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FORENSIC ACCOUNTING TECHNIQUES AND OUTPUT MAXIMIZATION IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARASTATALS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Forensic accounting has received significant global interest since its introduction in the investigation of fraudulent activities and specialists' potential presentation of the associated findings in court of law. The use of forensic accounting can be crucial in combatting, among other things, fraud of all types, corruption, and economic and financial crimes. As a result, researchers have demonstrated the value of forensic accounting in the identification and avoidance of fraud and similar crimes. This study therefore examines the forensic accounting techniques and output maximization in Federal Government parastatals in Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study was 5 Federal Government agencies in Nigeria. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 2 agencies. The target population of the study was 131 accountants in the two agencies chosen (Nigeria Port Authority and Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority). Total enumeration was adopted. A validated and structured questionnaire was used to administer 131 copies of the questionnaire to the respondents. 126 copies were retrieved which represented 96% retrieval rate. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients ranged from 0.740 – 0.892. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential (multiple regression) statistics at 5% level of significant. The result found that forensic accounting techniques had significant effect on output maximization in public sector of Nigeria (Adj. R^2 = 0.299; $F(6, 125)$= 16.315, $p < 0.05$). The study concluded that forensic accounting *techniques have impact on output maximization in federal public sector of Nigeria. The study recommended that government should train and develop their staff on the use of forensic accounting techniques to achieve output maximization and attainment of results in government parastatals.*

Keywords: Forensic Accounting Techniques, Procurement Practices, Public Sector, Output Maximization

INTRODUCTION

Forensic accounting has received significant global interest since its introduction in the investigation of fraudulent activities and specialists' potential presentation of the associated findings in court of law. The use of forensic accounting can be crucial in combatting, among other things, fraud of all types, corruption, and economic and financial crimes. As a result, researchers have demonstrated the value of forensic accounting in the identification and avoidance of fraud and similar crimes (Bangura, 2020; Adesina, Erin, Ajetunmobi, Ilogbo & Asiriuwa, 2020; Akinadewo & Akinkoye, 2019; Debajie, 2019; Ejike, 2018; Ehioghiren & Atu, 2016; Enofe, Agbonkpolor, 2015). Despite the crucial role that forensic accounting plays in combating corruption-related activities in both industrialized and developing countries, Nigeria has experienced significant obstacles to its success.

Corruption and other fraudulent practices seem to be a global menace that affects severely the economy of any nation and the society where it exists. It has been subject of continuous discussions in literature as the cause of retardation to developing economies like Africa, Latin America, and Asia as seen today. Economic and financial crimes are believed in most intellectual discourse to be one of the fundamental problems of the Nigerian economy that has negatively impacted its economic growth and development as a nation (Kolawole et al., 2018). These crimes are common and rampant in public sectors and it is the bane of slow development to the Nigerian economy as a whole. There is absolutely no aspect or sector of the economy that is not inflicted by this menace ranging from the financial institution to the health and education sectors as well as the public service (Suleiman, Dalhat, & Sule, 2018).

Financial crimes include oil bunkering, embezzlement, bribery, looting, money laundering, fraud, tax evasion and foreign exchange malpractice (Nwaiwu &Aaron, 2018). Ehioghiren and Atu (2016) posits that financial crimes comprise subsidy fraud, advance fee fraud, identity fraud, bank fraud, mortgage fraud, cheque fraud, embezzlement, credit card fraud, hedge fund fraud, consumer fraud and occupational fraud. Akani and Ogbeide (2017) notes that financial crimes are categorized into four groups which comprise: theft, fraud, manipulation and corruption; these crimes are perpetrated by individuals, organized persons as well as institutions. There is absolutely no aspect or sector of the economy that is not inflicted by this menace, ranging from the financial institution to the health, and education sectors as well as the public service. Akani and Ogbeide (2017) further posits that fraudulent activities and other sharp practices were uncovered and reported in the area of legislative process, salaries and wages, pensions and in government business. Financial crimes such as embezzlement, bribery, corruption, identity fraud, mortgage fraud, occupational fraud, bankruptcy, security fraud, amongst others are perpetrated by individuals, corporate institutions as well as organized group of people in order to acquire criminal enrichment (Akinbowale, 2018).

