to continue to have a field day and to subject the entire global and national economies of many nations, Nigeria inclusive to a state of perpetual threat. The problem is more common in public sector, which affect a lot of citizens and in most cases perpetrators get away with the act. Consequently, many involved are left alone and hence there is no deterrent from future acts. This unfortunate situations has generated increased stakeholders agitations for a proactive measure to be taken. This in turn, has brought pressure to bear on the accounting profession in particular and the legal profession by extension. The twin disciplines caught in the web have sought to engage the services of professionals in the fraud investigation processes. In the same line of thought, Huber (2012), declared that the scandals, fraud, audit failures, have contributed to the loss of confidence by the financial statement users in the ability of public accounting to contribute viable solutions to the financial problems and have caused the growth in demand for forensic audit accountant. Forensic accounting or investigative auditing has been

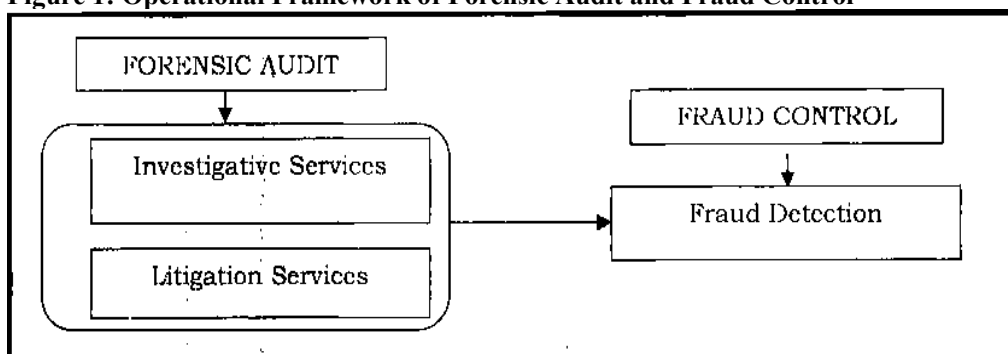
acknowledged as been focused only on the detection and prevention of the phenomenon of frauds introduced into economic transactions (Chariri, 2009). Hence, little or no studies on effect of forensic auditing on the control of frauds and fraudulent practices in Nigeria public services forensic audit accounting and fraud control is yet to receive a detailed empirical evaluation as an effective investigative tool, particularly within the context of Nigerian public sector. To expand the frontier of knowledge toward this area, there is need for examination of the effect of forensic auditing and fraud control in Nigerian public sectors.

#### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to examine the effect of forensic auditing and the fraud control in Nigeria public Sector. Other specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine the effect of investigative services on fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors.
2. Access the effect of litigation services on fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors.

**Figure 1: Operational Framework of Forensic Audit and Fraud Control**



*Source: Researcher conceptualization,*

#### **2019 Research Questions**

*Based on the specific objectives of this study, the following research questions were addressed:*

1. *To what extent does investigative services affect fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors?*
2. *To what extent does litigation services affect fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors?*

**Hypotheses**

Based on the specific objectives and research questions, the following null hypotheses are to be tested in this research work:

Hoi: There is no significant effect of investigative services on fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors

IIo<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant effect of litigation services on fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors

**Theoretical Framework**

The theories that will guide this study are: Fraud triangle theory, white collar crime theory, Fraud Diamond theory and Fraud scale theory.

**Fraud Triangle Theory**

This theory is a model that explains the factors that causes someone to commit fraud. The fraud triangle theory originated from Donald Creasey hypothesis, Donald creasy hypothesis which is known as fraud triangle consist of pressure/motives, opportunities and rationalization. It's usually represented in a triangle. The first side of fraud triangle represents a pressure or motive to commit fraudulent act, second side of the triangle represent the opportunity to commit the fraud and the third side represent a rationalization by the fraudster after the fraud has been committed. Lister (2007) adumbrated that pressure/motivation to commit fraud could arise as a result of unethical behavior. The opportunity to commit frauds is created by ineffective control or by a governance system that allows an individual to commit fraud. In the field of accounting and auditing, this opportunity is perceived that people will take advantage of the circumstances available to them. This lower the risk of being caught, the more likely is it that fraud will occur .Opportunity is that factor that created the environment for fraud to easily be perpetuated. The examples of opportunities that lead to fraud are: The integration of duties, complex transaction, organizational structure, negligence of employees' breach of contract and lack of disciplinary action, irregular audit, etc. Subramanin (2008) stated that opportunity refers to the ability and power of the employee to realize the weakness of the organizational system and taking advantage of such weakness to perpetuate frauds. The rationalization is third elements of fraud triangle. The concept states that the perpetrator must formulate some morally accepted idea to him before engaging in unethical behavior, some examples of rationalization could be; "I was only borrowing money", I was only entitled to the money because my employer was owing me or cheating me. Rationalization is difficult to notice, as it is impossible to read the mind of the fraudster. People who commit fraud lack moral reasoning and integrity. A bridge between incentive/pressure and opportunity is created when an individual can rationalize the fraudulent behavior,

