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EFFECT OF ECONOMIC CRIME CONTROL ON THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the effect of economic crime control on the performance of government entities in Nigeria. The objectives are to ascertain whether non- disclosure of economic crime has effect on the performance of government entities. Data were collected through primary sources from the administration of questionnaire to some selected ministries, parastatals and agencies of government in the south- south, Nigeria The data were analyzed using pearson product-moment correlation coefficient and the t-test. Our findings revealed that economic crime control has positive effect on the performances of government entities and also, non disclosure of economic crime has effect on these government entities. Based on the findings, it is recommended that government needs to put in place a progressive legal and institutional framework that will prescribe punishment for officers that will be found wanting in economic crime related issues, and the monitoring and evaluation of their performances should be carried out on regular basis, at least twice in a year for all government entities.
KEYWORDS: *Economic crime, control, performances and government entities.*

INTRODUCTION

Economic crime is fraud in its manifestation and a breach of trust. Trust is the foundation of growth and development of all nations. Economic crime destroys basic interpersonal relations, economic development and the stability of government. One wonders, what the economy of Nigeria might have become if there were no corrupt leaders since her independence from 1960 to date.

During the military era in Nigeria, corruption was perceived to be the major reason for government instability. The military and the civilian regimes accused each other of corruption and this was the reason for military interventions in governance. There are a number of reasons why it is difficult to quantify the cost of crime in Nigeria.

Firstly, this crime is not detected by the victim (government entities early enough. Sometime, when it is detected, the victim feels that it might give their administration bad image and this may make them reluctant to take action. In government entities, economic crime is difficult to disclose because they may be concerned about the damage it might cause their reputation and may deem it fit not to disclose their weakness. Crime is a threat to the economic stability of any nation and the cause of underdevelopment in many developing nations.

It was more obvious during the regime of late general Sani Abacha where billions of dollars were stolen and misappropriated. Fraud may be entirely internal- within the government entities perpetrated by officers of government by abusing the accounting system to steal money which takes the form of misrepresentation of financial information to the authority concerned.

Mid way into the first tenure of the civilian administration of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the duly elected democratic president, the control and fight of economic crime became his major area of focus. His governments' effort at tackling the menace of corruption led to the creation of anti- graft agencies such as the independent corrupt practices commission (ICPC) Act (2000) and the economic and financial crimes commission (EFCC) Act (2004) with the mandate to fight financial crimes and other fraudulent practices in Nigeria.

However, misappropriation of public fund, bribery, embezzlement and money laundering by public officers seems to be on the increase because successive governments failed to continue with the fight.

Moreover, previous studies have shown that graft agencies face a number of challenges in its effort at curbing economic crime in government agencies. Some of these challenges are weak judicial system and the democratic system in place that promotes corruption.

Presently, economic crime in public sector has taken a different dimension ranging from inflation of contract sum, getting returns from contractors at an agreed percentage and the collection of bribes or gratification for offer of employment to the processing of retirement benefits.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Economic crime in government entities detected, are not disclosed due to the damage it might cause its performances. Economic crime affects the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria. It is argued that for every naira giving to ministries and agencies of government in form of subvention, certain amount flow back as illegal funds. Economic crime takes the form of misappropriation of financial information. It is also not detected early enough so that preventive measure can be put in place. Economic crime has resulted in divestment of resources from public purposes to private hands resulting in deadweight loss to government and underdevelopment and unemployment. The failure to determine the major cause of economic crime has also affected the control measures in place.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this article is to examine the effect of economic crime control on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the impact of non- disclosure of economic crimes by government entities on their performance.
2. Examine the effect of economic crime control on the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. Does economic crime control have effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria?
2. What are the effects of non disclosure of economic crimes by government entities on their performance?
3. Does economic crime control affect the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria?

In the light of the problems of economic crime control, this study came up by empirically examining the effectiveness of economic crime control on the performance of government entities in Nigeria. The rest of this paper is structured into four (4) sections as follows: section two (2) deals with the literature review, section three (3) deals with the methodology, while section four (4) deals with the analysis of data and section five (5) presents the conclusion and recommendations.

SECTION 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

Dambazau (1994) defined crime as an act or omission against public interest, which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature for the overall interests of the society and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles: public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal.

