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Financial Crimes Control in Nigeria: an Assessment of the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

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ABSTRACT

The research work examined Financial Crimes Control in Nigeria. with preference to the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Empirical studies suggest that financial crimes in Nigeria adversely affect the country socio-economically politically and globally. Financial crimes control by Anti-financial crimes Agencies in the Nigeria like EFCC has not been encouraging to meet the expectations of the government, Nigerians and the global community The objectives of the study were – to examine the effect of financial crimes on Nigeria development; to find out the roles EFCC have employed in financial crime control in Nigeria; to identify the achievements EFCC has made in financial crime control in Nigeria; and to find out the challenges EFCC have encountered in financial crime control in Nigeria. The study adopted the Hyper-motivation theory; applied a descriptive survey research design with structured questionnaire as the main instrument for data collection. The population of the study is the 3,267,837 residents in Enugu State (National Population Commission of Nigeria, 2006). The sample population derived via the application of Taro Yamani sample size determination formula was 400. The data collected via questionnaire were analyzed using table and percentages, while the hypotheses tested were tested using the chi-square statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that Financial crimes affect Nigeria development socio-economically, politically and globally; EFCC performs roles in financial crimes control in Nigeria; EFCC has done well in financial crimes control in Nigeria but a lot still needs to be done by the Commission to enhance financial crimes control in the country; and EFCC encounters challenges in financial crimes control in Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the Nigerian government at all levels etc should all join hands in sensitizing Nigerians and the perpetrators of financial crimes on the devastating effects of financial crimes of the country' development drive socio-economically, politically and internationally; the roles of EFCC as contained in the Act establishing the Commission should be strengthened; EFCC staff should be fully independent and act professionally in line with the Act establishing it; the identified challenges of the Commission should be vigorously addressed by the government at all levels to strengthened the Commission financial crimes control in the country and reduce its effects on Nigeria development.

Keywords:

Corruption,

Fraud,

Finance,

Financial crimes

Internet crime

INTRODUCTION

Financial crime over the last 30 years has increasingly become of concern to governments throughout the world. This concern arises from a variety of issues because the impact of financial crime varies in different contexts. It is today widely recognized that the prevalence of economically motivated crime in many societies is a substantial threat to the development of economies and their stability.

The idea of tackling financial crimes through the formation of an independent agency has been well documented in the literature (Meagher, 2005; Quah, 2013). These specialized agencies, known as Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs), are established to minimize the level of financial crimes in their respective countries.

In Nigeria, the issue of financial crimes continues to elude the country ever since her independence. It is affecting the entire population both at the grass roots up to the political leaders. Even the insane people in the country could recognize the havoc caused by financial crimes. Evidence abound that the rate of financial crimes especially corruption, advanced fee fraud (419) and money laundering committed in Nigeria is alarming. Nigerian's are treated with suspicion in all business dealings. Majority of honest Nigerians suffer as the result. In regards to this, Hassan (2004), opined that the federal government should try to implement an intensive programme of eradicating the menace of financial crimes in the country. This is because, it has the political will to achieve this objective. The most relevant effort made by the federal government towards controlling financial crimes in the country is the creation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The EFCC was established by an act of parliament on December 13th 2002 by the federal government (Caiden, 1976; Dobel, 1978; & Lotter, 2002).

The Commission began full operation in 2003. It has support from the presidency, the legislature, security and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria (Achebe, 1983). The Commission is primarily charged with the responsibility of eradicating all the economic and financial crimes such as: advanced fee fraud, money laundering, counterfeits, future market fraud, fraudulent encashment of negotiable instrument, computer credit card fraud, contracts scam, embezzlement of public funds and illegal

acquisition of company shares which do not exist to investors (Gboyega, 1996; Mauro, 1997; Sen, 1999; & Mushanga, 2001).

