

Journal of Finance and Accounting



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How to cite this article: Kimani P. W. & Ondigo H. (2017), The Effect of Forensic Accounting on Corporate Crime Mitigation among Listed Firms in the Nairobi Securities Exchange, *Journal of Finance & Accounting* Vol 1(1) pp. 42-60.

Abstract

Increased globalization has led to rapid changes in the socio-economic structures, modes of communication and technology. Due to this, there has been a transnational growth of transactions and diversification of economic activities. These developments and changes have therefore led to enormous opportunities for economic and financial crimes, which have gained a global concern. Such events have necessitated the need for forensic interventions hence the reason why forensic auditing and accounting are gaining fast-paced precedence. This harsh global environment has also necessitated for a great impact on the controls and procedures to be established by forensic accountants and auditors in the conduct of the examination to detect, prevent and respond to such crimes with fraud as a crime being at the forefront. Various measures have been put in place to prevent and detect corporate crime in many organizations, but employees and external fraudsters have not been deterred by this from taking part in fraud in organizations. The objective of the study was to establish the effect of forensic accounting on corporate crime mitigation among listed firms in the Nairobi Securities Exchange. The study adopted descriptive research design and used primary data from structured questionnaire. The target respondents were the chief financial officers and audit managers for all 61 firms listed in the NSE. The study concluded that robust internal controls, management override controls and

segregation of duties and responsibilities have a based and significant effect on corporate crime mitigation.

Keywords: *Forensic Accounting, Corporate Crime & Nairobi Securities Exchange*

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Due to the rapid changes in the socio-economic structures, modes of communication and technology, there has been increased globalization (Sudti, 2008). Due to this, there has been a transnational growth of transactions and diversification of economic activities. These developments and changes have therefore led to enormous opportunities for economic and financial crimes, which have gained a global concern. Such events have necessitated the need for forensic interventions hence the reason why forensic auditing and accounting are gaining fast-paced precedence. This harsh global environment has also necessitated for a great impact on the controls and procedures to be established by forensic accountants and auditors in the conduct of the examination to detect, prevent and respond to such crimes with fraud as a crime being at the forefront. Various measures have been put in place to prevent and detect corporate crime in many organizations, but employees and external fraudsters have not been deterred by this from taking part in fraud in organizations.

It can be said that forensic accountants exist mainly for the same reasons why prosecutors and commercial branch investigators exist (Popoola, Ahmad, & Samsudin, 2014). This is due to the presence and manifestation of criminals in the areas of fraud, white-collar crime, corruption, money laundering, computer fraud, and theft (Popoola et al., 2014; Popoola, Ahmad, Samsudin, & Yussof, 2013). Such crimes have led to financial devastation of employers, investors and severely harmed the reputation of auditors, analysts and managers. It is in realization of this that various initiatives have been put in place to enhance and enforce the applicability of forensic accounting services by use of the right people, tools, techniques and insight to prevent and detect fraudulent activities and to ensure that the applicability of such services are effective (Omondi, 2013). According to KPMG Forensic Survey (2012), over the last 15 years fraud has continued to rise in corporate Australia and New Zealand despite enhanced risk mitigation from \$105 million in 1997 to \$373 million in 2012. The figure in 2012 represents an average loss of \$3.08 million per organization for the organizations surveyed, thus showing the extent of fraud prevalence.

Due to this, the study will focus on the effects of forensic accounting on corporate crime mitigation among listed firms in the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE). Previous theoretical evidence leads to a prediction that the application of forensic accounting helps to prevent the occurrence of corporate crime in firms. The application of forensic accounting increases the chances of detecting and disclosing fraud activities, and if potential fraudsters are aware of this they tend to fear committing fraud.