Economic crime is fraud in its manifestation. Corruption is defined as an ethical confusion between public and private space and it is due to the absence of transparency of the state in the form of lack of access to public information. Economic crime covers a number of offenses ranging from financial crimes committed by public servants, politicians, money laundering, bribery, embezzlement among others. Economic crime cause serious social damage since it does not only affect democratic institutions but also undermines the state treasury by reducing the available resources for the implementation of government policies. However, the selective and inefficient prosecution of this type of crime and those responsible for the prosecution undermine our judicial system towards this criminal activity which is carried out by powerful actors linked to political and economic power.

Economic crime in recent time has increased in magnitude because it has remained unchecked over o period of time in the public sector where millions and billions of dollars and naira are laundered every year by politicians in public offices. Billions of naira is looted every year from government agencies through tax fraud, contract inflation, over invoicing, fititious projects, misappropriation and stealing.

According to the organization for economic co-operation and development (OECD), economic crime involves the misuse of corporate entities fund, money launderers exploit cash- bases business and other legal vehicles to disguise the sources of their gains, bribe-giver and recipients conduct their illicit transactions through bank accounts opened under the names of corporation and foundations, and individuals hide or shield their wealth from tax authorities and other creditors through trust and partnerships.

Dambazau (2007) defined economic crime control as a pattern of attitude and behaviors directed at both reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security to positively influence the quality of life and to develop environment where crime cannot flourish. It is also the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to reduce or remove it. He further asserts that crime control involves solving crime problem, dealing with the immediate situation and the rests on the discovery of past criminal behavior. Economic crime in government entities involves tax evasion and over-invoicing which could shrink revenue accruing to the government. When revenue shrinks due to economic crimes, government expenditure is affected.

FORMS OF ECONOMIC CRIME

According to oxford dictionary of sociology (2009), a crime is an offense which has gone into the public service, breaking rules or laws that punish offenders and which requires the intervention of public authority has taken different forms.

There are several forms of economic crime which confronts government entity in the new millennium. Some that are related or carried out in the public sector are as stated below:

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

Public officials demand financial consideration as a price for processing retirement benefits and other document needed for this process. This is a major problem in the public service and even those in high position of authority also engage in this act indirectly by delegating this power to those in lower echelon of the public service.

PROCUREMENT FRAUD

These ranges from over- invoicing of items procured for public service to the purchase of official vehicles from companies at exorbitant rates and receiving gratification in the form of cash from the vendors at an agreed percentage. This type of fraud is difficult to detect even with value for money audit as auditors sometime collude with these fraud stars in government establishment.

FRAUD AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Government is at risk of fraud when they dispense benefits to the society. These benefits are either diverted or disposed off without getting to the real people they were meant for. For example the school grown feeding are intended for good purpose but public officers handling the program over bloat the number of pupils that will benefit and sometime connive with the commissioned food vendor to reduce the quality and quantity of the meal. Government raise taxes and many taxpayers evade payment. Government employees may divert public fund and assets for private use. This is demonstrated in the case of pension fraud established against MR Maina.

MONEY LAUNDERING

This is a process by which the proceeds of crime undergo a series of transaction which disguise their illicit origins and make them appear to have come from a legitimate source. This is mostly perpetrated by politicians in public offices. Under this guise billions of naira converted to foreign currencies is laundered every year.

FORGERY

Instruments of currency negotiation and other documents may be forged or counterfeited. This is attributed to modern day digital technology such as scanning and copying machines which enables them to reproduce these items perfectly. It is used to facilitate a number of economic crimes in government entities.

PAYROLL FRAUD

This is usually perpetrated using ghost employees, names of deceased persons, inflating work hour and overtime including overstating of overhead expenses.

FRAUDULENT BILLING SCHEMES

They are committed by vendors, suppliers and contractors by colluding with internal employees through the supply of inferior quality goods/ materials and falsified invoices.

MANAGEMENT FRAUD

This is the most serious of all the fraud because management can override the internal control in place. This has been the problem of various ministries, agencies and extra- ministerial department.

CAUSES OF ECONOMIC CRIME

There are two factors—Institutional causes and Social causes.

INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS refers to the factors that are peculiar to that institution and which are committed by the rank and file of staff working in that institution. They are:

POOR INTERNAL CONTROL: poor supervisory controls over security documents, cash, keys and other important assets give rise to fraud.

INADEQUATE TRAINING: Comprehensive training and retraining are lacking in public establishments. Fraud is more frequent with employees that have little or inadequate training. They create avenue for fraud unknown to them.

RECRUITMENT ERROR: People were apparently employed hurriedly without real search and scrutiny because their people are in position of authority.

INADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY DOCUMENTS: Important security documents are used to commit fraud if such documents are not properly kept.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES: Certain policies of government such as approval or authorization limits are either loosed, too generous or non- existent, which result in abuse.

SOCIAL FACTOR encourages people to fall into temptation and may join the large army of fraudulent individuals in the society.

EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC CRIME

Agbiboa (2013b) examined the history of crime, effect of crime and the massive level of fraudulent activities in the Nigerian public sector.

Fraud that has been committed successfully leaves scars on the victim (government entity).

Some common effects are:

- It leads to lost income
- It leads to lost tax revenue e.g. PAYE
- It creates a diminishing confidence on the board and management of the institution/ government entity.
- It creates unemployment.
- It retards development and expansion in public institutions.

COUNTER MEASURES

There are four major means of economic crime prevention. These include:

Primary Prevention

Efforts should be made to change the environmental condition that promotes economic crime. There should be risk assessment by the supervising department of each ministry and extra—ministerial departments. They should be aware of the procedures and processes which are likely targets and areas targeted for criminal exploitation.

Secondary Prevention

Early intervention should be sought for, to prevent criminal behavior from developing among the staffers in a particular government establishment. This will help to change people at high risk from embarking upon criminal career.

Tertiary prevention

Fraud control system should be developed and refined. Identify areas of vulnerability to protect it from attack. The design of a system can be helpful for preventing fraud and criminal activities.

Principles for the control and prevention of economic crime:

Executive order: President Buhari's executive order six (6) is meant for the seizure of assets derived from corrupt practices and tax evasion.

Audit: independent auditor is an important safeguard against economic crime. Accountants and internal auditors often fail to detect irregularities because of fear and threat of losing their jobs by management but they should be able to prepare account for independent scrutiny and examination.

Open Political Organization: A political system that promotes freedom to question policies and programs of government will always make it difficult to hide or conceal financial irregularities in public sector.

Cash Transaction Information: Cash transaction reporting system is made compulsory for all banks and other financial institutions where they are required to report all transactions over a specified amount to central authority. This will help to promote the process and success of money trail.

Anti—Graft Agencies: The investigation of economic crime lies beyond the capacity of law enforcement agencies. In Nigeria, the independent corrupt practices commission and the economic and financial crime commission have been given the mandate to fight fraudulent practices. This promotes effective exchange of intelligence and operational information.

Review of Administrative Decisions: A specialized court should be constituted for the independent review of administrative decision that may encourage corruption.

Use of Expenditure Method: It is used in organized crime figures to show the amount of illegal income and to recommend fine. This method is used when a target spends beyond his means and where illegal income needs to be determined.

Red Flag: They are warning signs that indicate a high risk fraud. It alerts entity that there is presence of fraud.

Government Entity

According to facility agreement (2014); government entity means any national or local government body, tribunal, court or regulatory or other agency and any organization of which such body, tribunal, court or agency is a part to which it is subject.

According to state of Virginia (2012); "government entity" means any branch, department, agency or instrumentality of state government or any official or other person acting under color of state law, or any political subdivision of the commonwealth and does not include the department of corrections, the department of juvenile justice, and any facility of the department of behavioral health and developmental services that treats civilly committed sexually violent predators or any local, regional or federal correctional facility.

Theoretical Literature:

This has been developed by many on how economic crimes retard the expansion of government entities in Nigeria leading to unemployment and underdevelopment.

Growth theory:

The root and ways in which government entities suffer expansion was explained in this theory. The theory states that the way government entity grows is determined by the prudential management of available resources. Expansion flows from the way money revolves round it. Increase in corruption reduces the available resources that would have been used to create employment and results in low level of productivity.