According to Akume, & Okoli (2016), our politicians are also not exempted in this financial crime. In Nigeria today, people see politics as a short cut to becoming a millionaire. Those voted into power use it as an opportunity of looting the public funds, diverting them to their personal account instead of providing the people with dividends of democracy. According to Brinkerhoff (2010), corruption has continued to be a destructive element in the government of Nigeria and the perception of the country in the community of nations. It has resulted to a lot of problem, thus: loss of government, brain drain, electoral malpractices and absence of law and orders (Roussau, 1962; & Mushanga, 2001).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Nigeria since independence has witnessed one type of financial crimes or the other, especially financial misconduct at local, state and federal government levels. However, the magnitude, the effort and brazen at which financial crimes are now being committed to every meaningful citizen and foreigners are alike. The paradox of it is that successive governments have in many ways claimed to fight and control financial crimes in the country but each has always come out worse than the previous state of matter in financial crimes rating.

Currently, the country is faced with financial misconduct at all government parastatals. Efforts and measures put together by successive government in waging war against financial crimes does not only proved abortive but also strengthen the corruptible acts in the country, that is, irrespective of tools and resources of government towards controlling financial crimes, many individuals still find it easy to siphon government money into their pockets (Ojeifo, 2009).

Nigeria, the giant of Africa is richly blessed with natural and human resource which can easily be converted into money and wealth of a nation but surprisingly government officials deliberately loot the public fund from these resources and divert same for their own personal interest leaving the masses with abject poverty and starvation of food, cloth and shelter. Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (2009) and Ayobolu (2006) add that financial crimes have hindered the country from progressing and have made the country far away

from development unlike the development stage recorded in other nations of the world. Shehu (2015) contributes that financial crimes in Nigeria is as old as mankind and has been problematic to political and economic will of Nigeria. In the analysis of World Bank, financial crimes especially corruption stands at over \$1trillion per annum accounting for up to 12% of the revenue of nations like Nigeria, Kenya and Venezuela (Nwabuzor, 2005).

Many Nigerians have been enriching themselves through crooked ways especially advanced fee fraud and money laundering (Kpundeh, 2012). Top government officials loot the public funds and divert them into their private account, while the masses suffer in abject poverty and die of starvation. While we are blessed with enough national and human resources that can easily make a nation to be great. this research investigated why Nigeria is the fifth highest largest producer of petroleum and still rated as one of the thirtieth poorest and third most corrupt country in the world through the operation of economic and financial crimes commission (Dobel, 1978).

It is against this background that this paper tends to investigate EFCC and financial crimes control in Nigeria.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is to investigate EFCC and financial crimes control in Nigeria. To aid the completion of the study; the researcher would intend to achieve the following specific objectives:

- a) To examine the effect of financial crimes on Nigeria development.
- b) To find out the roles EFCC have employed in financial crime control in Nigeria.
- c) To identify the achievements EFCC has made in financial crime control in Nigeria.
- d) To find out the challenges EFCC have encountered in financial crime control in Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions offer direction to the researcher in carrying out the study:

- a) What are the effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development?
- b) What are the roles EFCC have employed in financial crime control in Nigeria?
- c) What are the achievements EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria?

- d) What are the challenges EFCC encounters in financial crime control in Nigeria?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

Also in line with objectives and research questions are the following hypotheses of this study:

1. There are effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development
2. There are roles employed by EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria.
3. EFCC has made achievements in financial crime control in Nigeria.
4. EFCC encounters challenges in financial crime control in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Concept of Financial Crimes

There is no broad consensus on the meaning of financial crime but it can be understood that it is any type of illegal activity that result in an economic loss. Financial crimes, sometimes defined to as "white collar" crimes, are nonviolent criminal acts committed to gain illegal monetary. According to the United Nation Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) financial crime can be viewed as "any non-violent crime that results in a financial loss which includes computer crime and dishonest practices". Ayobolu (2006) contends that financial crime is a critical issue and it has likely devastating economic, security and social impact. It encourages drug dealers, terrorists, illegal arm dealer, corrupt public officials and others to operate and expand their criminal enterprises. According to Gottschalk, (2010), financial crime can be categorized in corruption, fraud, theft and manipulation. Furthermore, Croall (2003) viewed financial Crimes as criminal activities carried out by individuals or criminal organizations to provide economic benefits through illegal methods. Financial crimes, which have become a critical issue in recent years all over the world, cause big harm to the economy and society.