**Fraud Scale Theory**

The fraud scale theory was developed by Albrecht, Howe & Romney (1984) as an alternative to the fraud triangle model. The fraud scale is very similar to the fraud triangle; however, the fraud scale uses an element called "personal integrity" instead of rationalization. This personal integrity element is associated with each individual's personal code of ethical behaviour. Albrecht et al. (1984) also argued that, unlike rationalization in the fraud triangle theory,

personal integrity can be observed in both an individual's decisions and the decision-making process, which can help in assessing integrity and determining the likelihood that an individual will commit fraud. Experts agree that fraud and other unethical behaviors often occur due to an individual's lack of personal integrity or other moral reasoning (Rae & Subramaniam, 2008). Hence, to forestall the occurrence of such fraud, the service of a trained and experienced investigator like the forensic auditor is highly required.

### **Forensic Auditing**

In view of the nature of the term, various definitions have been given to describe forensic auditing. Thornhill (1995) asserts that there is no standards definition for forensic auditing that could capture all aspects of its constituents of existence. However, he defines forensics as an accounting analysis to assist in legal matters. It is frequently associated with the analytical investigation of civil or criminal actions, such as white-collar crime, insurance causality claims, loss measurements, accounting malpractices and general abuse of trust relationships. It comprises two major components; Litigation service that recognizes the role of an accountant as an expert consultant and investigative services that use a forensic accountant's skill and may require possible courtroom as an expert testimony (Houlbert, 2004). The Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary (2000:548) defines forensic as belonging to, used in or suitable to a court of judicature or to the public discussion or debate. While Websitcs's dictionary defines forensic accounting as pertaining to, connected with, or used in the courts of law or public discussion and debate. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA) defines forensic accounting as services that involve the application of specialized knowledge and investigative skills possessed by Certified Public Accountant. Forensic accounting services utilize the practitioners specialized skills in auditing, accounting, economics, sociology, anthropology, law and other skills (AICPA 2010). According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Forensic accounting is the use of skills in potential or real civil or criminal disputes, including generally accepted accounting and auditing principles, established losses or profit, income property or damage, estimations of internal controls, frauds and others that involve inclusion of accounting expertise into the legal system.

### **Relevance of Forensic Auditing Services in Public Sector**

- i. **Objectivity and credibility:** there is little doubt that an external (third) party would be far more independent and objective than an internal auditor who ultimately reports to management on his findings. An established firm of forensic auditors and its team would also have credibility stemming from the firm's reputation, network and track record.
- ii. **Accounting expertise and industry knowledge:** an external forensic auditor would add to the organization's investigation team with breadth and depth of experience and deep industry expertise in handling frauds of the nature encountered by the organization.
- iii. **Provision of valuable manpower resources:** an organization in the midst of re-organization and restructuring following a major fraud would hardly have the full-time resources to handle a broad-based exhaustive investigation. The forensic auditor and his team of assistants would provide the much needed experienced resources, thereby freeing the organization's staff for other more immediate management demands. This is more critical when the nature of the fraud calls for management to move quickly to curtail the problem and when resources cannot be mobilized in time.

- iv. Enhanccd effectiveness and efficiency: this arises from the additional dimension and depth which experienced individuals in fraud investigation bring with them to focus on the issues at hand. Such individuals are specialists in rooting out fraud and would recognize transactions normally passed over by the organization's accountants or auditors

### **Dimensions of Forensic Audit**

Forensic accounting encompasses both litigation support and investigative accounting. Litigation support provides assistance of all nature in a matter involving existing or pending litigation, deals primarily with issues related with the quantification of economic damages while investigative accounting is associated to the instigation of criminal matters (Zysman, 2001).

