

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING PRACTICES AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN NIGERIA MINISTRIES

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Abstract: This study examined the relationship between governmental accounting practices and accountability in the management of public funds in Nigerian federal ministries. Specifically, it assessed the influence of financial reporting standards, internal control systems, and audit practices on transparency of fund usage, timely financial disclosures, and responsiveness to audit queries. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Primary data were collected from 330 respondents across selected federal ministries using structured questionnaires. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and multiple regression techniques. Findings revealed that all three independent variables financial reporting standards, internal control systems, and audit practices had a significant and positive effect on accountability indicators. The regression model showed that these accounting practices jointly explained 58.6% of the variation in public fund accountability. The study concluded that effective governmental accounting practices are essential for fostering transparency, timely disclosures, and responsible financial governance in the Nigerian public sector. It recommends full implementation of IPSAS, strengthening of internal control frameworks, enhancement of audit independence, automation of financial reporting systems, and greater oversight by regulatory bodies.

Keywords: Governmental Accounting Practices, Financial Reporting Standards, Internal Control Systems, Audit Practices, Accountability, Transparency, Public Funds

Introduction

Efficient and transparent management of public funds is central to the credibility and performance of any government, especially in developing countries like Nigeria where issues of corruption, misappropriation, and weak institutional frameworks are pervasive. The proper accounting of public funds is not only a legal obligation but also a vital mechanism for ensuring that public resources are used for their intended purposes to achieve social and economic development goals (Omemgbeoji & Onuora, 2024). Governmental accounting practices are

indispensable tools that support accountability, enhance fiscal transparency, and promote good governance within ministries and public agencies.

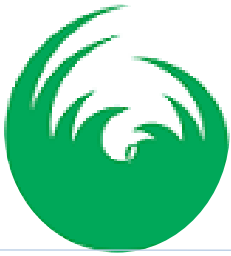
Governmental accounting practices refer to the systematic processes, standards, and controls through which public financial transactions are recorded, reported, and audited. These practices are vital in ensuring that government ministries uphold accountability in managing public resources (Eyung & Udeh, 2023). However, despite the existence of regulatory frameworks such as the Financial Regulations, Fiscal Responsibility Act, and the Treasury

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Single Account (TSA) policy, Nigeria continues to witness alarming levels of financial mismanagement, poor fund reporting, and institutional inefficiency. This raises critical questions about the effectiveness of current accounting practices in ensuring accountability in the management of public funds.

This study focuses on three key independent variables that constitute the core of governmental accounting practices: financial reporting standards, internal control systems, and audit practices. Financial reporting standards ensure consistency, reliability, and comparability of financial information, which is essential for stakeholders to make informed decisions and for public trust to be sustained (Preye & Bingilar, 2020). Inadequate or manipulated financial reports can obscure the true state of public finances and foster corruption. Internal control systems encompassing policies, procedures, and activities aimed at ensuring accuracy in financial reporting, compliance with laws, and the prevention of fraud serve as the first line of defense against financial malpractice in government institutions (Oluyemi et al, 2023). Moreover, audit practices both internal and external provide a systematic and independent examination of financial statements and operations, ensuring that irregularities are detected and corrected in a timely manner (Onowu et al, 2025).

The dependent variables in this study reflect the essential components of accountability in public fund management. These include: transparency of fund usage, timely financial disclosures, and responsiveness to audit queries. Transparency entails the clear, accessible, and accurate disclosure of financial activities to the public, stakeholders, and oversight bodies. Timely financial disclosures ensure that financial information is made available within reasonable timeframes to support decision-making and public scrutiny. Responsiveness to audit queries indicates the degree to which ministries take corrective actions based on audit findings, which is a strong indicator of institutional integrity and governance maturity (Vutumu et al, 2024).