They can occur in many different forms, and they happen all over the world. Some of the most common crimes facing the financial sector are money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud, tax evasion. These crimes are committed every day, and governments worldwide are frequently prosecuting financial criminals while searching for new ones.

Effect of Financial Crime on Nigeria Development

In Nigeria, more markets are emerging and there is an increase in financial sector thus they become possible targets for financial abuse. Financial crime is a critical issue and it has likely devastating economic, security, and social impact. It encourages drug dealers, terrorists, illegal arms dealers, corrupt public officials, and others to operate and expand their criminal enterprises in the country. According to Gregory (2015), financial system abuse has negative impact on a country's macroeconomic performance which may cause welfare losses. Globalization and financial market in particular facilitates financial abuse. This section briefly reviews the effect of financial crime on Nigeria.

➤ *Economic Impact*

Trust is based on the continuation and development of financial markets. The performance of financial markets depends greatly on the assumptions that high professional, legal, and ethical standards are respected. Integrity which is the soundness, truthfulness honesty and the allegiance to standards and codes, is one of the most valued assets by investors and financial institutions. Financial crime abuse may implicate financial institutions' and authority reputation, which may discourage investors' consequently weakening the financial system. The connection between financial market integrity and financial stability is emphasized in the Basel Core Principles which address the prevention and declaration of financial system abuse (Olowu, 1999).

➤ *Risks to Privatization Efforts*

According to Croall (2003), financial crime is a threat to the efforts of many nations (Nigerian inclusive) to put in place reforms into their economies through privatization. Criminal organizations have the financial wherewithal to outbid legitimate purchasers for formerly state-owned enterprises. Furthermore, while privatization initiatives are often economically beneficial, they can also serve as a vehicle to launder funds. In the past, criminals have been able to purchase marinas, resorts, casinos, and banks to hide their illicit proceeds and further their criminal activities.

➤ *Reputation Risk*

Nations cannot afford to have their reputations and financial institutions tarnished by an association

with financial crimes, especially in today's global economy. Confidence in markets and in the signaling role of profits is eroded by money laundering and financial crimes such as the laundering of criminal proceeds, widespread financial fraud, insider trading of securities, and embezzlement. Chukwuemerie (2003) contends that the negative reputation that results from these activities diminishes legitimate global opportunities and sustainable growth while attracting international criminal organizations with undesirable reputations and short-term goals. According to Siddiquee (2010), this can result in diminished development and economic growth. Furthermore, once a country's financial reputation is damaged, reviving it is very difficult and requires significant government resources to rectify a problem that could be prevented with proper anti-money-laundering controls.

➤ *Social Costs*

There are significant social costs and risks associated with financial crimes. Financial crime is a process vital to making crime worthwhile. It allows drug traffickers, smugglers, and other criminals to expand their operations. This drives up the cost of government due to the need for increased law enforcement and health care expenditures (for example, for treatment of drug addicts) to combat the serious consequences that result (Malgwi, 2004). Among its other negative socioeconomic effects, money laundering transfers economic power from the market, government, and citizens to criminals. In short, it turns the old adage that crime doesn't pay on its head. Furthermore, the sheer magnitude of the economic power that accrues to criminals from money laundering has a corrupting effect on all elements of society. In extreme cases, it can lead to the virtual take-over of legitimate government.

Role of EFCC in Financial Crime Control in Nigeria

The need to curb the trend of corruption and lack of accountability by those occupying positions of authority in Nigeria necessitated the establishment of EFCC in 2003. The following are the roles of EFCC in financial crimes control in Nigeria::

- a) Promulgation of laws against graft – Independent Corrupt Practices and (Other Related Offences) Commission (ICPC) Act, Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC) Act, Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2004.

