

EFFECT OF BANK VERIFICATION NUMBER (BVN) ON DETERRING CORRUPT PRACTICES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF NIGERIA

Sanni Michael Rotimi¹
Azeez Wahab Oloyede²
Ojedele Mofoluwaso Iyabode³
Ayodele Thomas Duro⁴

Department of Accounting, Achievers University, Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria.
+2348035629290, babasanni2@gmail.com

Department of Accounting, Crescent University, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Faculty of Management Sciences,

*Department of Accounting, Redeemer's University, Ede. E-mail: ojedelem@run.edu.ng/
foluojedele@gmail.com Tel. No: +2348030677028/+2348050854363*

*ORCID ID: 0000-0002-0070-2948 Faculty of Management Sciences, Department of Banking and Finance, Redeemer's University, Ede. E-mail: ayodeleduro@run.edu.ng/
ayodeleconcept@yahoo.com Tel. No: +2348035473097/080*

Citation: Sanni M.R,Wahab O ·O, Mofoluwaso I & Ayodele T.D (2021) Effect of Bank Verification Number on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector of Nigeria. *Fuoye Journal of Accounting and Management*, 4(1), 155 – 167

Abstract

Nigeria has introduced the Bank Verification Number its public service financial management. The study examined the effect of accounting and financial systems aspects of the reform on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector of Nigeria. The study employed survey research design with a population of 600 from the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun-Osun River Basin Authority, Abeokuta, Federal College of Education, Abeokuta and Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta which consist of Accountants, Auditors and Accounting Lecturers who are staff of these organizations. Primary data was extracted through the questionnaire using 5 point Likert Scale. The study employed ordinary least square and regression statistics to analyze the data through the SPSS. Findings of this study indicate that Bank Verification Number (BVN) has a major positive impact on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria with the coefficient of correlation, R of .973 and coefficient of determination R² of 0.947. The overall significance of the model Prob< .000 was statistically significant at 5% level. The study concluded that the Government of Nigeria should implement BVN to its fullest in order to derive maximum potential benefit of deterring corruption in the country's public sector. It recommended that legal backing should be instituted on all the reform policies.

Keywords: *Bank Verification Number, Treasury Single Account, International Public Sector Accounting Standards.*

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The current global reforms in accounting and financial systems of governments are rooted in the New Public Management (NPM) which has been successfully typified in North America, Europe, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Scandinavian Countries are being advocated for other countries' public sector, particularly developing ones, to bail them out of economic doldrums and quagmire of corruption (Cangiano, 2017; Gruening, 2001). A typical society consists of both private and public sectors jointly managing the socio-political system of the society. While the private sector uses the individual resources in establishing and managing any private establishment, the public sector is managed by public servants on behalf of the people. Since the private sector depends on the managerial prowess of the individual owners, such owners ensure their business resources are judiciously utilized. On the other hand, the public sector is seen as belonging to no individual person. As such, civil servants in charge of its management can ignore the extant rules and regulations to do as they wish except in a situation where a patriotic leader is in charge of administration at the top (Ranjani & Ambe, 2016). The reckless management of public sector therefore calls for pro-active measures especially from the technocrats who are embittered by the maladministration in the public sector. In response to this, such technocrats and patriots have devised various administrative strategies and measures to address the challenges of misrule in the public service, hence, the NPM which is simply applying the principles of private strategic management or market enterprise to public sector domain (Ibietan & Joshua, 2017). Nigeria has been unfortunately headed by those who claimed to be physicians to its problems but ended up being patients themselves (Ijewereme, 2013; Ogundiya, 2009).

That is why Nigeria is the 144 least corrupt nations out of 180 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Nigeria moved to 144th from 148th among 180 countries in Transparency International latest corruption perception index worldwide released in January 2019, which also saw the United States dropping four notches out of the top 20 countries in the world. However, Nigeria made the four notch jump without improving its score of 27 out of a possible 100 as recorded in 2017. Africa's most populous country tied with Kenya, Comoros, Guatemala and Mauritania. Nigeria ranked better than Cameroon put at 152nd. Botswana remains Africa's most transparent country with a ranking of 34, followed by Namibia, Mauritius and Senegal.

The Nigerian government has taken various measures, reforms and strategies to address the incidence of corruption in the country and particularly her public sector. These measures include whistle blowing policy, Bank Verification Number (BVN), public services reform including staff management reform, Public Procurement Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, Treasury Single Account (TSA), adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), establishment of anti-graft agencies such as Economic and

Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) (Adams, 2014 ; Rotimi & Obasaju, 2013).