The characteristics of financial crimes, which are unlawful actions, include deceit, breaking of truces, cover-up, and a lack of reliance on physical force or violent enforcement. In order to gain a personal or professional advantage, these non-violent crimes are therefore committed by organized individuals, groups, and organizations (Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 2018; International Monetary Fund, 2017). These organizations contend that financial needs brought on by a lack of self-control, indiscipline, greed, drug addiction, gambling addiction, debt, peer and family pressure, poor investment decisions, or living beyond one's means also contribute to crime. According to their capacity, capability, and intelligence, the rank-and-file commit financial crimes like fraud in the public sector, which has far-reaching consequences like the lack of financial resources to pursue and fund viable public development projects, deteriorated infrastructure, political programs of the nation, payment of staff salaries and emoluments, and its attendant negative impact on the economy (Amake & Ikathua, 2016). Because of excessive bureaucracy and corruption, it is now impossible to reduce financial crimes in the public sector (Asika 2019).

According to Friday and Crumbley (2021) corruption is one of the main value for money practices responsible for the high incidence of poverty in the nation. Transparency International formerly listed Nigeria as one of the world's most corrupt nations (TI). An independent group called Transparency International developed the Transparency Index to measure the extent of corruption in various nations. According to Olayinka et al. (2021) Nigerian authorities and public are presently facing a significant challenge from corruption, which threatens to jeopardize efficient governmental financial management. Since the nation gained independence in 1960, federal and state administrations are said to have lost over US$380 billion as a result of corruption (Safiyanu et al., 2019).

In Nigeria, corruption harms both the economy and the country's reputation (Ocansey, 2017). Victims in each of these cases included people, the government, institutions, the nation, and society at large. All of this has resulted in the nation receiving extremely poor ratings from Amnesty International (Okoye et al., 2019). Although the use of computers and the development of electronic business benefits individuals and corporate entities by improving performances, efficacy, and effectiveness, as well as making job functions easier to carry out, this advancement in technology also makes it easier to commit frauds, which has significantly contributed to the rise in the issue of financial crimes around the world (Safiyanu et al., 2019). Theft from employees, billing fraud, payroll fraud, insurance fraud, theft from management, corporate fraud, and tax evasion are just a few of the financial crimes and other unethical practices that take place in organizations. According to Haziel et all (2021) theory, there are strong incentives for thieves and fraudsters to commit theft or fraud that materially misstates financial accounts in the modern world due to the influence of growing corporate complexity and the availability of information and technology.

It appears that there are insufficient provisions in the applicable statutes and standards for handling statutory auditor fraud (Moore-Bick, 2018). The associated provisions in the company laws and accounting standards further restrict the scope and complexity of accounting services as well as the statutory auditors' capacity to address the issue of financial fraud. All of these continue to fall outside of the statutory auditor's purview for reporting, barring an investigation (Emeh and Obi, 2013). The failure of auditors to address the problem of fraud left the public dissatisfied with their duties (Henry & Ganiyu, 2017). Corporate organizations have developed strategies to address these issues by using forensic accounting services as a result of the rising incidence of financial crimes and fraudulent practices in the Nigerian economy (Oseni, 2017).

The current economic situation has led to an increase in financial accounting fraud, which has necessitated the use of forensic accounting as a remedy. However, forensic accounting in Nigeria is still in its infancy, which presents its own set of difficulties. (Okoye et al., 2019). Insufficient practical experience of forensic accountants, fear of negative publicity by the organizations where fraud has occurred, lack of an enabling law on forensic accounting are among the issues facing the practice in Nigeria. Other issues include a low level of awareness, the task of gathering information that will be admissible for litigation purposes, the inability to operate more independently and effectively, globalization of the economy, and inability to operate more effectively (Akinadewo & Akinkoye, 2019; Oseni, 2017; Grippo & Ibex, 2003; Degboro & Olofinsola, 2007; Ehioghiren & Atu, 2016). Due to the discipline's youth and difficulties, forensic accounting has not had a significant impact in Nigeria (Aribaba, 2013; Akinadewo & Akinkoye, 2019).

