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## CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA'S DIGITAL CURRENCY (eNaira) AND FRAUD DETECTION/PREVENTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

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### ABSTRACT

Fraud, a prevalent crime across the globe, targeted at vulnerable people/agencies and businesses, is now a serious concern with significant financial and non-financial harm to the growth of Nigeria's economy. Its economic menace was one of the thrusts for designing Central Bank of Nigeria's digital currency (eNaira). It is seen as a homogeneously constructive tool that can detect and prevent fraud and make business transactions more transparent, accountable, and less corrupt. Its capacity as an imperfect replacement for cash and substitute for bank deposits with benefits of boosting inclusion and integrating millions of unbanked Nigerians into the banking sector is part of the reasons for designing eNaira. For an in-depth understanding of fraud, white-collar crime and fraud triangle theory were considered and some casual factors present in every fraud situation (pressure, rationalization and opportunity) were noted. Inference, eNaira can be effective in detecting and preventing fraud when stakeholders see those who commit fraud as criminals and treat them as such; when the value orientation about wealth acquisition and ostentatious life style, acceptance and recognition of people convicted of fraud or known to have made their wealth through dubious means stops, when public servants who embezzle and misappropriate public funds are adequately punished for such crime instead of being celebrated.

**Keywords:** Digital currency, fraud detection, fraud prevention, economic growth

### INTRODUCTION

The 21st century has seen the invention of advanced and promising technologies like the internet and mobile computing which have enhanced seamless connectivity of people globally and the emergence of Digital Currency. Thus, the world today has evolved from the novelty of digital currencies to the wide adoption of same, in just a few years. Currency as a medium of exchange play pivotal roles in human civilization and development of economies. The evolution of currency brought World to where it is today. Currency has taken various forms; from commodity money, metallic money, paper money, credit money, plastic money and today in an intangible forms like the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Digital currency (eNaira).

The CBN's eNaira is a soft form of the naira currency that is available only in digital or electronic form offered by the CBN. It is also called digital money, electronic money, electronic currency, or cybercash. It is the product of digital technology which is transforming the financial industry, changing the way payments, savings, borrowing, and investment services are provided and who provides them. The CBN's eNaira does not have physical attributes and is available only in digital form.

According to Dietz (2022), Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) differ from crypto currencies (as bitcoin) because are issued and backed by States. CBDCs also differ from mobile money apps, as they operate on a peer-to-peer basis (a customer can make payment to a merchant using the CBDCs directly without the need for an intermediary). In addition, the value of CBDCs is exactly the same as that of the physical currency; and does not appreciate or depreciate independently, in relation to other currencies. eNaira is a CBDC backed by law, the full sovereignty of Nigeria, and issued by the CBN as a legal tender. It is the digital form of the Naira and is used just like cash. The eNaira wallet is a digital storage that holds the eNaira; and is required to access, hold and use eNaira. eNaira is a unit of account, store of value and medium of exchange.

Transactions involving eNaira are made using computers or electronic wallets connected to the Internet or designated networks. It has utility similar to physical currencies. It can be used to purchase goods and pay

for services. It can also find restricted use among certain online communities, such as gaming sites, gambling portals, or social networks. It enables instant transactions that can be seamlessly executed across borders (Frankenfield, 2022). For instance, it is possible for a person in Nigeria to make payments in digital currency to a party in any part of the World through the same process of currency exchange, provided they are both connected to the same network.

Several businesses and social processes have changed due to the development of fast computers, digital communication platforms and infinite data storage, but financial firms are considered laggards in embracing financial innovations. Previous researchers have identified benefits of use of Digital currency technology for all transactions (Frost et al., 2021). Digital currency has attracted significant attention since the launch of Bitcoin in 2009. Their potential to revolutionise the financial landscape of users is very visible. Digital currency through Blockchain technology intends to create a decentralized environment where transactions and data have no third-party control. Amongst its potential uses in financial environment are the facilitation of traceable transaction trails, automated audit processes and inventory management.

In efforts to encourage banks and other stakeholders in financial sectors to look at digital currency from positive angles, Pangerang (2022) point out that many studies have provided excellent overview of the benefits of digital currency, as well as challenges inherent in their implementation and operation. Most of these studies agree that digital currency might be seen as an imperfect substitute for cash and bank deposits. They opine that adoption of digital currency as a payment instrument has the potential to transform banking services, since it enables instantaneous money transfers and payment processing that is available 24/7 and at a cheap cost. Also, there will be less need for physical money, which will cut down on both cost of making physical money and need for automated teller machines (ATMs).