1.1 Statement of the problem

The major factors facilitating or causing reforms are elements of corruption in the Nigerian public sectors which do not just make fat the pockets of political and business elites but leaves ordinary people without essential services, such as life-saving medicines, and deprives them of access to sanitation and housing and eventually cost lives (Iroghama, 2011).

Nigeria is currently experiencing myriad of dilemmas prominent among its citizens which are poverty, insecurity, kidnapping, ethno-religious crisis and bad governance. The series of corruption has been adequately captured in the acts of both the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences (ICPC). The Public Sectors in Nigeria is bedeviled with embezzlement, bribery, payroll fraud, misappropriation of fund, extortion, nepotism, lack of transparency, scandalous abuse of the procedures in Nigerian public service, accountability dilemma, lack of merit and due process in awarding contract, payment of salary to non-existent staff and many more which can be attributed to corruption.

Embezzlement of public funds may have been encouraged by confidentiality and secrecy of banking transactions. The measure adopted to deter corruption in the public sector in this regard is Bank Verification Number (BVN) which has helped in detecting identity of public fund looters and movement of stolen cash in Nigerian bank accounts. BVN was conceived to ensure that the identity of persons carrying out bank transactions is known and verifiable at any convenient time. This made it possible for each person to have a unique number attached to all of his accounts. This further makes it easier to monitor account owners especially those whose banking transactions are being trailed (Earnest & Amanda, 2018).

1.2 Research Question

To what extent is the effect of Bank Verification Number (BVN) on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector of Nigeria?

1.3 Research Hypotheses

H₀₁ - Bank Verification Number (BVN) has no significant effect on deterring corrupt practice in the Public Sector in Nigeria.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The jurisdiction of the study would cover the implementation of accounting and financial reforms as deterrence to corrupt practices in the Public Sector of Nigeria with special attention on Federal Government Agencies in Ogun State so as to facilitate data gathering. The study will try to identify how the reforms have affected generation of report on personnel planning, safeguarding of government revenue generation, misappropriation

and diversion of public fund by the public servants and outcome of full implementation of accounting and financial reforms in the Public Sector of Nigeria

2.1. Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Bank Verification Number (BVN)

The Nigerian Interbank Security System, NIBSS, PLC, (2019) defines Bank Verification Number commonly called BVN as a biometric identification system. It was launched on February 14, 2014 by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Central Bank of Nigeria in collaboration with Bankers' Committee of all banks in Nigeria. It is a centralized biometric identification system for the banking industry to curb or reduce illegal banking transactions in Nigeria. Biometrics refers to identifying an individual based on physiological or behavioral attributes – fingerprint, signature and so on. It is a unique identification (ID) number issued to every bank customer at enrolment and linked to every account that the customer has in all Nigerian Banks. It is a modern security measure in line with the Central Bank of Nigeria Act 1958 to reduce fraud in the banking system and looting of public funds. (CBN, 2014).

According to NIBSS PLC. (2019), the need for BVN is necessitated by the increasing incidents of compromise on conventional security systems (password and PIN), hence, there is a high demand for greater security for access to sensitive or personal information in the Banking System. In recent times, biometric technologies have been used to analyse human characteristics as an enhanced form of authentication for realtime security processes. It involves capturing of all ten (10) fingers prints and facial image including other personal details that would facilitate identification and location of each bank depositor.

For authentication purposes, individuals performing banking transactions such as applying for loans shall be required to identify themselves using their biometric features which will be matched against information in the central database. Banks shall be prompted during account opening and credit check if a customer has been blacklisted by any Nigerian Bank. The BVN and unique features of an individual shall be used in conjunction with a PIN on a point of transaction.

This method has assisted in identifying various banks at which some civil servants and rich men stalk their ill-gotten wealth in Nigerian banks. With this reform, government has been able to recover some loot and trace others whose suspected owners are currently under prosecution. (CBN, 2014).

2.1.2. Objectives of Bank Verification Number (BVN)

According to the Nigerian Interbank Security System, (2014) the purpose of the project is to use biometric information as a means of first identifying and verifying all individuals that have account(s) in any Nigerian bank and consequently, as a means of authenticating

customer's identity at point of transactions. It also provides a uniform industrially accepted unique identity for Bank Customers. BVN is used to authenticate transactions without the use of cards using only biometric features and PIN. It also helps in identification of blacklisted customers.