- b) Strengthening of anti-corruption and other economic crimes Institutions for effective law enforcement.
- c) Prosecution and conviction of high ranking administration officials.
- d) Tracing, seizing and confiscation of all proceeds of crime.
- e) Institution of the Due Process Mechanism in public sector procurements.
- f) Privatization of failing public institutions and creating an enabling environment for effective private-public partnerships.
- g) Monthly publication of distributable revenue from the Federation Account to the different tiers of government.

h) Institution of transparencies in the oil and gas sector through the work of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

Achievements of EFCC in Financial Crime Control in Nigeria

Since its Creation Following its establishment, the Commission swung into action by launching Operation Redemption, which was intended ,to get all economic and financial criminals out of business and behind bars (Ribadu, 2003). In summary, the table below is the EFCC operational statistics from 210 – 2019

EFCC Operational Statistics (2010 – 2019)

YEAR	NO OF PETITIONS RECEIVED	NO INVESTIGATED	NO OF CASES FILED IN COURT	CONVICTIONS SECURED
2010	6782	2399	206	68
2011	7,737	2,606	417	67
2012	4,914	2,062	502	87
2013	6,089	2,883	485	117
2014	4,941	2,512	388	126
2015	5,979	2,662	462	103
2016	7,045	4,660	390	195
2017	8,251	5,662	501	189
2018	9,566	5,795	515	312
2019	12,644	8,729	1,901	1280
TOTAL	73,948	39,970	5,767	2,544

Source: EFCC Records, 2021

Challenges of EFCC Financial Crime Control in Nigeria

The EFCC faces some major challenges in the fight against corruption. One is the claim of immunity from arrest and prosecution by the president, vice president, and governors and their deputies. Many state governors and their legal defense lawyers have interpreted the provisions in subsections 308(1) and 308(2) of the immunity clause of the 1999 Constitution as giving absolute immunity from criminal prosecution while in office. As a result of this institutional and legalistic argument, it has been difficult to prosecute these governors and also the vice president and the president while in office. This claim of immunity is absurd because it was not the intention of the framers of the constitution to

allow elected officials to steal and plunder the nation’s wealth. However, although claiming immunity under subsection 308(1), governors can be prosecuted under civil law as provided by subsection 308(2).

The most prominent challenge to EFCC's efforts is the prevailing impression that in Nigeria, crime pays. The country is awash with examples where the consequences of corruption pale in comparison to its benefits. For example, in January 2013, an Assistant Director of the Nigerian Pension Commission charged for stealing ₦32 billion ended up with a ₦250,000 fine. Similarly, we can recall the presidential pardon by then-President Jonathan which absolved the former Bayelsa State Governor in 2013. Perhaps the most disturbing events in this trend are the rapturous welcomes given to those the EFCC

successfully prosecutes and convicts – from a one-time PDP chieftain to a former Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority (Etim, 2017).

Time again and time again, Nigeria's political establishment has shown it is willing to embrace public figures tainted with corruption. It appears immaterial when there are question marks on the integrity of individuals because the elite turns a blind eye and individuals are welcomed with open arms. In Nigeria, neither Caesar nor his wife need be above suspicion. Even the Judiciary contributes to this perception as they sometimes make a mockery of the anti-corruption drive. A notable case is that of the former Rivers State Governor who obtained a "perpetual Injunction" which barred the EFCC from "arresting, detaining or arraigning" him (Etim, 2017).

More so, the structure of the EFCC makes it answerable to the presidency. Important issues, ranging from the Agency's budget to the chairman's job security, are subject to Senate and Presidential approval. Admittedly, this is not an anomaly because even the independence of the FBI is questionable. Nonetheless, the United States government attempts to draw lines between the FBI's accountability and its need for independence. This line is non-existent in the EFCC. Take, for instance, the run-up to the 2007 presidential elections when the EFCC presented a list of 135 "corrupt" candidates whom it said should not run for office. The list was discredited as an attempt to hurt the political adversaries of the then-president. More recently, the present administration has blatantly refused to release public figures facing trial even though their bail applications have long been met. In short, successive Nigerian governments have made political interference the order of the day.