The Nigerian public sector, especially its federal and state ministries, has long been plagued by persistent issues such as budget padding, inflated contracts, ghost workers, and delayed audit reports, all of which reflect weak

governmental accounting practices and a lack of enforceable accountability mechanisms. Numerous audit reports from the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation highlight systemic weaknesses in compliance and reporting procedures in several ministries (OAUf, 2023). While reforms such as the introduction of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), and TSA have made significant strides, gaps remain in terms of implementation, compliance, and sustainability. This study is therefore motivated by the urgent need to critically examine how governmental accounting practices influence accountability in the management of public funds in Nigeria's ministries.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the influence of governmental accounting practices on accountability in the management of public funds in Nigeria ministries. The specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the effect of financial reporting standards on transparency in the usage of public funds in Nigerian ministries.
2. Evaluate how internal control systems influence the timeliness of financial disclosures in the public sector.
3. Determine the impact of audit practices on ministries' responsiveness to audit queries in Nigeria ministries.

Research Hypotheses

The study tested the following null hypotheses (H₀):

H₀₁: Financial reporting standards have no significant effect on transparency of fund usage in Nigerian ministries.

H₀₂: Internal control systems have no significant effect on the timeliness of financial disclosures in Nigerian ministries.

H₀₃: Audit practices have no significant effect on responsiveness to audit queries in Nigerian ministries.

Agency Theory

Proposed by Jensen and Meckling (1976), Agency Theory explores the relationship between principals (citizens,



stakeholders) and agents (public officials, ministries) who are entrusted with managing resources on behalf of the principals. In the context of public sector finance, government ministries (agents) are expected to manage public funds in a manner that reflects the interests of citizens (principals). However, due to divergent goals and information asymmetry, agents may act in self-interest engaging in fraud, embezzlement, or misappropriation of public resources. Governmental accounting practices such as financial reporting standards, internal control systems, and audit practices serve as monitoring mechanisms to reduce agency problems. These practices promote transparency, timely disclosures, and responsiveness to audit queries, thereby holding agents accountable and ensuring that resources are used in line with public expectations. The stronger and more reliable the accounting and accountability mechanisms, the lesser the likelihood of agency conflict and the more trust citizens place in public institutions.

Stewardship Theory

Developed as a counterpoint to Agency Theory, Stewardship Theory assumes that agents (public servants or officials) are intrinsically motivated to act in the best interest of the principals (the public), out of a sense of duty, ethics, and commitment. This theory supports the idea that public officials can act as responsible stewards of public funds if empowered with effective systems and guided by professional values. Thus, the availability of sound financial reporting standards, internal control mechanisms, and auditing practices enables public servants to fulfill their roles more effectively. Whereas Agency Theory emphasizes control and monitoring to curb misbehavior, Stewardship Theory underscores the role of trust, integrity, and supportive organizational frameworks in enhancing accountability and ethical behavior. Ministries with well-developed accounting structures are better positioned to provide transparent reporting, respond timely to audits, and ensure responsible fund usage. The implementation of robust governmental accounting practices not only enforces accountability but also fosters a culture of ethical public financial management (Davis, et al, 1997).

Concept of Governmental Accounting Practices

Governmental accounting practices refer to the systems, procedures, standards, and policies used by public sector institutions to record, classify, summarize, and report financial transactions. These practices are designed to ensure proper documentation of how public resources are received, managed, and expended in line with legal and ethical standards. Unlike private sector accounting, governmental accounting is focused not only on measuring financial performance but more importantly on ensuring public accountability, compliance with budgetary laws, and stewardship of public resources (Chidi et al, 2024). In Nigeria, these practices are guided by frameworks such as the Financial Regulations 2009, Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, Public Procurement Act 2007, and more recently, the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Concept of Financial Reporting Standards

Financial reporting standards are established rules and frameworks that direct how public sector organizations compile, present, and disclose financial information. These standards are designed to promote accuracy, reliability, comparability, and transparency in government financial statements, thereby supporting effective accountability and informed decision-making. In Nigeria, public sector financial reporting is anchored on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which seek to enhance uniformity, transparency, and credibility in the management and reporting of public resources. In the absence of well-defined reporting standards, public financial information may be distorted or incomplete, undermining accountability and creating opportunities for fiscal mismanagement (Omemgbeoji & Onuora, 2024).