A survey conducted by KPMG on fraud, a corporate crime, revealed that increasing number of companies are experiencing an increased number of fraud incidents as compared to some years back (Forensic, 2003). It can be deduced that many of such companies are listed in the NSE. It is cumbersome and difficult to detect, uncover and investigate such crimes and top managers avoid such situations as they would involve exposing companies' weak points and even damaging organizational reputation (Omondi, 2013). This, therefore, means that stringent measures should be taken to combat such crimes and launching anti-fraud initiatives could be a way forward, (Forensic, 2003) and this is where forensic accounting as a tool becomes important.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Corporate crimes are costly, and it is estimated that \$3.5 trillion worldwide were lost due to fraudulent financial statements, asset misappropriation, and corruption in 2011 as cited by (Enofe, Okpako, & Atube, 2013b). It is deep rooted and inescapable in Kenya and any efforts to curb it may cause a great loss on the Kenya's economy and have negative impacts on its growth (Warutere, 2006). This glaring problem requires that there be active involvement of forensic accountants in all stages of risk assessment and developments of audit plans, and not just involve them as merely consultants (Boritz, Kotchetova, & Robinson, 2008). This will lead to success in early detection and therefore mitigation of these crimes thereby reducing any greater losses in the Kenyan economy. Without constant involvement of the public and improvement in forensic accounting, fraud cases will be hard to detect and thus lead to greater success in financial fraud, which also translates into the failure to meet the expectations of the public, shareholders or even other stakeholders (Enofe, Okpako, & Atube, 2013).

Kenya has developed business connections with the rest of the world majorly because of its strategic location as the gateway to Eastern Africa, making it very important for tourism and other economic operations thus making her vulnerable to corporate crimes (Warutere, 2006).

Corporate crime is increasing, and it is believed to be one of the gravest problems in the current economic environment (Popoola, Ahmad, & Samsudin, 2014). As cited by (Mahinda, 2012), Kenya is leading the world in occupational fraud, a major corporate crime, with an incidence of 66%, which is about twice the global average of 34%. It is dominantly occurring in many governmental and non-governmental organisations especially those related with financial services (Mahinda, 2012), most of which are listed in the NSE. These crimes are very difficult to detect, investigate, or even mitigate, and many managers in these institutions shy away from such endeavours due to the consequences the institutions would suffer after such exposures (Omondi, 2013).

This therefore, justified the study in that forensic accounting is not widely used despite its benefits in crime detection and prevention. Hence the study sought to answer the question of the forensic accounting measures present at the NSE, their effects on crime mitigation and the challenges faced by the NSE in corporate crime mitigation through forensic accounting.

1.3 Objective of the study

The objective of the study was to establish the effect of forensic accounting on corporate crime mitigation among listed firms in the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

1.4 Specific Objectives

- i. To establish the effect of robust internal controls on corporate crime mitigation in firms listed in NSE.
- ii. To establish the effect of management override controls on corporate crime mitigation of firms listed in NSE.
- iii. To establish the effect of segregation of duties on corporate crime mitigation of firms listed in NSE.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Review: Fraud Triangle Theory

According to Albrecht et al., (2009) fraud is composed of three elements, namely a perceived pressure, a perceived opportunity and rationalization of the act of fraud; these three elements are called the fraud triangle. This three-step process, was presented to explain a trust violation by Cressey (1953) who adamantly argued that whenever all three characteristics were present, a

trust violation would occur, while the absence of any one of the elements would result in the absence of such a violation. These three elements are common to all frauds (Wells, 2001). A perceived opportunity and to avoid being punished is the first element of the fraud triangle. He also mentioned that perceived opportunity arises when the fraudster sees a way to use their position of trust to solve the financial problem, knowing they are unlikely to be caught (Cressey, 1950). Examples of perceived opportunities to commit fraud include; a weak board of directors, a lack of or circumvention of controls that prevent/detect fraudulent behavior, failure to discipline fraud perpetrators, lack of access to information, and the lack of an audit trail (Albretch et al, 2010). The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (2002) identified five elements of an organization's internal control framework that must be taken into consideration in order to avoid fraudulent opportunities and they include the control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring.