### **Investigative Services**

Investigation is an examination of accounts and records of a business concern with some special purpose in view. In most of the cases, the purpose of such an enquiry is to known as actually as possible the financial position of the concern so that in an opinion can be formed and action taken accordingly. Phejiffer (1998:34) defined financial investigation as investigations in which on behalf of law enforcement, financial expertise is used in order to gather, check, refine, process and analyze financial information, Similarly, Tuffey (2002), defined financial investigation as the investigation of an individual or corporation through their financial affairs. Willemse (2004) is of the view that financial investigation is the identification and documentation of the movement of money during the course of and after crime. Forensic accountants also play important investigative roles in government they work for agencies of government such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, The central Intelligence Agency and Federal Internal Revenue Service (FIRS). Forensic accountants in this role look for signs of suspicious financial activity and fraud by individual and businesses. In addition, forensic accountants have assumed a more visible role in helping the government evaluate accounting and banking records of suspected terrorists. Forensic accountant establishes the link between where the money comes from who gets it, when it was received, and where it was stored or deposited. This can provide proof of unlawful activity such as money laundering, racketeering, corruption and terrorist financing well as identify and tracing assets for forfeiture purposes, in effect of addressing the proceeds of unlawful activity. Forensic accountants currently apply their unique expertise to any array of diverse assignments and arc often hired to determine whether there has been any intentional misrepresentation associated with a company's financial records. Fraudulent misrepresentation can range from over valuation of inventory and proper capitalization of expenses to misstatement of earnings and embezzlement (Harris & Brown, 2000; Messmer, 2004). Business fraud investigation can involve funds tracing, assets identification and recovery. Forensic intelligence gathering and due diligence reviews, employee and investigations are often procedures to determine the existence, nature and extent (fraud may concern the identification of a perpetrator. These investigations often entail interviews, of personnel who had access to the funds and a detailed view of the documentary evidence.

Zysman (2001) in a more elaborate form captured the investigative assignment performed by forensic accountant as including:

- (a.) Criminal investigation, which are usually on behalf of the police with the aim of preventing evidence in a professional and concise manner.

(b.) Business/employee fraud investigations which can involve fraud tracing, assets identification and recovery, forensic intelligence gathering and due diligence review.

### **Litigation Support Services**

According to Akintoye (2008), forensic litigation support provides assistance of a nature in a matter involving existing or pending litigation or represents the factual presentation of economic issues related to existing or pending litigation, it deals primarily with issues related to the qualification of economic damages sustained by parties involved in legal disputes and can assist in resolving disputes even before reaching or getting to the court room. A good example of litigation support assignment would be calculating the economic loss resulting from breach contract. Organizations also hire forensic accountants for guidance when evaluating potential business transactions. Forensic accountants assess a company's true worth during mergers and acquisition(MA) and ensure that a purchaser is knowledgeable about the target firm's financial situation and value, while looking for signs of suspicious accounting activity (Harris & Brown, 2000). Forensic accountants also quantify damages in cases of personal injury, product quality, contract disputes and intellectual property as well as uncovering hidden assets in complicated matrimonial law cases. This type of service may culminate in the forensic accountant's providing expert witness testimony (Mcsmmer, 2004; Ramaswamy, 2005). Zysman (2001) captured the litigation services of forensic accountants to include:

- (a) Shareholders and partnership dispute that involve analysis of numerous year financial records for valuation and qualification of the issue in dispute.
- (b) Personal injury claim, where for example economic losses from motor accident or wrongful dismissal may need to be quantified.
- (c) Business interruption and other type of insurance claim. These assignments involve a detailed review of the policy to investigate coverage issues and the appropriate methods of calculating the loss.
- (d) Business economic losses where contract disputed, construction claims, expropriation, product liability claim and trade mark are the issues.
- (e) Professional negligence, to ascertain the breach and quantify the loss involved.
- (f) Mediation and arbitration as a form of alternative dispute resolution. Because of forensic account familiarity and comfort with legal issues and procedures, they sought out special training and become involved in alternative dispute resolution (ADR).ADR services include both mediation and arbitration designed to help individuals and businesses resolve complex disputes with minimal disruption and in a timely fashion.

### **Fraud Control Measures**

These proactive measures can serve as an integral part of the accountants' role in fraud control and reporting.