2.1.3 The Benefits of BVN

The NIBSS, PLC (2014) reports that the Bank Verification Number apart from serving as unique identity that can be verified across the Nigerian Banking Industry (not peculiar to one Bank), it protects customers' bank accounts from unauthorized access, addresses issues of identity theft and thus reduces exposure to fraud. The BVN will enhance the Banking Industry chances of being able to fish out blacklisted customers. Other benefits include, reduced queue in banking halls and standardized efficiency of banking operations.

According to NIBSS, 2019 the total number of BVN in Nigeria is 36,637,563 people. This shows that the total of 36,637,563 have been captured into the policy.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Bank verification Number (BVN) As a Tool against Embezzlement in the Public Sector of Nigeria

Ernest and Amanda, (2018), examined e-government development in Nigeria, bank verification no: an anti-corruption tool using comparative analysis methodology to analyze the inception of BVN, encompassing pre and post the introduction of BVN in Nigeria. The study examined. the state of corruption and fraud in Nigeria, prior to introduction BVN; during the implementation of BVN, and after the implementation of BVN to get an in-depth understanding of the impact that BVN has had in Nigeria, specifically in the Banking sector. The analysis included both reviewing the literature and informal interviews. The study concluded that most people in Nigeria has seen the introduction of BVN as positive progress from the government in-terms of combating crime, fraud and identity theft.

Adikeau, (2016), researched on the effect of B.V.N. in delivering of banking services in Enugu metropolis examined the significant relationship between B.V.N and protection of customer's bank accounts from unauthorized access and identification of bank depositors. The researcher used secondary data through empirical survey and pilot survey on issues of fraud, money laundering, e-banking and other financial institution data to source data. He used regression analysis to analyse the data.

He identified the many benefits of BVN to include identification and verification of bank customers at the point of deposit. Thus serving as deterrence to looters of public fund and money laundered.

According to the Nigerian Interbank Security System, NIBSS, (2019) the purpose of the project is to use biometric information as a means of first identifying and verifying all individuals that have account(s) in any Nigerian bank and consequently, as a means of authenticating customer's identity at point of transactions. It also provides a uniform industrially accepted unique identity for Bank Customers. BVN is used to authenticate transactions without the use of cards using only biometric features and PIN. It also helps in identification of blacklisted customers. The use of BVN is therefore, an anticorruption tool in Nigeria which has enhanced the needed openness, accountability and discipline, after years of robbing the treasury and recklessness in handling finances.

The NIBSS, PLC (2014) reports that the Bank Verification Number apart from serving as unique identity that can be verified across the Nigerian Banking Industry (not peculiar to one Bank), it protects customers' bank accounts from unauthorized access, addresses issues of identity theft and thus reduces exposure to fraud. The BVN will enhance the Banking Industry chances of being able to fish out blacklisted customers. Other benefits includes, reduced queue in banking halls and standardized efficiency of banking operations. The use of BVN as an anti-corruption tool in Nigeria provided the needed openness, accountability and discipline, after years of robbing the treasury and recklessness in handling finances.

According to NIBSS, (2019) the total number of BVN in Nigeria is 36,637,563 people. This shows that the total of 36,637,563 have been captured into the policy. This study seeks to provide further empirical evidence to justify the use of the bank verification number as a deterrent to corrupt practices in the public sector of Nigeria.

Ernest and Amanda, (2018), examined e-government development in Nigeria, bank verification no: an anti-corruption tool using comparative analysis methodology to analyze the inception of BVN, encompassing pre and post the introduction of BVN in Nigeria. The study examined. the state of corruption and fraud in Nigeria, prior to introduction BVN; during the implementation of BVN, and after the implementation of BVN to get an in-depth understanding of the impact that BVN has had in Nigeria, specifically in the Banking sector. The analysis included both reviewing the literature and informal interviews. The study concluded that most people in Nigeria has seen the introduction of BVN as positive progress from the government in-terms of combating crime, fraud and identity theft.

Adikeau, (2016), researched on the effect of B.V.N. in delivering of banking services in Enugu metropolis examined the significant relationship between B.V.N and protection of customer's bank accounts from unauthorized access and identification of bank depositors. The researcher used secondary data through empirical survey and pilot survey on issues of fraud, money laundering, e-banking and other financial institution data to source data. He used regression analysis to analyse the data. He identified the many benefits of BVN to include identification and verification of bank customers at the

point of deposit. Thus serving as deterrence to looters of public fund and money laundered.