Statement of Problem

Studies such as (Akinadewo & Akinkoye, 2019; Oseni, 2017; Haziel, Yohanna and Fransis, 2021) has been done around forensic accounting techniques and its impact on public sector in the area of efficiency of resources. However, some other these studies lacked consistency in their methodology, while some of these study used secondary data, others utilized primary data. This has created a gap which needs to be addressed. Furthermore, studies of Moore-Bick, (2018); Haziel et all., (2021); Okoye et al. (2019) concentrated their efforts on developed countries in their studies. There seem to be scantiness of studies in the context of Nigeria from the observation of the researcher.

One of the problems currently experienced in the public sector is efficiency of resources (output maximization) as opined by Ugwu, (2021). This is shown in under-utilization of government assets/fund, lack of goal congruence and sub-optimization in the public sector. Therefore, the expectation is that forensic accounting techniques may be able to stem the tide of financial malfeasance witnessed in public sectors of the Nigerian economy. Haziel, Yohanna and Fransis (2021) found out that forensic accounting techniques provide firms with the necessary tools to deter fraudulent activities. Gbegi and Adebisi (2013), revealed that forensic accounting skills and practice help in achieving efficiency if properly implemented in the Nigerian public sector.

Ocansey, (2017) asserted that the use of forensic accounting techniques is a financial tactic for preventing and resolving financial and economic crimes in the Nigerian economy. According Safiyanu, Saifullahi, & Armaya (2019), forensic accountants play an important role in reducing crime and corrupt practices in any public sector with regard to economy, effectiveness, and efficiency because they provide the means to hold people accountable, making it harder for those who manage resources in a fiduciary capacity to abuse that trust covertly. Given the issues mentioned above, it is now necessary for this study to determine the impact of forensic accounting techniques on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria

The main objective of this study was to investigate the effect of forensic accounting techniques on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Output Maximization (Efficiency)

Output maximization is a crucial concept in economic theory, which refers to the process of maximizing the output of goods and services produced by a firm, given its inputs and the available technology. This process is essential for firms to increase their profits and maintain their competitiveness in the market. According to Malkoc and Tonietto (2019), output maximization is particularly important in the context of consumer behavior research, where it has been shown that consumers tend to prefer products that are associated with high output. According to Kalubanga and Kakwezi (2013), economy (spending less) is concerned with minimizing the cost of inputs used for an activity having regard to appropriate quality. That is, it has to do with the acquisition of resources in appropriate quality and quantity at minimum cost. It is a measure of what goes into providing a service. Thus, costs of inputs-unit costs are used as an economy measure. The life costs or inputs such as the direct and indirect costs of acquiring, running and disposing off an assets or resources should be considered. This preference for high output products is called the "output bias," and it is driven by the perception that high output is indicative of high quality and value. Therefore, firms that can maximize their output are more likely to meet the demands of consumers and achieve greater success in the market.

Barnett, Barr, Christie, Duff and Hext (2010) in their report explained efficiency as a measure of productivity in other words how much you get out in relation to what is put in. This examines the relationship between inputs and outputs. Nwosu (2015) view was having the same level of service for a lesser cost, time or effort. Kalubanga and Kakwezi (2013), expatiated further in a simple term that efficiency is just spending well. That is spending well to improve productivity. It is the relationship between outputs and inputs used to produce them. Thus, efficiency is the maximum outputs for any given set of inputs or the minimum inputs for any given quantity and quality of goods or services provided. Eden District Council (2019), noted that efficiency measures productivity.

According to Nwosu and Mshelia (2015), efficiency is fundamentally a resource-usage concept that is concerned with the maximum of minimal cost or the use of minimum-input resources (as indicated by high productivity and on-time performance). This is the link between the amount and quality of products and services produced (output) and the cost of resources employed to generate them at a specified service level in order to meet program objectives. An efficient operation either provides the most output from a given resource input or utilizes the least amount of input to create a given quantity and quality of output.

Kalubanga and Kakwezi (2013), mentioned that improving productivity is concerned with efficiency (spending wisely). It is the connection between the outputs and the inputs that go into generating them. It is a measure of efficiency, or how much you get out compared to how much you put in. As a result, efficiency looks at the link between inputs and outputs, such as the anticipated vs. actual delivery of milestones by service providers, or benchmarked comparisons of programs aiming for the same or comparable objectives but using various paths to get there.

As a result, efficiency is defined as the highest output for a given set of inputs or the least inputs for a certain quantity and quality of goods or services.