The second element of the fraud triangle is pressure. These pressures don't have to be real, they only have to seem real to the perpetrator. When it comes to perceived pressure also referred to as non-shareable financial problem, Cressey stated "persons become trust violators when they conceive of themselves as having incurred financial obligations which are considered as non-socially sanctionable and which, consequently, must be satisfied by a private or secret means" (Cressey, 1950). Pressures arise from problems such as difficulty in paying back debts, problems resulting from personal failure, uncontrollable business failures such as inflation or recession, physical isolation of trust violator from people who can help him, living beyond one's means, and employer-employee relations where employer's treatment on employee is unfair (Cressey, 1953). The third element of the fraud triangle is rationalization. Perpetrators of fraud must find ways to rationalize their illegal acts as being acceptable and, in the process, rationalize the dishonesty of their acts (Albrecht et al, 2006). As for rationalization, Cressey believed that most fraudsters are first-time offenders with no criminal record and see themselves as ordinary, honest people who are caught in a bad situation (Cressey, 1950). Lister (2007) defined rationalization as "the oxygen that keeps the fire burning" and mentioned that although auditors may not be able to assess the personal value systems of each individual in the organization, they can assess the corporate culture. It is through rationalization that trust violators justify the crime to themselves in a way that makes it acceptable or justifiable.

2.2 Empirical review

Njanike et al. (2009) used the questionnaire which consisted of three parts that is personal, detection and investigation sections designed to capture information on the forensic auditing status quo and the suggestions on the way forward. A sample of thirty forensic auditors from thirteen commercial banks, four building societies and four audit firms in Zimbabwe was used. Result was that forensic audit departments suffer from multiple challenges, amongst them being lack of materials resources, technical knowhow, interference from management and unclear recognition of profession. Islam et al. (2011) looked at forensic accounting as a tool for detecting fraud and corruption in Bangladesh. In this study 100 sample size has been taken to reflect the actual scenario regarding the application of forensic accounting in Bangladesh and data was collected by administering a brief questionnaire. The research revealed that forensic accounting as a fraud detection tool has relevance to efforts for combating fraud and corruption in Bangladesh. However, the result that emerges from the analysis of expert views is that formally forensic accounting has not long been in practice in Bangladesh except in a very few multinational corporations.

Modugu and Anyaduba (2013) examined forensic accounting and financial fraud in Nigeria and specifically if there is significant agreement amongst stakeholders on the effectiveness of forensic accounting in financial fraud control, financial reporting and internal control quality. The survey design was used in the study with a sample size of 143 consisting of accountants, management staffs, practicing auditors and shareholders. The simple random technique was utilized in selecting the sample size, while the binomial test was employed in the data analysis. Among the findings of the study was that there is significant agreement amongst stakeholders on the effectiveness of forensic accounting in fraud control, financial reporting and internal control quality and therefore recommended formalization and specialization in the field of forensic accounting. Omar et al (2013) examined the relevance of forensic accounting in public sector with focus on selected government agencies in Klang Valley of Malaysia. Structured interviews and 50 questionnaires were distributed and collected from three selected government agencies in the Klang Valley including Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia, Ministry of Education and Shah Alam Court Council. The results showed that majority of the government administrators understands the role of forensic accountants and believe that the existence of forensic accounting is a financial strategy to curb and resolve the financial fraud and crime in Malaysian economy.

Ezeagba (2014) carried out a study on the role of forensic accounting and quality assurance in financial reporting in selected commercial banks in Nigeria. The study adopts survey and descriptive approaches as its research design. Secondary data for this study were sourced from the annual reports of the chosen commercial banks. Primary data were also sourced to elicit information from accountants using a five scale Likert structured questionnaire which were administered to a sample size of Two Hundred and fifty respondents who were chosen by simple stratification. The study reveals among others that the fundamental qualitative characteristics (relevance and faithful representation) of financial reporting, accounting and the enhancing qualitative characteristics (understandability) can be significantly enhanced through forensic accounting. Gichuki (2009) examined factors influencing utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud in commercial banks in Kenya. The study adopted a descriptive research design and the sample size was 50% of all the licensed commercial banks in Kenya. According to the results, awareness of forensic accounting services, availability of forensic accounting services and the benefits of forensic accounting services all influence the utilization of forensic accounting services in licensed commercial banks in Kenya. Therefore, it was realized that despite the numerous benefits of forensic accounting, the commercial banks did not use the services due to low awareness or unavailability of the services.