According to the Nigerian Interbank Security System, NIBSS, (2019) the purpose of the project is to use biometric information as a means of first identifying and verifying all individuals that have account(s) in any Nigerian bank and consequently, as a means of authenticating customer's identity at point of transactions. It also provides a uniform industrially accepted unique identity for Bank Customers. BVN is used to authenticate transactions without the use of cards using only biometric features and PIN. It also helps in identification of blacklisted customers. The use of BVN is therefore, an anticorruption tool in Nigeria which has enhanced the needed openness, accountability and discipline, after years of robbing the treasury and recklessness in handling finances.

The NIBSS, PLC (2014) reports that the Bank Verification Number apart from serving as unique identity that can be verified across the Nigerian Banking Industry (not peculiar to one Bank), it protects customers' bank accounts from unauthorized access, addresses issues of identity theft and thus reduces exposure to fraud. The BVN will enhance the Banking Industry chances of being able to fish out blacklisted customers. Other benefits includes, reduced queue in banking halls and standardized efficiency of banking operations. The use of BVN as an anti-corruption tool in Nigeria provided the needed openness, accountability and discipline, after years of robbing the treasury and recklessness in handling finances.

According to NIBSS, (2019) the total number of BVN in Nigeria is 36,637,563 people. This shows that the total of 36,637,563 have been captured into the policy. This study seeks to provide further empirical evidence to justify the use of the bank verification number as a deterrent to corrupt practices in the public sector of Nigeria.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study adopts survey research design using questionnaire for its primary data. The target population for the study includes: The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Federal College of Education, Osiele, Ogun-Oshun River Basin Development Authority, Abeokuta, and Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta. The questionnaire is designed to achieve the study objectives. Ogun State is chosen because of ease of access. The proposed sample size would be 650 accounting staffers and lecturers of the respective MDAs.

3.1 Sample Representatives and Sampling Technique

In determining the sample representative Taro Yamane formula is being used and the formula is: $n = \frac{N}{1 + N * e^2}$ Where n = sample size N = population size e = acceptable sampling error, 5%

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The data for this study are primarily sourced. The primary data were collected by the researcher himself through the use of questionnaires as instrument of data collection on the concerned MDAs.

3.3 Model Specification

For the purpose of this study, the developed model for this research work is:

The functional representation form of the linear relationship between the dependent variables and independent (explanatory) variables can be presented as follows;

3.3.1 Functional Model y

$$= f(x) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$EMB_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BVN_t + \mu_t \text{ Where:}$$

$$X_1 = BVN$$

EMB = Embezzlement

β_0 = Constant β_1 =

Coefficient of explanatory variable μ = Error term

Bank Verification Number (BVN)-To be measured by finding out the total number of those that have enrolled for the BVN

Dependent variable: Corrupt Practices in the Public Sector of Nigeria is proxied by Embezzlement

3.4 A priori Expectation

It is expected that Bank Verification Number will have a positive impact on controlling corrupt practices in the public sector in Nigeria. The expected signs of the coefficients (p priori expectations) are such that $\beta_1 > 0$.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 Statistical Analysis

Table 4.1 Embezzlement of funds was a major form of corrupt practice in the Public Sector of Nigeria					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	18	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Disagree	16	2.7	2.7	5.7
	Agree	135	22.5	22.5	28.2
	Strongly Agree	431	71.8	71.8	100.0

	Total	600	100.0	100.0	
--	-------	-----	-------	-------	--

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 3.0% strongly disagree, 2.7% disagree, 22.5% agree, while 71.8% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agree that embezzlement of funds was a major form of corrupt practice in the Public Sector of Nigeria.

Table 4.2 Secrecy of depositor’s bank details had aided embezzlement of Public funds.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	16	2.7	2.7	2.7
	Disagree	87	14.5	14.5	17.2
	Undecided	65	10.8	10.8	28.0
	Agree	144	24.0	24.0	52.0
	Strongly Agree	288	48.0	48.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 2.7% strongly disagree, 14.5% disagree, 10.8% was undecided, 24.0% agree, while 48.0% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agree that secrecy of depositor’s bank details had aided embezzlement of Public funds.

Table 4.3 BVN has saved public service from fund embezzlement

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	19	3.2	3.2	3.2
	Disagree	37	6.2	6.2	9.3
					49.3

	Agree	240	40.0	40.0	
	Strongly Agree	304	50.7	50.7	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 3.2% strongly disagree, 6.2% disagree, 40.0% agree, while 50.7% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agree that BVN has saved public service from fund embezzlement.

