

**FACTORS INFLUENCING UTILIZATION OF FORENSIC ACCOUNTING SERVICES
IN DETECTION OF FRAUD IN LICENSED COMMERCIAL
BANKS IN KENYA.**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate factors influencing utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud in licensed Commercial Banks in Kenya. The objective of the study was: to find out how the awareness of forensic accounting services influences utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud, to establish how the availability of forensic accounting services influences utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud, to find out how the availability of qualified forensic accounting experts influences utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud, to establish how the cost of forensic accounting services influences utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud and to find out how the benefits of forensic accounting services influence utilization of forensic accounting services in detection of fraud. The study assisted the government especially the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank and the Police Department in understanding the factors that influence the utilization of forensic accounting services in detecting fraud. The research study took place in Kenya. Questionnaire method of data collection was used in the study. It was a good method of data collection but it has various disadvantages attached to it such as: it takes too long to complete. The design of this study was descriptive research. The target population was composed of fourth three licensed Commercial Banks in Kenya. The researcher used the simple random sampling method to derive the sample from which to collect the data. The sample composed 13 licensed Commercial Banks which was thirty percent of the target population. To carry out the research, questionnaires were used. The researcher used both primary and secondary data types. All the collected data was assembled for analysis. For ease in presentation, analyzed data was presented using tables. The findings of the study point to the fact that awareness of forensic accounting services, availability of forensic accounting services, availability of forensic accounting experts, cost of forensic accounting services and benefits derived from the use of forensic accounting services influence to a great degree the utilization of forensic accounting services in Commercial Banks to detect fraud. Increase in training opportunities will increase the number of qualified forensic accountants and hence lead to an increase in the number of firms offering forensic accounting services. Increasing the availability of forensic accounting services will lead to a reduction in the cost of these services hence they will be more affordable. This will ensure that the number of forensic accounting experts increases after a few years of training. By increasing the number of forensic accounting experts, the cost of forensic accounting will fall since many firms will start offering forensic accounting services. The researcher hence a suggestion that a study be done on what is hindering the growth of forensic accounting and what can be done to increase the growth in Kenya. If forensic accounting grows, awareness, availability and the cost of forensic accounting services can be addressed and this would ensure utilization of forensic accounting services to detect fraud.