The Payments System in the public sector involves the operational procedures for receiving monies for the public and for making payments to them. In Nigeria, governments make payments using a variety of procedures. These include book adjustments, issue of cheques, and payment authorities and electronic payment systems (Ugwu, 2021). Government accounting and financial reporting is a very important component of the public sector financial management process in Nigeria. As Adams (2001), noted that government accounting entails the recording, communicating, summarizing, analyzing and interpreting financial statement in aggregate and in details.

Forensic Accounting Techniques

Forensic accounting is a combination of accounting and investigative techniques used to discover financial crimes. Forensic accountants explain the nature of a financial crime to the courts. Forensic accountants trace funds, identify assets and conduct asset recovery, and perform due diligence reviews (Henry & Ganiyu, 2017). Forensic accounting refers to the application of accounting, auditing and investigative techniques to uncover and gather evidence of financial fraud, misrepresentation, or any other financial crime. It is used in legal proceedings and investigations to determine the extent of financial loss or damage, to establish the cause of a financial crime and to identify the responsible parties (Haziel et al. 2021). The purpose of forensic accounting is to provide objective, credible and reliable evidence in court, regulatory or other legal proceedings. The scope of forensic accounting also includes the analysis of financial information to support civil, criminal and administrative investigations and litigations, the examination of financial records for insurance claims, and the assessment of financial and operational damage caused by cyber-attacks, data breaches or other digital crimes.

In carrying out their duties, forensic accountants, in the opinion of Anuolam, Onyema, Ekeke (2017) employ economic theories, business information, financial reporting systems, accounting and auditing standards and procedures, data management and electronic discovery, data analysis techniques for fraud detection, evidence gathering and investigative techniques, and litigation processes and procedures (Erasmus, 2021). According to Asika (2019) a well-trained forensic accountant uses a variety of abilities to carry out their job, including communication, information technology, legal, accounting, criminology, investigative, and auditing knowledge. Investigative methods used by forensic accountants include open document reviews, background checks, in-depth interviews with knowledgeable individuals, use of secret sources, lab analyses of physical and electronic evidence, physical and electronic surveillance, covert operations, and financial transaction analysis (Amahalu, Ezechukwu, & Obi, 2017).

Theoretical Framework

The underpinning theory of this study is the Fraud Diamond theory. The fraud diamond, which identify four factors (opportunity, pressure, capacity, and rationalization) that increase the risk of fraud, are frequently used in auditing to explain the motivation behind a person's decision to commit fraud. In which a fraudster uses their position, role, or permitted access to their fullest advantage by comprehending and being able to exploit internal control flaws. A fraudster's decision to commit the crime or not, particularly in the public sector, can be influenced by an adequate punishment, according to the fraud star concept, which is an extension of the fraud diamond hypothesis.

The Fraud Diamond is also important to this study because it provides a framework for understanding the underlying factors that drive fraudulent behavior. By identifying and addressing these factors, public sector organisations can reduce the risk of fraud and ensure that their financial records are accurate and reliable. In addition, the Fraud Diamond is a valuable tool for fraud investigators and forensic accountants. By using this model, organizations can gain a better understanding of the conditions and motivations behind fraudulent behavior and take steps to prevent it from happening.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the self- designed survey research design where qualitative method of data collection and analysis was used to investigate the effect of forensic accounting techniques (represented by Investigation of Fraud, Expert Witness, Litigation Services and Surprised Cash Count) on value for money practices (represented by output maximization in public sector of Nigeria. Similar studies (Ugwu, 2021; Okoye, Adeniyi & James, 2019; Eze & Okoye, 2019) have utilized this design in literature. All Nigerian federally controlled Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) having offices in Lagos state made up the population of this study, which included all Accountants with a level of education higher than 8. These were chosen because of the size of the target population and the study's time constraints, which prevented it from looking into every federally owned MDA in every state. Purposive sampling techniques were applied to the process of choosing the respondents. In order to collect data that provided the greatest information in order to meet the specific study objectives, the purposive sampling method was utilized to select just those agencies that provided audience and access to the researcher. Due to the likelihood of accessibility, only the Nigeria Port

Authority (NPA) and the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) were utilized as the sample frame for the study. There are 94 and 37 accountants, respectively, working for these two Lagos-based agencies. Since entire enumeration was employed, 131 accountants were chosen as the sample size. In order to investigate the applicability of forensic accounting on value for money in federal public sector organizations in Lagos state, this study used a primary source of data (questionnaire).