Wanjohi (2011) carried out a study on the rationale for use of forensic accounting as a mechanism for expectations gap with focus on cooperative societies in Central Kenya. The study employed a descriptive research design and used a sample of 134 respondents comprising of 118 cooperatives and 16 audit firms which were selected using a stratified systematic sampling approach. The data collection was done using questionnaires, and analysed using inferential statistics. Study findings indicate that there is a significant difference in responses between the auditors and cooperative members thus implying the existence audit expectations gap in Kenyan audit engagements. In addition, t-tests indicate that forensic accounting, user education and better auditing standards are important mechanisms in reducing the audit expectations gap.

Omondi (2013) looked at the impact of forensic accounting services on fraud detection and prevention among commercial banks in Kenya. The study used descriptive research survey design and used a sample of 47 respondents in 16 commercial banks in Kenya. The findings indicated that the application of forensic accounting services by banks led to increased fraud prevention in the commercial banks and the highest application was on enhancing quality of

financial reporting. Kyalo (2013) carried out a study to establish the role of fraud prevention on effective financial reporting in the County Government of Nakuru. The study adopted a descriptive approach and the sample size was 106 accountants, finance officers, auditors and procurement officers in the County Government of Nakuru. Data was collected by the use of structured questionnaires and this data was analyzed using descriptive statistics comprising means and standard deviations. The study concluded that fraud prevention influenced effective financial reporting in the county government of Nakuru and this effect is supported by the significant positive relationship observed between fraud policy and effective financial reporting in the county government of Nakuru.

Oguda et al. (2015) examined the effect of internal control on fraud detection and prevention in district treasuries of Kakamega County. Purposive sampling method was used to select treasury staffs while simple random sampling method was used to select heads of departments to respond to the data collection instruments. Findings of the study revealed that there was a statistically significant and positive relationship between the adequacy of internal control systems and fraud prevention and detection in district treasuries in Kakamega County.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

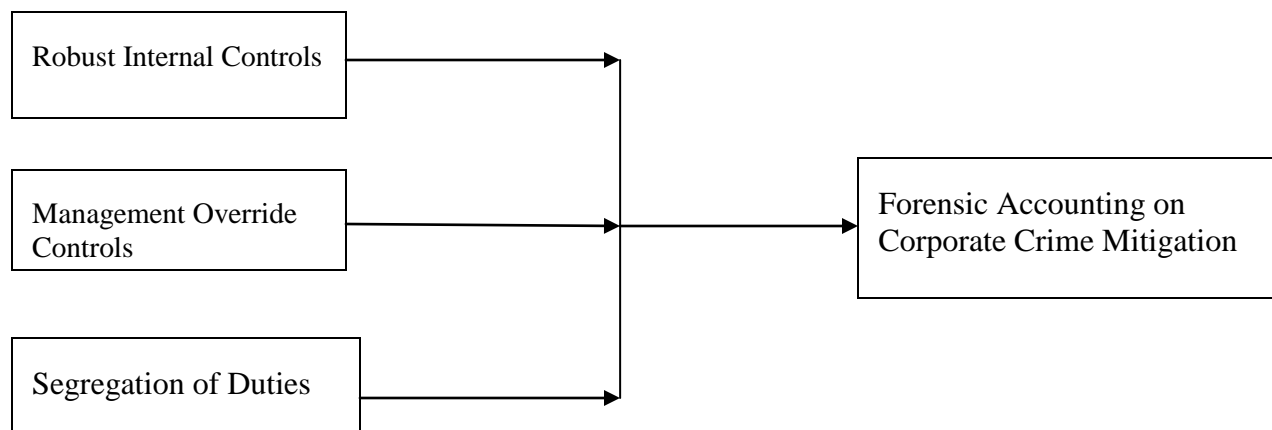


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.0 Research methodology

This study adopted descriptive research design. According to Thorn hill (2003) the key purpose of descriptive research is that it describes affairs as they exist and involves collection of data to test hypothesis regarding the current status of the study subject. This study will use descriptive

research because it closely examines and determines data and reports information within a specific context. The population of concern in this study comprise of 61 firms listed in the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE). The choice of the companies listed in the NSE is because they shift usage of money from less productive activities in the economy to more productive activities which translate to high profits. This profits make NSE companies a worthy target for corporate crime in terms of fraud hence the need to see the effect of forensic accounting in the companies and also due to proximity issues.