The significant delays, frustrations, and waste of resources in the current prosecution regime constitute another challenge facing the EFCC. It has become an art for defense attorneys to ensure that financial crime cases do not continue, and substantive cases are never tried on their merits. Defense attorneys can delay and prolong cases by a tactic of applying for stays on proceeding. Where such application is not granted, the defense attorneys accuse the judges of bias and therefore grounds for application to transfer their cases to other judges (Ribadu, 2004). Similar to the above challenge is the problem of congestion and the slow pace of court proceedings caused by an insufficient number of courts and judges and antiquated manual recording system. Delays and congestion in judicial proceedings can be reduced by establishing a

special financial crime court for the adjudication of corruption and money laundering cases.

Of equally importance is the cyber nature of financial crimes. This has created a jurisdictional challenge and increased the costs of investigation and prosecution. The digital revolution has collapsed traditional physical boundaries and therefore altered the territorial jurisdiction for the prosecution of cyber crimes. Associated with this jurisdictional problem is the challenge posed by the increasing costs of prosecuting these cases, which run into millions of naira (Ampratwum, 2008, 2009; Ojeifo 2009).

Furthermore, the EFCC faces the challenge of the inadequacy of the existing procedural laws in Nigeria that question the evidential status and admissibility of computer and electronically generated documentation (THISDAY, 2008 May 16). In fact, the Nigerian legal procedural system has not kept pace with evidential value of information generated by the cyber revolution. Finally, the EFCC faces the challenge posed by instability and continuity in leadership. By the end of 2007, Alhaji Ribadu was ordered to proceed on study leave and replaced by Ibrahim Lamorde in an interim capacity; and on May 2008, Farida Waziri was appointed as the Chairman of EFCC (Kallon, 2003). Changes in leadership driven by partisanship without sufficient cause might jeopardize the efficacy of the Commission.

While these constraints have certainly hindered the EFCC, the agency has derailed its progress through its occasional incompetence. It has a fondness for high profile arrests and public invitations of prominent suspects long before investigations are completed. Unfortunately, as one Judicial officer put it, "the day you make an announcement to the media [should be] the day you have filed a case; otherwise, you are just saying, 'hide your tracks, we are coming' (Etim, 2017).

In May 2016, the EFCC picked up the Access Bank Managing Director (MD) from the bank's headquarters over allegations of money laundering. The MD was never charged but the EFCC's arrest dominated headlines for weeks. The same goes for many of the suspects in the "arms deal scandal". Though these tactics generate headlines and garner popular support, public trials in the court of opinion should not be seen as triumphs if the corrupt walk free (Etim, 2017).

Without offering any rational explanation for their approach, this looks to be the EFCC blueprint for investigations, dating back to the Nuhu Ribadu

years when the pioneer EFCC chairman famously informed the Senate that 31 of 36 state governors were under investigation. Most of these men walk freely today (Etim, 2017).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The descriptive survey design was employed in the study. Descriptive survey design is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group (Nworgu, 2015). Since data were collected, organized and analyzed from group of teachers in senior secondary school, descriptive survey is the best to be employed.

Sources of Data

The researcher used two major sources of data in this research work viz: primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data were derived from the questionnaire administered on the people of Enugu State. While, the secondary data were sourced from textbooks, newspaper, magazines and seminar papers, journals and other unpublished papers such as notes and projects.