Table 4.4 BVN has ensured coordination of different accounts a and thus facilitated trailing of embezzled funds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	42	7.0	7.0	7.0
	Undecided	84	14.0	14.0	21.0
	Agree	182	30.3	30.3	51.3
	Strongly Agree	292	48.7	48.7	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 7.0% disagree, 14.0% was undecided, 30.3% agree, while 48.7% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agree that BVN has ensured coordination of different accounts and thus facilitated trailing of embezzled fund.

Table 4.5 BVN has achieved identification and verification of depositors of embezzled public funds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	56	9.3	9.3	9.3
	Agree	290	48.3	48.3	57.7
	Strongly Agree	254	42.3	42.3	100.0
			100.0	100.0	

	Total	600		
--	-------	-----	--	--

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 4.6 Implementation of BVN has not deterred embezzlement of public funds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	14	2.3	2.3	2.3
	Disagree	80	13.3	13.3	15.7
	Undecided	38	6.3	6.3	22.0
	Agree	408	68.0	68.0	90.0
	Strongly Agree	60	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

From the table above, 9.3% disagree, 48.3% agree, while 42.3% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents agreed that BVN has achieved identification and verification of depositors of embezzled public funds. Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 2.3% strongly disagree, 13.3% disagree, 6.3% was undecided, 68.0% agree, while 10.0% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents agree that implementation of BVN has not deterred embezzlement of public funds.

Table 4.7 Introduction of BVN has eliminated diversion of public funds/resources to private use in the public sector

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	16	2.7	2.7	2.7
	Disagree	37	6.2	6.2	8.8
	Agree	127	21.2	21.2	30.0
	Strongly Agree	420	70.0	70.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2019

From the table above, 2.7% strongly disagree, 6.2% disagree, 21.2% agree, while 70.0% strongly agree respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents strongly agree that introduction of BVN has eliminated diversion of public funds/resources to private use in the public sector.

Testing of Research Hypothesis Hypothesis I

H₀₁ – Bank Verification Number (BVN) has no significant effect of on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria.

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.973 ^a	.947	.947	1.23626		
• Predictors: (Constant), BVN						
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16330.170	1	16330.170	10684.89	.000 ^b
	Residual	913.948	598	1.528	5	
	Total	17244.118	599			
a. Dependent Variable: CPPS						
b. Predictors: (Constant), BVN						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-3.736	.241		-15.499	.000
	BVN	.974	.009	.973	103.368	.000
a. Dependent Variable: CPPS						

Source: Authors Computation, 2019

The value of R and R² are .973 and .947 respectively. The R value represents the correlation between Bank Verification Number (BVN) and deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria. The R² which indicates the explanatory power of the independent variables was .947. This means that 94.7% of the variation in deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria was explained by the independent variable, which shows that a high percentage of deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector are realized from bank verification number. The R² value as revealed by the result was moderate which means that about 5.3% of the variation in the dependent variable was unexplained by the model, denoting a strong relationship between the explanatory variable and deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector. This means that there was a significant evidence to infer that at least the explanatory variable (Bank Verification Number) was linearly related to deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria. Since the significance level (or p-value=.000) for the test was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis was failed to be accepted, while the alternative hypothesis that states that "Bank Verification Number (BVN) has significant effect of on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria" was accepted.

From above, the regression equation was: CPPS=
-3.736+ .974BVN+ e

Analysis and Discussion

Findings of this study indicate that Bank Verification Number (BVN) has a major positive impact on deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria. The coefficient of determination proved that the independent variable contributed to 94.7% of the variation in deterring corrupt practices as explained by R² of 0.947 which shows that the model was a strong predictor. The overall significance of the model Prob< .000 was statistically significant at 5%. This means that deterring corrupt practices in the Public Sector in Nigeria increased greatly as a result of introduction of Bank Verification Number. This is in agreement with the finding of Ernest and Amanda (2018) on E- government Development in Nigeria: Bank Verification Number (BVN) an Anti Corruption Tool using Comparative analysis of pre and post introduction of BVN benefits in Nigeria.