The researcher used primary data for the study which is data observed or collected directly from the first-hand experience and structured questionnaire were used to collect data on the dependent and independent variables. This is because structured questionnaires are easier to administer, analyse and economical in terms of time and money. The questionnaires were issued to the respondents through informal self-introduction through the help of a research assistant. Each entity within the questionnaire was developed to tackle a specific objective and research question to fit best in the research problem. Structured questionnaires are more convenient as most top managers are busy people and it is expected that they would have less time to take part in oral interviews. The questionnaires were managed through mail and drop and pick method. The questionnaire had 4 sections. Section one comprised of questions that sought to find the general information about the firm. Section two seeks information on the effect of forensic accounting on corporate crime mitigation; section three sought to find information on how to mitigate corporate crime, while section four sought to find out the most prevalent corporate crime. The target respondents were the chief financial officers and audit managers for all 61 firms listed in the NSE. To ensure validity of the questionnaire used for the study, the draft form of the questionnaire used was presented to researchers and lecturers at the University for their Independent Reviews on its content.

For verification of the reliability of the questionnaire used in this study, it was subjected to pre-trial tests by administering the instrument to a sample selected from the entire population of listed firms in the NSE, after which the results were analysed and assessed for reliability. The data generated by the study after fieldwork was edited, coded then processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS v.17.0). A master codebook designed to ensure that all the questionnaires were coded uniformly was used. According to Cohen and Manion (1980), editing of responses is intended to identify and eliminate errors made by the interviewer or respondents.

Consequently, data was edited for completeness and consistency before analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse information generated from respondents. This involved the use of frequencies, percentages and means.

A regression model of the form $Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$ was used where:

Y- Corporate crime mitigation (CCM) as measured by: effective internal audit, vigorous fraud hotlines and a company's culture.

X₁- Robust internal controls (RIC) as a measure of control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication and monitoring.

X₂- Minimization of Management overrides of controls (MOC) as a measure of an effective audit committee, functional whistle blower program and company code of conduct.

X₃- Clear segregation of duties and responsibilities (CSDR) as a measure of control of processes and collusion of employees.

The test of significance is a method of making due allowance for the sampling fluctuation affecting the results of experiments or observations by distinguishing whether the observed difference connotes any real difference among the groups. For the purpose of the study, coefficient of determination, denoted as R^2 was used to indicate how well data fit into the statistical model. F-statistics was used to undertake further analysis. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests was used in the analysis of experimental data to test the variables for statistical significance.

4.0 Results and findings

4.1 Descriptive Statistics on Robust Internal Controls

On the likert scale, results are presented in table 1 shows that 74.2% (34.5%+39.7%) of the respondents agreed that there exist a code of conduct in their organization. Further results found that the firm has a robust audit committee as indicated by 69% of the respondents. Results also showed that 75.1 % of the respondents agreed that their firm regularly conduct corporate crime risk assessment In addition, results show that 656% of the respondents agreed that their firms has a functional whistle blower programme. Further, 75.9% of the respondents agreed that their firm always look into alleged fraud or illegal activity. These results imply that robust internal controls influence corporate crime mitigation

The average likert scale of the responses is 3.91 which indicates that majority of the respondents agreed to the statements. The standard deviation was 1.25 which indicates that the responses were varied.