Population of the Study

The population of interest of this study comprised of the residents in Enugu State numbering three million two hundred and sixty seven thousand, eight hundred and thirty seven (3,267,837) (National Population Commission Census, 2006). The population is divided into the three (3) Senatorial Districts in the State (Enugu North, Enugu South and Enugu West) as presented on table 1 below:

Table 1: Population Distribution

Senatorial Zone	No. of Local Government Area	Population
Enugu North	6	1,229,811
Enugu East	6	1,166,864
Enugu West	5	871,162
Grand Total	17	3,267,837

Source: National Population Commission Census, 2006

Sample Size Determination

In order to get a representation of the entire population, the Taro Yamani statistical formula was employed. According to Taro Yamene (1964), the formula is stated as;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Table 2: Sample Size Distribution Table

Senatorial Zone	Population	Sample Size	Percentage (%)
Enugu North	1,229,811	$\frac{1,229,811 \times 400}{3,267,837} = \frac{491,924,400}{3,267,837} = 151$	38
Enugu East	1,166,864	$\frac{1,166,864 \times 400}{3,267,837} = \frac{466,745,600}{3,267,837} = 142$	36
Enugu West	871,162	$\frac{871,162 \times 400}{3,267,837} = \frac{348,464,800}{3,267,837} = 107$	26
Total	3,267,837	400	100

Source: Research Report, 2022

Therefore, the sample size for the study is 400

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this section the result of data collected were presented and analyzed in accordance with the research questions and hypotheses posed for the study. The interpretation of the exercise was also made to arrive at the findings of the research work. The research questions were presented and analyzed using frequency and percentage and in a Likert scale point while the hypotheses were tested with chi-square (X^2) at significant level of 0.05.

However, it is important to note that a total of four hundred (400) copies of the questionnaires were distributed by the researcher to the three selected local government, one for each Senatorial Zones in the State. Three hundred and sixty three (363) copies were returned representing 91% of the total distributed copies of the questionnaire. While thirty seven (37) were not returned representing 9% of the total distributed copies. Out of the returned copies forty nine (49) copies were condemned for improper completion by the respondents representing 12% of the total distributed and total returned copies. The remaining three hundred and fourteen (314) copies were used for the analysis, representing 79% of the total distributed and total return copies respectively. Efforts made to recover the unreturned copies proved abortive. Below is the return rate of the distributed questionnaire table for the study.

Research Question One: What are the effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development?

Table 3 contains the summary of the responses on the question on the effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development

Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	1,293	607	174	273	163	2512
Percentage (%)	51%	24%	7%	11%	7%	100

Table 3 above showed that 51% respondents strongly agree that the effect of financial crimes in Nigeria include it causes damage the country's financial reputation, it results in significant social costs and risks, it is a threat to the efforts of the Nigerian government to put in place reforms into the economy through privatization, it may implicate financial institutions' and authority reputation, which may discourage investors' consequently weakening the financial system among others. 24.4% of the respondents agree, 7% of the respondents don't know, 11% of the respondents disagree and 7% strongly disagree.

Research Question Two: What are the roles EFCC have employed in financial crime control in Nigeria?

Table 4 contains the summary of the responses on the question on the roles EFCC have employed in financial crime control in Nigeria

Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	1160	391	183	244	220	2,198
Percentage (%)	53%	18%	8%	11%	10%	100

This EFCC hoped to actualize through diverse strategies, viz:

Table 4 showed that 53% respondents strongly agree that the roles of EFCC in financial crimes control in Nigeria include - Promulgation of laws against graft, strengthening of anti-corruption and other economic crimes institutions for effective law enforcement, prosecution and conviction of high ranking administration officials, tracing, seizing and confiscation of all proceeds of crime, institution of the due process mechanism in public sector procurements, privatization of failing public institutions and creating an enabling environment for effective private-public partnerships, monthly publication of distributable revenue from the

federation account to the different tiers of government among others. 18% of the respondents agree, 8% of the respondents don't know, 11% of the respondents disagree and 10% strongly disagree.

Research Question Three: What are the achievements of EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria?

Table 5 below contains the summary of the scores from the respondents on the achievements of EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria.

Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	176	236	166	325	667	1570
Percentage (%)	11%	15%	11%	21%	42%	100

Table 5 showed that 11% respondents strongly agree that the EFCC has achieved a lot in financial crimes control in Nigeria; 15% of the respondents agree, 11% of the respondents don't know, 21% of the respondents disagree and 42% strongly disagree.