According to Dietz (2022), boosting inclusion, is one of the principal aims of CBN's Digital currency (eNaira). It is aimed at integrating millions of unbanked Nigerians into the banking sector by providing a means to make payments directly from an e-wallet on their phones, without the need to go through intermediaries. Users can also receive direct payments for welfare programmes. At the time of the launch, the CBN governor forecast that the digital currency could boost GDP by as much as \$29bn over 10 years. Amongst other advantages, it is expected to boost commerce by making retail transactions more seamless in places such as petrol stations and supermarkets. The eNaira was also designed to facilitate cross-border trade and in-bound remittances from Nigerians in the diaspora by providing a cheaper and easier way of making payments.

Pangerang (2022) remark that adoption of digital currency is a potentially significant advancement in the history of money and banking. The author similarly assert that in addition to its possible role in eliminating physical currency, a digital currency will enable central banks to participate in large-scale intermediation by competing with private financial intermediaries for deposits. In other words, a digital currency is equivalent to providing customers with the option of opening a bank account directly with the central bank and with instantaneous money transfers and payment processing that is available anytime, anywhere, and at a low cost.

Digital economy is undeniably the era in which digital currency has become part of the evolving technology and digital currency poses challenges to various sectors particularly the financial services industry. Chukwuere (2021) point out that CBN's eNaira will probably face challenges, including:

**Lack of trust:** Many Nigerians believe that eNaira was a devised way for the government to monitor the financial activities of its populace (Abraham, 2021). Lack of trust will affect the success of the eNaira.

**Static value:** If eNaira loses its value, the citizen's confidence will drop, which may affect the success rate owing to the fact that many will be asking about the floating rate of the currency.

**Quick return:** Nigerians like quick return on investment. If eNaira lacks "sow and reap quick" syndrome, Nigerians might likely not adopt it. According to Abraham (2021), crypto currencies can double investments within a short period, unlike eNaira.

**Growth:** eNaira might not grow like other digital currencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum, and others (Adiodun, 2021).

**Inflation:** The value of eNaira will be affected by inflation like the traditional Naira.

**Constraints:** Small business and informal sectors may be excluded because of lack of electricity (power), access to the Internet, and many more in the community.

**Knowledge and education (awareness):** Low level knowledge and education in rural villages and communities might hinder the informal sector and individuals from participating. eNaira will be challenged for lack of knowledge at the grassroots.

**Digital divide:** eNaira can be done on a technological device, then those without access to such gadgets will be left out.

**Security and privacy:** The two remain a barrier for people to do business online or any financial transaction. This will affect the acceptance of eNaira in society. Also, data theft, and cyber-attack might increase (Ozili, 2021).

**Volatility:** The Nigerian currency volatility will affect the eNaira (Timi-Koleolu & Aroh, 2021).

**Digital illiteracy:** eNaira might be affected by digital illiteracy (Ozili, 2021) in excluding those without digital ability and knowledge.

Furthermore, Loprespub (2018) assert that cash has traditionally been used by criminals for such illegal activities as trade in narcotics and weapons, money laundering, human trafficking and terrorist financing. Some of the characteristics that make cash attractive to criminals are also present in certain digital currencies: pseudonyms, anonymity, store of value and wide acceptance (Loprespub, 2018). Also, with the emergence of digital currencies, criminals can digitally transfer value, allowing for anonymous online and cross-border illegal commerce (Loprespub, 2018).

Generally, money by whatever form, have always been the main attraction for most criminal activities, so digital currencies like the eNaira cannot be an exemption. In operating and using digital currency, government and corporate organisations including individuals must have it at the back of their mind always that financial fraud is an issue with far-reaching implications. The problem will mostly be compounded with the evolution of new technologies like mobile and cloud computing that facilitate electronic transactions.

Many institutions now rely on technology and computer-based systems for business processes and traditional accounting transactions which has necessitated the use of alternative option (Digital currency) to curb financial fraud. Financial fraud has been in existence for decades and known to organisations, government agencies and individuals. Previous studies on financial fraud are still insufficient to create in-depth analysis of financial fraud and alternative options to curb it. Individuals and institutions are demanding for solution in financial transactions both online and offline. However it is believed that Blockchain technology which brought about digital currency could help to curb this menace.