Table 1: Robust Internal Controls

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std Dev
There exist a code of conduct in the organization	5.20%	15.50%	5.20%	34.50%	39.70%	3.88	1.244
The firm has a Robust audit committee	10.30%	12.10%	8.60%	22.40%	46.60%	3.83	1.403
The firm regularly conduct corporate crime risk assessment	5.20%	5.20%	13.80%	32.80%	43.10%	4.03	1.123
The firm has a functional whistle blower programme	5.20%	6.90%	22.40%	25.90%	39.70%	3.88	1.171
The firm always Look into alleged fraud or illegal activity	10.30%	5.20%	8.60%	32.80%	43.10%	3.93	1.296
Average						3.91	1.25

4.2 Descriptive Statistics on Management override controls

On the likert scale, results are presented in table 2 shows that 70.1% (12.1%+58.6%) of the respondents agreed that the firm maintains an appropriate level of skepticism, 72.5% of the respondents agreed the firm strengthen committee understanding of the business, 81% of the respondents supported that their firms brainstorm about fraud risks, 84.5% agreed that their firm uses the code of conduct to assess financial reporting culture while 72.4% agreed that their firm ensures that the entity cultivates a vigorous whistle-blower program.

Using a five point scale likert mean, the overall mean of the responses was 3.95 which indicates that majority of the respondents agreed to the statement of the questionnaire. Additionally, the standard deviation of 1.18 indicates that the responses were varied. The results herein imply that that management override controls checks influence corporate crime mitigation.

Table 2: Management override Control /checks

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev
The firm maintains an appropriate level of skepticism	17.20%	3.40%	8.60%	12.10%	58.60%	3.91	1.548
The firm strengthen committee understanding of the business	3.40%	15.50%	8.60%	39.70%	32.80%	3.83	1.157
The firm brainstorm about fraud risks	3.40%	3.40%	12.10%	43.10%	37.90%	4.09	0.978
The firm uses the code of conduct to assess financial reporting culture	3.40%	5.20%	6.90%	43.10%	41.40%	4.14	0.999
The firm ensures that the entity cultivates a vigorous whistleblower program.	10.30%	5.20%	12.10%	43.10%	29.30%	3.76	1.233
Average						3.95	1.18

4.3 Descriptive Statistics on Segregation of duties

Further, the respondents were asked to respond on statements on segregation of duties and responsibilities. The responses were rated on a five likert scale as presented in Table 3. Majority of 81%(51.7%+29.3%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that the organization does not let the person writing the cheques to reconcile the bank statement,, risk assessment is a continuous and permanent process., 72.4% agreed with the statement that the organization does not let the person initiating the purchase order approve the payment., 65.5% of the respondents agreed that the organization assign different people responsibility for authorizing transactions, 81% of the respondents agreed that the organization assign different people responsibility for recording transactions , while another 81.% of the respondents agreed that the organization assign different people responsibility for maintaining custody of assets. The results herein imply that segregation of duties influence corporate crime mitigation

On a five point scale, the average mean of the responses was 3.91 which mean that majority of the respondents were agreeing with most of the statements; however the answers were varied as shown by a standard deviation of 1.09.

Table 3: Segregation of duties

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
The organization does not let the person writing the cheques to reconcile the bank statement,	3.40%	6.90%	8.60%	51.70%	29.30%	3.97	0.991
The organization does not let the person initiating the purchase order approve the payment	3.40%	12.10%	12.10%	36.20%	36.20%	3.9	1.135
The organization assign different people responsibility for authorizing transactions	12.10%	3.40%	19.00%	37.90%	27.60%	3.66	1.264
The organization assign different people responsibility for recording transactions	6.90%	6.90%	5.20%	60.30%	20.70%	3.81	1.067
The organization assign different people responsibility for maintaining custody of assets	0.00%	12.10%	6.90%	27.60%	53.40%	4.22	1.027
Average						3.91	1.09

4.4 Correlation analysis.

Table 4 below presents the results of the correlation analysis. The results revealed that Robust internal controls and corporate crime mitigation are positively and significant related ($r=0.410$, $p=0.001$). The table further indicated that Management Override controls and corporate crime mitigation are positively and significantly related ($r=0.369$, $p=0.004$). It was further established that Segregation of duties and corporate crime mitigation were positively and significantly related ($r=0.397$, $p=0.002$).