To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, a test- re-test was done using 10 copies of the questionnaire among government ministry that is not part of the study. The duration of time required for all of them to complete the questionnaire was about 15 minutes on average. Data from the pilot study was statistically analysed using Cronbach Alpha standard score to test the internal consistency of the instrument. The Cronbach Alpha value was above 0.7.

Table 1: Reliability of Variables' Measurements

Variables of Study	**Cronbach's Alpha**	**Number of Questions**
Investigation of fraud	0.868	6
Expert Witnessing	0.892	5
Litigation Services	0.790	5
Surprise Cash Count Audit	0.845	5
Procurement practices	0.813	5

The study employed quantitative method of analysis with the aid of SPSS software. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were carried out to establish the effect of forensic accounting techniques on Output Maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria.

A priori expectation: It was expected that the measures of forensic accounting techniques would have positive effects on value for money practices in the public sector organization of Nigeria. Thus, $\beta_{1\text{-}4} > 0$

Table 2: A-priori expectation

Variables	**Coefficients Sign**
Investigation of fraud	$\beta_1 > 0$
Expert Witnessing	$\beta_2 > 0$
Litigation Services	$\beta_3 > 0$
Surprise Cash Count Audit	$\beta_4 > 0$

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Hypothesis: Forensic accounting techniques have no significant effect on Output Maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria.

Table 3: Regression Analysis for the Model

		Multiple Regression Analysis					
		Coefficients	Std. Error	T	prob	Collinearity Statistics	
						Tolerance	VIF
Predictors	(Constant)	1.109	.417	2.662	.009		
	IF	.450	.099	4.531	.000	.807	1.239
	LS	.242	.080	3.027	.003	.766	1.306
	EW	.148	.111	1.334	.185	.689	1.451
	SSC	.021	.067	.316	.752	.735	1.361
R	0.592						
R^2	0.350						
Adjusted R^2	0.329						
F-statistics	16.315						
Probability	0.000						

Dependent variable: Output Maximization (OM) *significant at 5%

$OM_i = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 IF_i + \beta_2 EW_i + \beta_3 LS_i + \beta_4 SCC_i + \varepsilon_i$......................Model

Table 4 represents the regression model hypothesis testing the effect of forensic accounting techniques on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria. The multicollinearity test showed that data set does not have disturbance that can affect the statistical inference of the study. The regression estimate of the model above shows that all proxies of forensic accounting techniques has positive effect on output maximization. This is indicated by the signs of the coefficients, which are $\beta 1 - 4$ > 0. These results are consistent with a-priori expectations of the study.

From Table 4, the sign of the coefficient of the independent variables shows that Investigation of Fraud (IF), have a positive effect on output maximization, with a coefficient of 0.450. This positive effect is statistically significant as the t-statistic significance level shows 0.00 which is less than 0.05 significant levels chosen for this study. Litigation service also has a positive effect on output maximization, with a coefficient of 0.242. This positive effect is however significant as the t-statistic significance level shows 0.00 which is less than 0.05. Also, expert witness has a positive effect on output maximization, with a coefficient of 0.148. This positive effect is however not significant as the t-statistic significance level shows 0.18 which is higher than 0.05. In like manner, surprised cash count audit has a positive effect on output maximization, with a coefficient of 0.021, this positive effect is however not statistically significant as the t-statistic significance level shows 0.75 which is more than 0.05.