It is blockchain technology that enabled digital currency. Blockchain is a database where data, transaction records and assets in a business network are recorded. In other words, it is a big digital notebook. The main difference between blockchain and a typical databases is that blockchain stores data in groups called blocks. When one of the blocks storing data is full, it automatically links to another block. Thus, blockchain has a chain structure system. Only authorized network members can view the data in the blockchain. Furthermore, nobody can change the recorded data, and the data is always transparent. These features can help businesses with various tasks; and fraud detection and prevention is one of them (Formica, 2022).

Blockchain technology provides the following benefits:

- a) provides high security measures, which prevent hacking and fraud;
- b) it reduces need for centralized platforms or intermediary institutions, and cuts costs;
- c) it restricts or blocks access to the company system and information;
- d) transactions are made faster; and
- e) every transaction can be tracked easily and transparently.

A part of the benefits of blockchain listed above is fraud detection and prevention. This is possible because of many useful features of blockchain, which include distributed networks, immutability and permissibility.

**Distributed networks:** As mentioned earlier, blockchain is a distributed digital ledger where data is recorded. All authorized members can monitor data and transactions in the network, and can share between computers. The management and authorization of data are carried out transparently. In the network,

authorized people from different departments such as procurement or sales can access and control current and previous data. This enables authorized team members to detect faulty or suspicious transactions without needing a central authority. Thus, blockchain in fraud detection prevents possible human mistakes and waste of time.

**Immutability:** Once a transaction or data has been recorded in a chain, this data cannot be changed. Also, before adding the data to the chain, all people in the network need to verify the data and each block added to the chain receives a timestamp. Then, after the entry process, the place where the assets come from and the process they go through are determined.

**Permissibility:** Blockchain networks can be established based on a request for permission. This means that not everyone can access the data. Hence, blockchain technology provides secure access to data and can prevent fraud.

As result of these features, blockchain can detect financial, identity and supply chain frauds.

**Financial fraud:** Financial transactions are generally complex and prone to fraud due to involvement of multiple issues and activities. Some aspects such as the collateral requirement between parties, time required for reconciliation or settlement, currency differences cause the complexity. Some of these processes may require multiple human interactions at certain steps, thus, making the risk of fraud in financial transactions very high. But with blockchain technology, it is easier to detect suspicious behaviours. Because users of blockchain share recorded data in real-time and update data with the approval of all parties who have access to the data.

**Identity fraud:** Identity theft is very common in e-commerce; and in recent years, the prevalence of identity fraud has increased rapidly. In the blockchain structure, which works with strong authentication systems, only people with permission can access real data as the unique, original version. Also, only a certain party can handle verification of transactions to be made. Personal data is safe, and risk of identity fraud is very low, thanks to the secure infrastructure of blockchain.

**Supply chain frauds:** Supply chain fraud is a big problem for companies. Due to networks created with supplier companies, many people are involved in the process and access to data increases from time to time. Blockchain provides businesses with transparent and easy tracking of products. To update products, a participant needs verification from all authorized participants. This means that participants are not able to manipulate products easily. On this note, the concern of this study is to determine the exigency of CBN's eNaira to financial fraud detection and prevention as a prerequisite to achieving economic growth in Nigeria.

#### **CBN's eNaira and Financial Fraud Prevention**

Financial fraud is a situation in which legal and ethical management of financial resources do not take place. In most countries of the world, this type of fraud occurs due to deliberate decisions and actions made by people who handle money and other assets on behalf of employers or clients. Financial fraud also takes place when bribes or kickbacks are accepted in order to manipulate a business decision or contract agreement.

In situations where an employee is found to be involved with a competitor, a conflict of interest usually exists and could involve the sale of proprietary information for personal gain. With both situations, the reception of monetary gains by the individual is likely to hurt the company financially and result in a loss that would not have occurred otherwise. Financial fraud also happens when someone deprives another, of their money, capital, or otherwise harms their financial health through deceptive, misleading or other illegal practices (Tatum, 2023).

Fraud is false representation of facts, whether by intentionally withholding important information or providing false statements to another party for the purpose of gaining something that may not have been provided without the deception. Types of fraud include tax fraud, credit card fraud, wire fraud, securities fraud, and bankruptcy fraud. Fraudulent activities can be carried out by an individual, multiple

individuals or a business firm as a whole. Fraud involves deceit with the intention to illegally or unethically gain at the expense of another. In finance, fraud can take on many forms including making false insurance claims, cooking the books, pump and dump schemes, and identity theft leading to unauthorized purchases.