**Perform employee background check:** performing employee reference and checks organizations can help to minimize the treat of theft and other wrong doing.

**Increase the use of analytical review:** by conducting financial analysis, internal auditors revealed unexpected or absence of relationship that should be present. Auditors should analyse several years of financial statement data by using various analysis, ratio (vertical) analysis or common size statement, budgetary comparison and review general ledger and journal entries.

**Perform contact review:** according to Carl & Richard (2006), review of organization contracts can help identify possible contract fraud such as conflicts of interests and kick back among them employees. A review of public records may whether an employee has a convert ownership interest in a contractor.

**Conduct an economic espionage threat analysis:** to protect sensitive information, organization internal auditors perform analysis that gauges threat to intellectual assets. The analysis to be made include the assessment of what assets are owned and how it is be misappropriated.

**Increase internal control evaluation and testing:** internal control is an integral part to effective and corporate governance and present an area in which the audit department can add value and help the organization accomplishes its goal and objective for this process to be successful, internal auditors should work with external auditors to ensure that controls are being tested and all regulatory requirement are met. Fraud control process is made up of eight components. They are fraud deterrence, fraud detection, fraud prevention, fraud mitigation, fraud analysis, fraud policy, fraud prospection. Of these fraud control processes, none appeals to have attracted increased scholarly attention lately as the twin component of fraud detection and fraud prevention. We therefore deem it necessary to concentrate our discussion on the fraud control measures using the fraud detection and fraud prevention in organization.

### **Empirical Studies**

Oyedokun (2016) examined forensic accounting investigation techniques: any rationalization. The methodology used in arriving at the conclusion was the content analysis. The findings revealed that forensic accounting combines various skills, tools and techniques available in other field of endeavour. Sowjanya & Jyotsna (2012) examined forensic auditing and data mining techniques for fraud detection and prevention. Using fuzzy set theory that financial statements data may not be sufficient for detections of fraud without the application of data mining.

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Design**

Due to time constraints, the researcher limited his survey research to quasi- experimental design because the variables under the study are not under researchers' control. In addition, the field study will be used to obtain information from the respondents.

#### **Population and sampling procedure**

The population of the study refers to the entire members of the target group with similar attributes from which the sample of interest in the study is drawn. The target population for this study consists of 25 ministries, departments and agencies of the federal government of Nigeria (MDA's) that are active between 1990 to 2015 as published in the portal of the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Nigeria volume 25 bulletin of 2015.



Table 1: Showing a list of federal ministries as provided by the Nigerian Bureau of statistics

- Federal Ministry of Labour & Productivity
- Federal Ministry of Mines & Steel Development
- Federal Ministry of Transportation

	Federal Ministry of Power
	Federal Ministry of Interior
	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
	Federal Ministry of Science & Technology
	Federal Ministry of Finance
	Federal Ministry of Justice
	Federal Ministry of Aviation
	Federal Ministry of Information & Communication
	Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources
	Federal Ministry of & Sports & Youth Development
	Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources
	Federal Ministry of Health
	Federal Ministry of Defense
	Federal Ministry of Energy
	Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture & National Orientation
	Federal Ministry of Environment
	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Federal Ministry of Niger Delta
	Federal Ministry of Education
23	Federal Ministry of Trade & Investment
24	Federal Ministry of Federal Capital Territory
25	Federal Ministry of Works, Land & Urban Development

Source: Nigeria Bureau of statistics, 2010; Central Bank of Nigeria Bulletin, 2015.

The study consists of the 25 ministries of the federal government of Nigeria. The ministries are chosen as the accessible population of study because they stand as the units and agents of public-spending as well as paradigms of economic growth. Consequently, the researcher adopted the census approach to arrive at the sample size as there is no use for sample size determination.

**Data Collection Method**

The primary data were collected through distribution of questionnaire, which were designed to elicit responses on the forensic auditing services and fraud control in Nigeria public sectors involved. It will also seek to find out how effective the forensic accounting services can drive

fraud control in Nigeria public sectors. The questions will be both structured and unstructured.

The questionnaire was distributed personally by the researcher to the employees in accounts unit, internal audit unit, legal/logistics unit and the management of unit of rivers state ministry of finance.

#### Operational Measure of Variables

There are three sets of variables in this study: the predictor variables, moderating variable and criterion variables.