Osisioma (2009), in the study of corruption, states that in Nigeria embezzlement of federal funds has led to in many cases the devaluation of the naira and scare supply of US dollars as launderers purchase foreign currency to export.

Empirical Literature Review:

The researcher studied previous work done in this area of study to determine gap in knowledge. The works are:

Ekundayo Et al; (2013) gave the analysis of corruption and expansion in government entities in Nigeria using the ordinary least square. They concluded that corruption retard expansion and growth. This study did not state the area of coverage, the sources of data and because of this, the result cannot be relied upon. Corruption index ought to be studied on time series basis if the study will make any meaningful impact.

Nageri et al; (2013) adopted the ordinary least square techniques in testing the hypothesis that corruption affects economic development and expansion and the result was significant meaning that corruption affects expansion and development. The proxy for economic crime used here may not be a good measure because they depend largely on the news of the people.

Fabayo, Posu and Obisanya (2011), they analyzed the effect of economic crime on investment in Nigeria using the ordinary least technique. They used corruption index for the period covering 1996- 2010 for economic crime.

They study revealed that high level of corruption leads to a low level of investment and low growth. This period covered is not enough to pass judgment of this period covered is not enough to pass judgment of this nature. And also some economic crime characteristics may be hidden and makes the analysis difficult.

Adewale (2011), stressed a negative relationship between economic crime and growth in Nigeria. He carried out a test of stationary and co-integration properties on the variables and concluded that economic crime has negative effect on growth between 1996 and 2009. The period covered is not enough to make conclusion of this nature.

Nwagwugwu et al;(2015). In a study to analyze the impact of economic crimes on Nigeria economic prosperity under a democratic framework using the ordinary least square techniques with different space time. The findings revealed that a strong evidence of non – linear significant relationship between economic crimes and economic growth in Nigeria in the long – run has short run impact. We agree with this, that effective reduction of economic crimes and concentrating on heavy investment in infrastructure which in turn creates employment as well as reduction in the level of poverty.

Adebayo, A.A., (2012). In a study to evaluate the social factors affecting crime prevention and control in developing countries using Nigeria as a case study. The result revealed that security agencies are inadequately equipped and motivated with increase in poverty, unemployment thereby making crime prevention and control difficult. The work failed to identify areas of coverage and the sources of data.

Umar et al; (2016) analyze the challenges of economic and financial crimes commission and their influence on the adoption of forensic accounting. They discovered that some factors influence institution's decision to adopt forensic accounting in fraud detection process. The study failed to review prior works on economic and financial crimes and no detailed findings were arrived at.

SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY

The research design used for this study is survey research. The population of this study consists of internal staff of the federal secretariats in the six states of the south – south, Nigeria. Sixty (60) staff members of senior cadre drawn from sampled ministries and sixty (60) junior staff cadre also from the same ministries were chosen. Questionnaire as an instrument of data collection used was grouped into two (2) with four (4) likert scale response options. The questionnaire is based on personal qualities of the respondents and the questioned tested, forming the basis of our conclusion and recommendations. The 4 – likert responses were given points as follows: Strongly Agree (SA 4 points); Agree (A 3 points); Disagree (D 2 points) and Strongly Disagree (SD 1 point). Pearson product – moment correlation coefficient and t – test were used for data analysis and determining the significance of the relationship. The formula is given by:

$$R = \frac{n\Sigma xy-(\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[n\Sigma x^2-(\Sigma x)^2]\,[n\Sigma y^2-(\Sigma y)^2]}}$$

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Test of hypothesis

Hypothesis 1:

Ho: Economic crime control has no effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria;

H1: economic crime control has effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

Table one: Summary of responses to question one of the questionnaires and the computation of average responses.

options	Junior staff cadre (x)		Senior staff cadre (y)		Average responses	
	Point (x)	Responses(x)	Point (y)	Responses(y)	Point(x&y)	Response (x&y)
SA	4	15	4	12	4	13.5
A	3	20	3	18	3	19
D	2	21	2	20	2	20.5
SD	1	4	1	10	1	7
Σ	10	60	10	60	10	60

Source: Author's computation.