Concept of Internal Control Systems

Internal control systems are a set of procedures, policies, and mechanisms designed to ensure the accuracy of financial records, compliance with laws and regulations, and the prevention of fraud and errors in the public sector. They are critical for maintaining the integrity of financial operations and ensuring the proper use of public funds.



Effective internal controls include elements such as segregation of duties, authorization processes, recordkeeping, and independent verification. In Nigeria, the Financial Regulations 2009 and the Public Service Rules provide frameworks for internal control in ministries.

Strong internal controls reduce financial irregularities, increase operational efficiency, and foster confidence in public sector governance (Aloysius et al, 2024).

Concept of Audit Practices

Audit practices refer to the structured examination of financial records, statements, and processes of an organization to ensure compliance, detect fraud, and provide recommendations for improvement. In the public sector, internal audits and external audits (by the Auditor-General) play vital roles in verifying how public funds are managed. Auditing ensures that ministries are accountable for how they budget, disburse, and report on public funds. Effective audit practices are evidence-based, timely, independent, and follow global best practices. Audit practices improve public trust, enhance fiscal discipline, and serve as deterrents against corruption and fund mismanagement (Sani, 2025).

Concept of Accountability in the Management of Public Funds

Accountability in the management of public funds is the obligation of public officials and institutions to answer for their decisions and actions regarding the acquisition, utilization, and reporting of public financial resources. It is a fundamental principle of democratic governance and public sector ethics, as it ensures that public funds are used efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with the law.. In Nigeria, public financial accountability is facilitated by institutions such as the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation (OAuGF), Public Accounts Committees, and the Budget Office of the Federation. Despite these frameworks, issues like delayed audits, unimplemented audit recommendations, and inadequate sanctions for misconduct continue to undermine financial accountability (Preye & Bingilar, 2020).

Strengthening accountability requires not just regulatory reforms but a cultural shift towards ethical governance, citizen participation, and effective monitoring systems. As such, accounting practices such as rigorous audits, standardized reporting, and strong internal controls are crucial enablers of accountability.

Concept of Transparency of Fund Usage

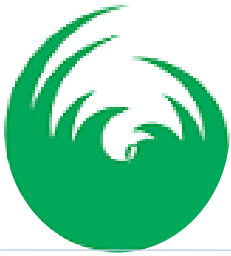
Transparency in fund usage refers to the open and clear disclosure of how public funds are allocated, spent, and managed. It implies that financial information is made accessible to stakeholders such as citizens, oversight bodies, and the media without ambiguity or hidden transactions. Transparency ensures that ministries are answerable for budget execution and are subject to scrutiny, which deters corruption and inefficiency. A transparent financial system strengthens public confidence, enhances government legitimacy, and supports anti-corruption efforts (Eyung & Udeh,2023).

Concept of Timely Financial Disclosures

Timely financial disclosure refers to the prompt release of financial statements and budget implementation reports. It ensures that relevant financial information is made available within reasonable timeframes to enable informed decision-making and public scrutiny. Delays in financial reporting can hinder accountability and promote financial misconduct, while prompt disclosures foster trust and efficiency in public service delivery. Timeliness in financial reporting is a key benchmark of accountability and good governance in public administration (Omoniyi & Akintoye, 2024).

Concept of Responsiveness to Audit Queries

Responsiveness to audit queries measures the extent to which ministries take corrective action or provide adequate responses following audit findings or recommendations. It reflects the willingness and capacity of public officials to account for financial irregularities and comply with regulatory requirements. A responsive ministry will address audit issues promptly, make necessary adjustments, and improve financial operations to prevent future occurrences. Responsiveness to audits is a litmus



test for genuine commitment to accountability and institutional integrity in the public sector (Ezenwaka et al, 2022).