Table 4: Correlation Matrix

		corporate crime mitigation	Robust internal controls	Management Override controls	Segregation of duties
Corporate crime mitigation	Pearson				
	Correlation	1.000			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
Robust internal controls	Pearson				
	Correlation	.410**	1.000		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001			
Management Override controls	Pearson				
	Correlation	.369**	0.189	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.004	0.154		
Segregation of duties	Pearson				
	Correlation	.397**	0.063	0.185	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.002	0.638	0.164	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.3 Regression analysis

The results presented in table 5 present the fitness of model used of the regression model in explaining the study phenomena. Robust internal controls, management override controls and segregation of duties and responsibilities were found to be satisfactory variables in explaining in corporate crime mitigation. This is supported by coefficient of determination also known as the R square of 36.1%. This means that robust internal controls, management override controls and segregation of duties and responsibilities explain 36.1% of the variations in the dependent variable which is corporate crime mitigation is firms listed in NSE. This results further means that the model applied to link the relationship of the variables was satisfactory.

Table 5: Model Fitness

Indicator	Coefficient
R	0.601
R Square	0.361
Adjusted R Square	0.326
Std. Error of the Estimate	0.4158266

In statistics significance testing the p-value indicates the level of relation of the independent variable to the dependent variable. If the significance number found is less than the critical value also known as the probability value (p) which is statistically set at 0.05, then the conclusion

would be that the model is significant in explaining the relationship; else the model would be regarded as non-significant.

Table 6 provides the results on the analysis of the variance (ANOVA). The results indicate that the overall model was statistically significant. Further, the results imply that the independent variables are good predictors of corporate crime mitigation. This was supported by an F statistic of 10.181 and the reported p value (0.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significant levels.

Table 6: Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5.283	3	1.761	10.185	0.000
Residual	9.337	54	0.173		
Total	14.621	57			

Regression of coefficients results in table 7 shows that Robust internal controls and corporate crime mitigation are positively and significant related ($r=0.381$, $p=0.003$). The table further indicated that Management Override controls checks and corporate crime mitigation are positively and significantly related ($r=0.24$, $p=0.035$). It was further established that Segregation of duties and corporate crime mitigation were positively and significantly related ($r=0.332$, $p=0.004$).

Table 7: Regression of Coefficients

Variable	B	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.199	0.683	0.291	0.772
Robust internal controls	0.381	0.123	3.094	0.003
Management Override controls	0.240	0.111	2.161	0.035
Segregation of duties	0.332	0.111	2.984	0.004

Thus, the optimal model for the study was;

Corporate crime mitigation = 0.199 + 0.381 Robust internal controls + 0.24 Management Override controls checks + 0.332 Segregation of duties and responsibilities.

5.0 Conclusions

Based on the findings above, the study concluded that robust internal controls, management override controls and segregation of duties and responsibilities have a based and significant effect on corporate crime mitigation. The study concluded that use of forensic accounting

significantly reduces the occurrence of fraud cases in the public sector and, therefore, can help in detecting and preventing fraud cases in the public sector organization. Forensic accounting as a corporate crime detection tool is one of the strategic tools for dealing with such crimes. The study also concluded that the use of forensic accounting leads to better results in the organizations. Forensic accounting is conducted to improve the understanding in detecting and reducing accounting crimes. It is practiced by majority of firms as one of the tools to investigate a company's financial statements for fraudulent activities as requested by certain parties. Forensic accounting activities such as investigative accounting and litigation support enrich the firms' performance.

6.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations based on the study findings are suggested to help boost the corporate crime mitigation. Internal controls need to be reviewed and rectified frequently as infrequent review may increase the fraud risk, as the fraudster can identify and exploit the weaknesses in internal control. To minimize management overrides, the study recommended the following; conducting an engagement team discussion regarding fraud risks; making inquiries of management, the audit committee, and others in the company to obtain views about the risks of fraud and how those risks are addressed; considering fraud risk factors such as incentives and pressures for management to override controls, and attitudes or rationalizations that enable management to justify override of controls. Therefore, for effective corporate crime mitigation, management override of controls should be put in check

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