Fraud costs Nigeria's economy billions of Naira yearly, and those caught are subject to fines and jail terms. Often, the perpetrators of fraud are aware of information that their intended victims are not; and this allow the perpetrators to deceive their victims. At heart, the fraudsters taking advantage of information asymmetry; specifically, that the resource cost of reviewing and verifying that information can be significant enough to create a disincentive to fully invest in fraud prevention (Chen, 2022).

Financial fraud has disastrous consequences as it results in huge losses for individuals, investors and creditors, and especially for companies (Xiaojing, 2021). The question then is what tools and strategies are available to individuals, investors, creditors, board of directors of companies to detect and prevent such fraudulent practices? In an effort to find answer this question as it concerns Nigeria, this study is looking at the ability of CBN's eNaira to detect and prevent fraud thus bringing about economic growth.

Digital currency is a disruptive technology initiative with the ability to revolutionize financial transactions. The Nigerian government and the apex bank (the CBN) are tapping into technological opportunities to deliver efficient financial services to the populace through the introduction of eNaira. However, the success of eNaira lies on CBN, FinTechs, and other financial stakeholders' ability to do the basics and carry the populace along by confronting and allaying their fears over some of the identified challenges.

The challenges mentioned can hinder the potential of eNaira to thrive (Chukwuere, 2021). One of these challenges is financial fraud. Financial fraud is a serious problem that will be tough to address with currently available technologies. Continuous application of digital currency and blockchain in various industries will revolutionize the business World. The question of how CBN' eNaira, a blockchain based system is able to break the fraud hedge and significantly facilitate efficient and accurate fraud detection and prevention is the outlook of this paper. Blockchain technology by its nature and mode of application is applauded to possess the magic wand to reduce risk of financial fraud and in the long-term, detect and prevent fraud.

### **CBN's eNaira and Victims of Fraud**

The impact of fraud goes well beyond financial losses. It impacts people, entities, the environment and the economy in general. Understanding the total impact of fraud allows entities to make informed decisions. Serious impacts can arise from any type of fraud, whether it is carried out by opportunistic individuals or organized criminal groups. However, organized crime often increases the scale and impacts of fraud. Possible victims of cases of fraud are:

**Impact on human:** Fraud is not a victimless crime. Fraud can be a traumatic experience that often have real and irreversible impact on victims, their families, careers and communities. Those who rely on government services (such as the elderly, the vulnerable, the sick and the disadvantaged) are often the ones most harmed by fraud. Fraud can have a devastating impact on these victims and increase their disadvantage, vulnerability and inequality they suffer. Fraud can also cause lasting mental and physical trauma for victims. Fraud also results in lost opportunities for individuals and businesses. Fraud can reduce individual victim to a beggar. According to Ochoa, Simpson and Gill (2021) Fraud and related offences have a significant impact on victims' lives.

**Government outcomes impact:** Fraud undermines the government's ability to deliver services and achieve intended economic outcomes. Money and services are diverted away from those who need it and the services delivered can be substandard or unsafe. This can lead to programme failure. For instance, money budgeted for general development project have often been embezzled or misappropriated or even been diverted to private pocket and thereby retard the economic development of the country at various times.

Onactuate (2021) remarked that the public sector is particularly vulnerable to the threat of fraud and needs preventative measures to avoid rampant fraud. Bad actors target the public sector largely because they are easily accessible to everyone, and security is not optimal. Further, public sector entities are the stewards of

large funds, and bad actors look to exploit these vulnerabilities with claims in public goods and government services such as unemployment claims, tax refunds, ecommerce, insurance, and telecommunications.

**Reputational impact:** Fraud can affect any entity. However, when it is handled poorly, fraud can result in an erosion of trust in government and industries, and lead to a loss of international and economic reputation. This is particularly true when fraud is facilitated by corruption.

**Industry impact:** Fraud can result in distorted markets where fraudsters obtain a competitive advantage and drive out legitimate businesses. It can affect services delivered by businesses and expose other sectors to further instances of fraud. It can also result in greater burdens on charities and community services that help those affected by fraud.

**Environmental impact:** Fraud can lead to immediate and long-term environmental damage through pollution and damaged ecosystems and biodiversity. It can also result in significant clean-up costs.