Correlation analysis relating to the question: economic crime has no effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n\Sigma xy-(\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[\Sigma x^2-(\Sigma x)^2]\,[n\Sigma y^2-(\Sigma y)]}}$$

Where, Σx= Sum of responses from junior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σy= Sum of the responses from senior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σx^2= Sum of the squared x responses.

Σy^2= Sum of the squared y responses.

Σxy= Sum of the product of x and y responses.

N= Number of the likert scale response option.

Table 2:

Likert scale	x	y	x^2	y^2	xy
4	15	12	225	144	180
3	20	18	400	324	360
2	21	20	441	400	420
1	4	10	16	100	40
Totals 10	60	60	1082	968	1000

$\Sigma x=60$, $\Sigma y= 60$, $\Sigma x^2= 1082$, $\Sigma y^2 = 968$, and $\Sigma xy = 1000$

Applying the above formula, we have;

$$\frac{10(1000) - (60)(60)}{\sqrt{[10(1082) - (60)^2][10(9680 - (60)^2]}}$$

$$\frac{10000 - 3600}{\sqrt{(10820 - 3600)(9680 - 3600)}}$$

$$\frac{6400}{\sqrt{43897600}}$$

$r = 0.966$

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.966 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables.

To calculate the t value,

$$T = 0.966\sqrt{\frac{122 - 2}{1 - (0.966)^2}}$$

$= 40.92$

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.966 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables. This is confirmed by the p – value of t – statistics of 1.980. since the t – calculated value of 40.92 is higher than the t – value of 1.980, the null hypothesis is rejected and we therefore conclude that economic crime control has effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

Hypothesis two:

Ho: Non – Disclosure of economic crime has no effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

H1: Non – Disclosure of economic crime has effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

Table three: Summary of responses to question two of the questionnaire and the computation of average responses.

Options	Junior staff cadre (x)		Senior staff cadre (y)		Average responses	
	Point (x)	Response (x)	Point (y)	Response (y)	Point(x&y)	Responses
SA	4	14	4	13	4	13.5
A	3	18	3	19	3	18.5
D	2	23	2	16	2	19.5
SD	1	2	1	8	1	5
Σ	10	57	10	56	10	56.5

Source: Author's computation.

Correlation analysis relating to the question: Non – Disclosure of economic crime has no effect on government entities.

$$rxy = \frac{n\Sigma xy - (\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[n\Sigma x^2 - (\Sigma x)^2][n\Sigma y^2 - (\Sigma y)^2]}}$$

Where, Σx = Sum of responses from junior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σy = Sum of the responses from senior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σx^2 = Sum of the squared x responses.

Σy^2 = Sum of the squared y responses.

Σxy = Sum of the product of x and y responses.

N = Number of the likert scale response option.

Table 4

Likert Scale	X	Y	X^2	Y^2	XY
4	14	13	196	169	182
3	18	19	324	361	342
2	23	16	529	256	368
1	2	8	4	64	16
Σ 10	57	56	1053	850	908

$\Sigma x = 57$, $\Sigma y = 56$, $\Sigma x^2 = 1053$, $\Sigma y^2 = 850$ and $\Sigma xy = 908$

$$\frac{10(908) - (57)(56)}{\sqrt{[10(1053) - (57)^2][10(850) - (56)^2]}}$$

$$\frac{9080 - 3192}{\sqrt{(10530 - 3249)(8500 - 3136)}}$$

$$\frac{5888}{\sqrt{7281 \times 5364}}$$

r = 0.942

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.942 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables.

To calculate the t value,

$$T = 0.942\sqrt{\frac{122 - 2}{1 - (0.942)^2}}$$

$$= 1 - (0.942)^2$$

T = 30.75

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.942 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables. This is confirmed by the p – value of t – statistics of 1.980. Since the t – calculated value of 30.75 is higher than the t – value of 1.980, the null hypothesis is rejected and we therefore conclude that non – disclosure of economic crime has effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria.

Hypothesis three:

Ho: Economic crime control has no effect on the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

H1: Economic crime has effect on the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

Table five: Summary of the responses to question three of the questionnaire and the computation of average responses.

Options	Junior staff Cadre (x)		Senior Staff Cadre (y)		Average responses	
	Point (x)	Responses (x)	Point (y)	Response (y)	Point(x&y)	Responses
SA	4	10	4	14	4	22
A	3	19	3	18	3	18.5
SD	2	20	2	15	2	17.5
D	1	9	1	12	1	10.5
Σ	10	58	10	59	10	68.5

Source: Authors computation.