1. Forensic accounting services-the independent or predictor variables
2. Fraud control-the dependent or criterion variables
3. Technological development-moderating variables

The criterion components are fraud deduction and fraud prevention, while the predictor variables are investigative services and litigation support, services of forensic accountants. The variables were measured using

#### Techniques of Data Analysis

The methods to be used for analysis of the data gathered in this study included: Tabulation of data, from which descriptive statistics were computed. Data was presented in tables and values expressed in percentages. The hypotheses stated were tested with the aid of Statistical package for social Sciences (SPSS version 21) A computer based software for data analysis.

#### Model Specification

Models are used to show a mathematical relationship between two or more variables. It will be proper at this point to specify our model. To do this, the defined the acronyms as used in this study to make it less cumbersome.

1. INVTS=Investigative Services of forensic accountants
2. LITGS=Litigation Support Service of forensic accountants
3. FD=Fraud Detection

The Functional Relationship of the Variables are Expressed as;

$$FD = F(INVS) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$FD = F(LITGS) \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

#### Simple Regression Analysis Specification

This has to do with only two variables. We will examine the relationship or the nature of the

relationship between the different individual components of the criterion variables and the predictor variables. We used this technique to test hypotheses 1 - 2

FC = a + b(FAS)

Where:

FC the individual or aggregate measure of the criterion variable which is fraud control or different component of its which are fraud detection and fraud prevention,  
a autonomous value of the predictor variable or fixed element of the regression line,  
b slope of the regression line

Hence,

FD a<sub>0</sub>ib<sub>1</sub>ilNVTSp.:.....(1)

FD a<sub>0</sub>i b<sub>3</sub>LITGSTp.-.....(3)

**Result And Discussion**

The presentation below are the results of the hypotheses and their discussion.

**Hypothesis 1 Testing**

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant effect between investigative services and fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors.

**Table 2: Correlations**

		Total score on investigative services	Total score on fraud detection
Total score on investigative services	Pearson Correlation	1	.980**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	25	25
Total score on fraud detection	Pearson Correlation	.980**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	25	25

a. Predictor variable: (constant) = INVTS                      oc= 0.05

b. Dependent variable: FD

The SPSS hypothesis 1 result above shows that investigative services carried out during forensic audit has a positive and significant effect on fraud detection. It is possible that the positive and significant effect of investigative services on fraud detection could be as a result of data mining techniques services. This result corroborates with the empirical study on forensic accounting skills and techniques of fraud investigation in the Nigerian public sector. At 0.05 level of significance, for a 2-tailed test, a statistical significance of .980\*\* was obtained.

**Hypothesis 2 Testing**

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant effect between litigation services and fraud detection in Nigeria public sectors.

**Table 3: Correlations**

		Total score on litigation service	Total score on fraud detection
Total score on litigation service	Pearson Correlation	1	.964**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	25	25
Total score on fraud detection	Pearson Correlation	.964**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	25	25

- a. Predictor variable: (constant) = LITGS,  $\alpha = 0.05$   
b. Dependent variable: FD

The SPSS hypothesis 2 results shown above indicates that litigation services have a positive and significant effect on fraud detection. At 0.05 level of significance, the test hypothesis showed a statistical significance of .964\*\* for a 2-tailed test. This relationship from the test result could be attributed to the combination of various skills, tools and techniques available in other fields of endeavour. This result supports the empirical findings by Oyedokun (2016) that examined forensic accounting investigation techniques: any rationalization.

### Conclusions

Given the findings of the study and the results, the following conclusions are hereby drawn: The study confirmed that investigative services, litigation services as well as forensic audit reports have positive and significant effects on fraud detection and fraud prevention respectively in Nigeria public sector. The study also confirmed that the proxies of the explanatory variables have a high statistical effect on those of the explained variables.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

- i. That the public sectors in Nigeria through the Federal Government should make laws to strengthen the forensic audit profession more than it is presently.
- ii. That the regulatory body of the accounting profession in Nigeria should send adequate representation to the law-making arm of Nigeria's Government on the need to train and retrain forensic auditors.
- iii. That the public sector should emphasize the use of forensic auditors in fraud investigation, detection and prevention as very important.
- iv. That the Federal Government of Nigeria should create an adequate operational environment for forensic audit to thrive. This is because presently the profession is still not very popular like taxation, auditing, financial, public sector and management accounting.

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