**Security impact:** Fraud can undermine national defence and security. It can also damage international standing and affect the ability of nations to get international support. The proceeds of fraud can also fund organised crime groups and terrorism, potentially leading to further crime and terrorist attacks.

**Financial impact:** Government entities generally lose between 0.5% and 5% of their spending to fraud and related loss based on international estimates. The majority of fraud is undetected and can be difficult to categorise. Measurement exercises can help entities uncover and more accurately estimate their potential fraud losses.

**Business impact:** Costs for dealing with fraud against government programs are significant and go well beyond the direct financial loss. They can include assessment, detection, investigation and response costs as well as potential restitution. In addition, further costs can include program reviews and audits, and retrofitting or redesigning programs.

### **Financial Fraud Detection and Prevention: The Theoretical Perspective**

Financial fraud in recent times, has assumed a dangerous state with increased sophistication within the Nigerian financial industry. Regrettably, there is no ultimate answer as to why it has become so prevalent. Therefore, an understanding of factors that motivate those involved in fraud is essential to knowing how it can be prevented. Thus, the need to review existing theories on fraud becomes necessary. This could help in identifying clues to assist in the fight against fraud. Though there are many theories associated with fraud, for purpose of this work, theory of differential association (Edwin H. Sutherland 1883–1950) and fraud triangle (Donald R. Cressey 1919- 1987) are considered.

**White-collar crime theory:** This theory hold that crime is not an individual failing or character defect but is connected to socialization - the dominant norms and values we learn. The theory posits that white-collar crimes are committed by people who are generally considered a part of a “respectable class.”

These crimes are typically financial in nature and include embezzlement. Differential association or white-collar crime theory is one of Sutherland's major contributions to the field of criminology. It has to do with the socialization process that accounts for why people commit crimes. In criminology, a differential association refers to what happens when people learn different values and behaviours based on their interaction with other people.

Different kinds of associations lead to different kinds of behaviours. Sutherland saw criminal activity as a learned behaviour. Based on our interactions with other people, we essentially learn how to commit crimes. It is through our interactions with other people that we learn different sets of values and, if we are spending time with people who are committing crimes, we are going to learn that behaviour from them. Generally, this learning takes place among people are close and interact constantly.

**Fraud triangle:** Fraud triangle theory holds that “trusted persons become trust violators when they conceive of themselves as having a financial problem which is non-shareable, are aware this problem can

be secretly resolved by a violation of the position of financial trust. The theory was represented in triangle and that is why is called the triangle theory. Each of the three side of the triangle represents a component of the theory.

One side of the triangle represents a Pressure, second side represents opportunity and the final and third side stands for rationalization. The fraud triangle views them as key conditions that tend to be present when fraud occurs. Within each of these broad risk categories, many different and specific potential red flags may be visible within a company.

Pressure is the incentive that could motivate an individual to be involved in fraud. The pressure could result from personal problems, such as financial pressures or addiction pressures, or from the work environment. Management or other employees may find themselves offered incentives or placed under pressure to commit fraud. For example, remuneration or advancement is significantly affected by individual, divisional, or company performance, individuals may have an incentive to manipulate results or to put pressure on others to do so. Pressure may also come from the unrealistic expectations of investors, banks, or other sources of finance (Gupta, 2015).

Pressure creates the motive for crime to be committed, but the employee must also perceive that he has an opportunity to commit the crime without being caught. This Perceived opportunity constitutes the second element. There are two components of the perceived opportunity to commit a trust violation; general information and technical skill. General information is simply the knowledge that the employee's position of trust could be violated. Technical skills refer to the abilities needed to commit the violation. These are usually the same abilities that the employees need to have in order to obtain and keep his position in the first place.

The third and final factor in the fraud triangle is the rationalization. Rationalization is not an ex post facto means of justifying a theft that has already occurred. Significantly, rationalization is a necessary component of the crime before it takes place; in fact, it is the part of the motivation for the crime. Because embezzler does not view himself as criminal, he must justify his misdeeds before he ever commits them. The rationalization is necessary so that the perpetrator, can make his illegal behaviour intelligible to himself and maintain his concept of himself as a trusted person.

To enhance the understanding of opportunity rationalization pressure, the fraudster's motivations and improve the anti-fraud community's ability to prevent, deter, detect, investigate, and remediate fraud, researchers and practitioners have offered insights beyond the Fraud Triangle. From an array of traits deciphered from the various theories, the influence of power, personal gain and self-control, loss aversion and risk acceptance, rationalization, and emotion have been identified as the driver of propensity to commit fraud.