Research Question Four: What are the challenges EFCC encounters in financial crime control in Nigeria?

Table 6 contains the summary of the responses on the question on the challenges EFCC encounters in financial crime control in Nigeria.

Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	1270	390	167	224	142	2198
Percentage (%)	58%	18%	8%	10%	6%	100

Table 6 showed that 58% respondents strongly agree that the EFCC faces the challenges of immunity from arrest and prosecution of the president, vice president, and governors and their deputies; the prevailing impression that in Nigeria, crime pays; the unwillingness of the Nigeria's political establishment to reject public figures tainted with corruption; the questionable independent status of the EFCC; the significant delays, frustrations, and waste of resources in the current prosecution regime; the cyber nature of financial crimes; the inadequacy of the existing procedural laws in Nigeria that question the evidential status and admissibility of computer and electronically generated documentation among others. 18% of the respondents agree, 8% of the respondents don't know, 10% of the respondents disagree and 6% strongly disagree.

TEST OF HYPOTHESIS

Hypothesis One: *Hypothesis one seeks to know if there are effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development.*

Table 7: Observed frequency for hypothesis One

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	95	79	61	51	28	314

Source: Field Work, 2022

Calculation of Degree of freedom (df)

$$Df = (R-1) (C-1)$$

Where R = Number of Row in the contingency table

C = Number of columns in the contingency table

$$DF = (3-1) (5-1)$$

$$= 2 \times 4$$

$$= 8$$

At 0.05 significant level and 8 degree of freedom the table value of chi-square = **15.51**

Computation of chi-square (X^2)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - e)^2}{e}$$

Where O = Observed frequency

e = Expected frequency

Expected frequency (e) is giving by $\frac{RT \times CT}{GT}$

Where RT = Row total

CT = Colum total

GT = Grand total

Table 8: Computation of chi-square for Hypothesis One

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) ²	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{E}$
314	312.01	2.01	4.0401	110.31

Source: Research Data, 2022

Decision Rule

When the computed value of chi-square (X^2) is > the table value of chi-square (X^2), the alternative hypothesis (H_1) will be accepted while the null hypothesis (H_2) will be rejected. Therefore, since the computed value of chi-square (X^2) of 110.31 is > the table value of chi-square of 15.51, alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. The researcher therefore established that there are effects of financial crimes on Nigeria development.

Hypothesis Two: *Hypothesis one seeks to know if there are roles employed by EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria.*

Table 9: Observed frequency for hypothesis One

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	65	109	51	61	28	314

Source: Field Work, 2022

Where R = Number of Row in the contingency table

C = Number of columns in the contingency table

$$DF = (3-1) (5-1)$$

$$= 2 \times 4$$

$$= 8$$

At 0.05 significant level and 8 degree of freedom the table value of chi-square = **15.51**

Computation of chi-square (X^2)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - e)^2}{e}$$

Where O = Observed frequency

e = Expected frequency

Expected frequency (e) is giving by $\frac{RT \times CT}{GT}$

Where RT = Row total

CT = Colum total

GT = Grand total

Table 10: Computation of chi-square for Hypothesis One

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) ²	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{E}$
314	194.642	119.36	14246.81	227.40

Source: Research Data, 2022

Decision Rule

When the computed value of chi-square (χ^2) is $>$ the table value of chi-square (X^2), alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. Therefore, since the computed value of chi-square (X^2) of 227.40 is $>$ the table value of chi-square of 15.51, alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. The study therefore establishes that there are roles employed by EFCC in financial crime control in Nigeria

Hypothesis Three: *Hypothesis three seeks to know if EFCC has made achievements in financial crime control in Nigeria.*