Correlation analysis relating to the question: Economic crime control has no effect on the groth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n\Sigma xy - (\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{[n\Sigma x^2 - (\Sigma x)^2][n\Sigma y^2 - (\Sigma y)^2]}}$$

Where, Σx = Sum of responses from junior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σy = Sum of the responses from senior staff on the questionnaire retrieved.

Σx^2 = Sum of the squared x responses.

Σy^2 = Sum of the squared y responses.

Σxy = Sum of the product of x and y responses.

N = Number of the likert scale response option.

Table 6:

point	X	Y	X²	Y²	XY
4	10	14	100	196	140
3	19	18	361	324	342
2	20	15	400	225	300
1	9	12	81	144	108
Σ 10	58	59	942	889	890

$\Sigma x = 58$, $\Sigma y = 59$, $\Sigma x^2 = 942$, $\Sigma y^2 = 889$, $\Sigma xy = 890$

$$\frac{10(890) - (58)(59)}{\sqrt{[10(942) - (58)^2][10(889) - (59)^2]}}$$

$$\frac{8900 - 3422}{\sqrt{(9420 - 3364)(8890 - 4381)}}$$

$$\frac{5478}{\sqrt{6056 \times 5409}}$$

$$\frac{5478}{5723.4}$$

$r = 0.957$

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.57 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables.

$$T = 0.957\sqrt{\frac{122 - 2}{1 - (0.957)^2}}$$

$$= 1 - (0.957)^2$$

$T = 36.14$

The correlation coefficient, r of 0.957 indicates that there is a very high positive correlation between the two variables. This is confirmed by the p – value of t – statistics of 1.980. Since the t – calculated and we therefore conclude that economic crime control has effect on the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

From the result obtained for hypothesis one, r calculated of 0.966 is very strong and the t – statistics of 40.92 indicates that the influence of economic crime control on the performance of government entities in Nigeria is significant when tested at 0.05 confidence level. The alternative hypothesis is accepted, we therefore conclude that economic crime control has positive effect on the performance of government entities in Nigeria. This result is in consonant with our a– priori expectation that an efficient economic crime control has positive effect on performance in government entities thereby improving their performance.

From hypothesis two, the r calculated value of 0.942 indicates that there is a strong positive correlation between non – disclosure and disclosure of economic crime by government entities in Nigeria. This position is further attested by the t – statistics of 30.75 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance set for this study.

The finding is consistent with the long established economic crime control that has helped government entities to achieve their goal. The alternative hypothesis is accepted, we therefore conclude that non – disclosure of economic crime affect the performance of government entities negatively.

From hypothesis three, the r calculated of 0.957 indicates that there is also a high positive correlation between them. This means that economic crime control impact on government entities performances positively.

The t – statistics value of 36.14 which is higher than the set significance level also indicates that economic crime control has positive effect on the growth and expansion of government entities in Nigeria.

The alternative hypothesis is accepted. We therefore conclude that this statement is correct. The positive correlation in hypothesis 1 – 3 confirms that economic crime control has helped to reposition government entities in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This study seeks examine the effect of economic crimes control on the performance of government entities in the South – South, Nigeria. The unwillingness to determine the root cause of economic crime has also affected the control measures put in place. Large number of economic crime control measures in place makes it difficult to perpetrate fraud and other forms of economic crime.

The problem for the future lies in the ability of these government entities to reduce opportunities that promotes fraud while allowing these entities to function properly.

It was discovered that economic crime control techniques are very essential to the growth, development and survival of any government entity.

From the findings, it is important that economic crime control that has positive effect on government entities is put in place. There is the need for government to implement economic crime control measures in their various ministries, parastatals and agencies in order to promote growth and sustainability. It has become increasingly clear to the government that economic crime control is very important to the growth and development of government entities in Nigeria. The government needs to put in place a progressive legal and institutional framework, particularly laws that will prescribe punishment for officers that will be found wanting in economic crime related issues. Also, monitoring and evaluation of performance in these entities should be carried out on a regular basis.

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