Juxtaposing white-collar crime and fraud triangle in the case of financial frauds detection and prevention in Nigeria, for instance, most individuals believe that police is more notorious for receiving bribe and extorting people hence the believe that bringing the army and other paramilitary institution close to the police have had influence on these institutions and like the police, they have started extorting people and receiving bribe at the same time. Again, defrauding people as criminal activity is seriously gaining ground among the Nigerian youths. Some even through the encouragement of their parents have attached themselves to those they see as role models who had made it from the act in order to acquire the skill.

Further on financial fraud detection and prevention from Nigeria's perspective, it is necessary to also consider the value orientation placed on wealth acquisition and ostentatious life style; the dangerous notion of get rich quick syndrome, the acceptance and recognition of people convicted of financial fraud or known to have made their wealth through dubious means within the Nigerian society. In the public sector of Nigeria, public servants federal, state and local government levels are found to had embezzled and misappropriated public fund and still go scot free. So to fight fraud, one must not only realize that it occurs, but also how and why it occurs and persist and therefore develop the right attitude and will power.

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## METHODOLOGY

The work adopted an arm chair research footed on secondary data to determine CBN's eNaira in fraud detection/prevention and implications to the economic growth of Nigeria. To achieve this, the author analyzed the previous literatures relating to the subject matter based on descriptive approach. For a better understanding of the relationship between CBN's eNaira ability in fraud detection/prevention and implications to the economic growth of Nigeria, the author looked at the evolution of digital currency as envisioned by Blockchain technology in consonance with CBN's eNaira keeping in mind its inherent benefits of fraud detection and prevention given attributed features of Blockchain technology that includes distributed networks, immutability and Permissibility.

## CONCLUSIONS

Currency as a medium of exchange has played a pivotal and significant role in the development of human civilization and economies thus helping in shaping our World of today. It has taken various forms from Commodity Money, Metallic Money, Paper Money, Credit Money, Plastic Money and today in an intangible form such as digital money like the CBN's eNaira. The CBN's eNaira does not have physical attributes and are available only in digital form. But it differs from crypto currencies, such as bitcoin, as they are issued and backed by states laws. They also differ from mobile money apps, as they operate on a peer-to-peer basis i.e. a customer can make a payment to a merchant using the eNaira directly without the need to go through an intermediary.

In addition, the value of the eNaira is exactly the same as that of the physical tangible naira, it is issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria as a legal tender. Part of its benefits is boosting inclusion, which is one of the principal aims of the CBN's eNaira; integrating millions of unbanked Nigerians into the banking sector by providing a means to make payments directly from an e-wallet on their phones, without needing to go through intermediaries.

Coming from Blockchain technology that gave rise to digital currencies, CBN's eNaira provides security measures which prevent hacking and fraud, reducing the need for centralized platforms or intermediary institutions, as well as cutting costs, restricts or blocks access to the company system and information, makes transactions faster and track every transaction easily and transparently.

Despite these noted benefits, the CBN's digital currency is faced to face with challenges like lack of trust, static value, quick return, growth, inflation, constraints, knowledge and awareness, digital divide, security and privacy, volatility and digital illiteracy which may eventually affect the fight against financial fraud and the desired economic growth.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, it is recommended that those charged with the management of the financial sector of the economy should take the lead in demonstrating that financial health and integrity are critical to business survival and economic growth of Nigeria. The casual factors as described by white-collar crime and improved by fraud triangle theory should be removed to deter financial fraud perpetrators. These factors are present in every situation of fraud. They include motive (pressure) - the need to commit fraud (need for money etc.); (ii) rationalization - the mind-set of the fraudsters that justifies them to commit fraud; and (iii) opportunity - the situation that enables fraud to occur (often when internal controls are weak or non-existent).

Further, CBN's eNaira can be effective in detecting and preventing fraud when the general public starts seeing those who defraud other people and business organisations as criminals and treat them as such; be successful when the value orientation placed on wealth acquisition and ostentatious life style, the dangerous notion of get rich quick syndrome and acceptance/recognition of people convicted of financial fraud or known to have made their wealth through dubious means within the Nigerian society stops and when public servants within federal, state and local government levels who are found to have embezzled and misappropriated public fund are adequately punished for such crime instead of being celebrated.



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