Table 11: Observed frequency for hypothesis Three

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	65	109	51	61	28	314

Source: Field Work, 2022

Calculation of Degree of freedom (df)

$$Df = (R-1) (C-1)$$

Where R = Number of Row in the contingency table

C = Number of columns in the contingency table

$$DF = (3-1) (5-1)$$

$$= 2 \times 4$$

$$= 8$$

At 0.05 significant level and 8 degree of freedom the table value of chi-square = **15.51**

Computation of chi-square (X^2)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - e)^2}{e}$$

Where O = Observed frequency

e = Expected frequency

Expected frequency (e) is giving by $\frac{RT \times CT}{GT}$

Where RT = Row total

CT = Colum total

GT = Grand total

Table 12: Computation of chi-square for Hypothesis Three

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) ²	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{E}$
314	17.642	331.642	109986.42	14.40

Source: Research Data, 2022

Decision Rule

When the computed value of chi-square (x^2) is $>$ the table value of chi-square (X^2), alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. Therefore, Since the computed value of chi-square (X^2) of 14.40 is $<$ the table value of chi-square of 15.51, alternative hypothesis (H_1) is rejected while the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted. The study therefore established that the EFCC has not made significant achievements in financial crime control in Nigeria.

Hypothesis Four: *Hypothesis four seeks to investigate if EFCC encounters challenges in financial crime control in Nigeria.*

Table 13: Observed frequency for hypothesis Four

Option	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Total	53	120	45	61	35	314

Source: Field Work, 2022

Calculation of Degree of freedom (df)

$$Df = (R-1) (C-1)$$

Where R = Number of Row in the contingency table

C = Number of columns in the contingency table

$$DF = (3-1) (5-1)$$

$$= 2 \times 4$$

$$= 8$$

At 0.05 significant level and 8 degree of freedom the table value of chi-square = **15.51**

Computation of chi-square (X^2)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - e)^2}{e}$$

Where O = Observed frequency

e = Expected frequency

Expected frequency (e) is giving by $\frac{RT \times CT}{GT}$

Where RT = Row total

CT = Colum total

GT = Grand total

Table 14: Computation of chi-square for Hypothesis Four

Observed Frequency (o)	Expected Frequency (e)	(o-e)	(o-e) ²	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{E}$
314	316.98	-2.98	8.8804	94.49

Source: Research Data, 2022

Decision Rule

When the computed value of chi-square (x^2) is $>$ the table value of chi-square (X^2), alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. Therefore, since the computed value of chi-square (X^2) of 94.49 is $>$ the table value of chi-square of 15.51, alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted while the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. The study therefore establishes that EFCC encounters challenges in financial crime control in Nigeria

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study revealed that financial crimes effect Nigeria development in the following ways. The study also revealed that EFCC performs roles in financial crimes control in Nigeria. The study

discovered that the EFCC has done well in financial crimes control in Nigeria. Finally, the study also revealed that there are challenges EFCC encounter in financial crimes control in Nigeria.

From the findings above, the following recommendations will help to facilitate improvement in financial crimes control in Nigeria by the EFCC:

- a) The Nigerian government at all levels, stakeholders, NGOs, religious bodies and the private sector should all join hands in sensitizing Nigerians and the perpetrators of financial crimes on the devastating effects of financial crimes of the country's development drive socio-economically, politically and internationally and the need to collaborate with the government and the EFCC in financial crimes control in the country.
- b) The roles of EFCC as contained in the Act establishing the Commission should be strengthened to empower the Commission to investigate, arrest, prevent and prosecute offenders irrespective of their socio-economic and political stance in the country without fear or favour.
- c) The EFCC staff should be professionals recruited into the Commission based on merit; trained on trending outlets of financial crimes in the country; work in a conducive environment with sufficient funding and other pertinent logistics to enhance their performance in financial crimes control in Nigeria while working tirelessly with the judiciary to ensure speedy trials of financial crimes culprits and their subsequent prosecution and imprisonment if found guilty.
- d) The identified challenges of the Commission should be vigorously addressed by the government at all levels, stakeholders, NGOs, religious bodies and the private sector to strengthen the Commission financial crimes control in the country and reduce its effects on Nigeria development

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