The Adjusted R-square of the model showed 32.9%, this suggest that variations in output maximization of the sampled population can be attributed to all our independent variables put together, while the remaining 67.1% variations in output maximization are caused by other factors not included in this model. However, the F-statistics is 16.315, where the p-value is 0.00 which is less than 0.05 level of significance adopted for this study. This implies that null hypothesis that says forensic accounting techniques have no significant effect on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria was rejected. Therefore, from the regression estimates, Investigation of Fraud (IF), Litigation services (LS), Surprise Cash Count Audit (SCC) and Expert witnessing (EW) significantly affects output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the result of the regression analysis carried out in model, it was discovered that overall, forensic accounting techniques have significant effect on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria. Furthermore, forensic accounting techniques measured by Investigation of Fraud (IF), Litigation services (LS), Surprise Cash Count Audit (SCC) and expert witnessing have positive effect on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria. However, the effect exacted by surprise cash count audit and expert witnessing is insignificant though it is positive. This finding aligns with the studies of Adesina et al., 2020; Bangura, 2020; Bassey 2018. Findings from studies such as Tapang and Ihendinihu, 2020; Adesina et al., 2020; Abdulrahman et al., 2020; Bangura, 2020; Ocansey, 2017 revealed that Forensic accounting techniques had a positive impact on the elimination of unethical practices, effectively ameliorating financial frauds in Deposit Money Banks (DMBs), positively influencing the detection and prevention of frauds in the banking sector, enhancing internal control, and having a positive and significant impact on corporate governance and tax evasion, hence maximizing output (efficiency) in both private and public institutions. The finding of this study contradicts the findings of Akhidime and Uagbale-Ekatah 2014; Nwosu and Mshelia 2015.

Akhidime and Uagbale-Ekatah (2014) opined that Forensic accounting in Nigeria is at its infancy stage and lacking statutory support and although its relevance in unraveling complex official corruption is on the increase in Nigeria, it nevertheless has no statutory backing and has no significant impact against corruption, fraud and financial crime in Nigeria. the greediness of high-profile government officials and poor standard of living for the lower rank officers are the major factors linked to fraudulent practices in the Nigerian public sector, this in turn affect the output maximization in Nigerian Public Sector. Azih and Okoli (2015), the provision of forensic accounting unit is vital in every public sector to ensure that funds are appropriately allocated and judiciously appropriated to improve the living condition of Nigerian citizens and above all ensure adequate accountability of finances provided for the development of this country and they recommended that forensic accounting must be enforcedly practiced in all organization in Nigeria both in the private and public sector.

Popoola *et al* (2015) is of the opinion that public sector officers such as accountants, auditors, regulatory and enforcement agencies, courts, ministries, departments and agencies need to understand the mechanisms of fraud schemes and the ability to prevent, detect and respond to fraud require holistic approach by adopting forensic accounting knowledge and skills in task performance risk assessment. Although the adjusted R^2 signified a weak explanatory power of forensic accounting technique for variations in output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria this might be due to the fact that there are other factors and determinants of output maximizing (efficiency) in the Nigerian public sector not captured by the model. Some of these include corruption, corporate governance in the public sector, transparency and poor standard of living in the public sector. However, the probability of the F statistics has shown that despite the fact that forensic accounting technique might not be sufficient enough to explain the variations in output maximization in public sector; forensic accounting technique exacts a significant effect on output maximization in federal government parastatals in Nigeria.

The value for money audit can enhance the reports of organization because the public have lost confidence in the traditional audit reports. The research noted that following public observation, the traditional performance audit that seeks to address the system or organizational performance in terms of compliance or conformity to particular rules is now highly insufficient. The study believes that such report should be comprehensive enough to include an examination of the ability of government organizations to discharge their responsibilities and control of their costs by ensuring that resources are managed at the lowest and that activities are organized efficiently (Kalubanga & Kakwezi 2013).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that forensic accounting techniques had a significant positive effect on output maximization, indicating that the implementation of forensic accounting practices positively contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of these organizations. The study concludes that forensic accounting techniques, such as Investigation of Fraud (IF), Litigation services (LS), Surprise Cash Count Audit (SCC) and expert witnessing, play a crucial role in improving the overall output of federal government parastatals. These techniques help in identifying and mitigating fraudulent activities, enhancing financial transparency, and strengthening internal control systems.

i. The study recommended that government should train and develop their staff on the use of forensic accounting techniques to achieve output maximization and attainment of results in government parastatals. Proper training in forensic accounting will lead to more efficient financial processes, streamlined operations, and reduced wastage of resources.
ii. Policies requiring the use of forensic accounting techniques in vetting government business transactions should be developed by the government. This will serve as a starting point for halting the erosion of value for money in government operations and spending.
iii. Implementing policies that include forensic accounting practices can help detect and prevent fraudulent activities. This can save substantial amounts of public funds and maintain the public's trust in government.

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