Summary

The Public Sectors in Nigeria is bedeviled with embezzlement, bribery, payroll fraud, misappropriation of fund, extortion, nepotism, lack of transparency, scandalous abuse of the procedures in Nigerian public service, accountability dilemma, lack of merit and due process in awarding contract, payment of salary to non-existent staff and many more which can be attributed to corruption. Embezzlement of public funds may have been encouraged by confidentiality and secrecy of banking transactions. The measure adopted to deter corruption in the public sector in this regard is Bank Verification Number (BVN) which has helped in detecting identity of public fund looters and movement of stolen cash in Nigerian bank accounts. BVN was conceived to ensure that the identity of persons carrying out bank transactions is known and verifiable at any convenient time. This made it possible for each person to have a unique number attached to all of his accounts. This

further makes it easier to monitor account owners especially those whose banking transactions are being trailed.

Conclusions

Based on the research findings, this study concludes that the accounting and financial reforms here would go a long way in reducing corrupt practices in the public sector of Nigeria. The reforms helped to identify and controlled embezzlement of funds, financial leakages in revenue generation, payroll fraud, and misappropriation of government funds in the public sector of Nigeria. The reforms ensures that all revenues go into the government treasury without the intermediation of multiple banking arrangement and public sectors personnel. It ensures that payroll fraud and substantially eliminated. Similarly, the various accounting and financial reforms would go a long way in deterring corrupt practices in the public sector of Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are drawn:

- i. Government should overhaul the capacity of the Federal Ministry of Finance, specifically, the office of the Accountants General of the Federation and the Central Bank Nigeria to cope with challenges associated with implementation of the Bank Verification Number.
- ii. Government should create appropriate enabling environments and legislative supports for implementation of Bank Verification Number.
- iii. All Ministries, Departments and Agencies should be made to adopt these reforms so that Nigeria will derive full benefit from the implementation of the reforms in the country.

References

- Adams, R.A. (2014). *Public sector Accounting and Finance*. (4thed.) Lagos. Nigeria. Corporate Publishers Venture.
- Adikeau, P. (2016). Effect of BVN in delivering of Banking Services in Enugu Metropolis. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSR-JBM) 19 (8) VII*
- Central Bank of Nigeria, (2017). Use of Identity Management to improve transparency, combat fraud @ The Third Annual Meeting of ID4 Africa Movement, Winsock, Namibia. Retrieved on the 4th February, 2019
- CBN (2016). *Guidelines for the Operation of TSA by States in Nigeria*. Retrieved from www.cbn.gov.ng on the 5th of March 2019
- CBN (2015). "Revised guidelines for compliance with TSA by banks in Nigeria. *CBN Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, 1997-2007*. Retrieved on 3rd January, 2019 at <https://www.cbn.gov.ng>
- Ernest N & Amanda P, (2018). E- government Development in Nigeria, Bank Verification No (BVN) Anti- Corruption Tool. *Easychair.org*
- Ibietan J. & Joshua A. (2017). New Public Management and Developmental States: Revisiting the Institutional Imperatives. *Meditarenean Journal of Science*. .
- Ijewereme O and Dunmade E. (2014). Leadership Crises and Corruption in Nigeria. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research 2*

(3):130-140

- Ijewereme, O. B. (2013). An Examination of Anti-Corruption Crusades in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges, in the Quarterly Journal of Administration, 33(1):410-488.
- Iroghama, P. (2011), Public perceptions of government's effectiveness in handling corruption in Nigeria. *Business and Economics Journal* 21: 1-8.
- NIBSS, (2014) Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System PLC. *What you need to know about Bank Verification Number*. Retrieved from <http://www.nibss-plc.com> on the 23rd February 2019
- NIBSS, (2018). Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System PLC. *Benefits of Bank Verification Number*. Retrieved from <http://www.nibss-plc.com> on the 5th January 2019
- NIBSS, (2019) Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System PLC. *Objectives of Bank Verification Number*. Retrieved from <http://www.nibss-plc.com> on the 19th February 2019
- OAGF (2016). IPPIS Implementation. *Oagf Treasury Journal* (1) 4. Retrieved @. www.oagf.gov.ng
- OAGF, 2017. Office of the Accountant General of the Federation. *Treasury Guidelines 2017*. Retrieved from www.oagf.gov.ng on 15th February, 2019.
- Ogundiya, I. (2009). Political corruption in Nigeria. *Journal of Anthropologist in Africa*, 11 (4) 12.
- Rotimi, E.M, & Obasaju, B. (2013). Analysis of corruption and economic growth in Nigeria. *Afro Asian Journal of Social Science* 4(4.2), 1-19.