Empirical Literature Reviews

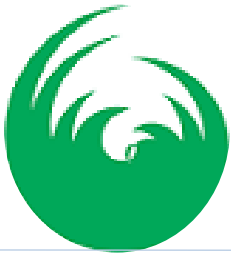
Preye and Binglar (2020) examined the effect of accountability and financial reporting on public financial management in Nigeria. They emphasized that financial reporting serves as one of the strongest indicators of accountability, yet the overall state of accountability and transparency in Nigeria still requires significant improvement. The study assessed fiscal accountability, managerial accountability, programme accountability, and individual accountability, all within the framework of how government financial reporting supports public accountability. The researchers used personal interviews and Accountability Evaluation Questionnaires to gather data, which were analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings showed that the successful execution of public development policies and programmes depends largely on integrity, honesty, probity, and purity of purpose, core features of accountability and transparency. Although Nigeria has some regulations in place, they were found to be insufficient due to out-dated accounting systems, weak sanctions, and ineffective public financial auditing processes. The study further argued that while financial reporting is widely regarded as a primary measure of accountability, accounting itself remains the most reliable indicator of stewardship. However, both accountability and financial reporting lose their value when anchored on obsolete or poor accounting practices that hinder the complete and accurate documentation and assessment of government resources and their outcomes.

Sani (2025) investigated public sector audit practices and their influence on accountability in Nigeria, with specific emphasis on Zamfara State. The study explored how audit independence, financial reporting accuracy, compliance with audit standards, transparency, and credibility of reporting shape accountability within public institutions. A survey research design was adopted, and data were obtained from 300 auditors across ministries, departments, and agencies using a multistage sampling technique. Descriptive statistics and regression analysis were

employed for data analysis. The ANOVA results indicated that good governance does not significantly influence public audit transparency; however, the model was statistically significant, showing that audit transparency and accountability jointly play an important role in explaining variations in good governance within the state. The findings further revealed that audit independence and the accuracy of financial reporting do not significantly affect accountability. In contrast, audit compliance with standards, transparency, and credible reporting were found to have significant positive effects on accountability. The study concluded that enhancing audit practices and ensuring strict adherence to established standards are essential steps toward strengthening accountability within Nigeria's public sector.

Oluyemi et al. (2023) examined the effect of internal control systems on financial management in Federal Government hospitals in Southwest Nigeria. Using a descriptive research design, data were collected from 91 respondents across six federal hospitals through structured questionnaires and analysed using Pearson correlation and multiple regression techniques. The findings showed a positive and significant relationship between internal control components control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring and financial management indicators, particularly financial planning and control. The study concluded that strengthening internal control systems enhances financial management in federal hospitals and recommended regular monitoring and evaluation of these controls to improve efficiency and productivity.

Onowu (2025) examined the relationship between public sector audit practices and accountability in Nigerian government organizations, focusing on selected Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in Rivers State. Using a correlational research design, data were obtained from 15 MDAs and analyzed with descriptive statistics and simple regression techniques. The findings indicated that financial audit has a significant positive effect on financial accountability but no significant relationship with administrative accountability. Regulatory/compliance audit was found to significantly influence both financial and administrative accountability,



though its effect on management accountability was insignificant. The study concluded that while financial and regulatory audits enhance financial and administrative accountability in public institutions, their impact on management accountability is limited. It recommended strict enforcement of audit practices, engagement of qualified external auditors, and avoidance of politically motivated managerial appointments to strengthen transparency and accountability in the public sector.

Eyung and Udeh (2023) examined public financial accountability in Nigeria over a seven-year period from 2015 to 2021. The study employed an ex post facto research design and used a sampling technique to select six states from the thirty-six states in the federation, based on their consistent submission of annual budgets before December 31st of each year. Data were analyzed using rating methods, graphs, and pie charts. The findings revealed that public financial accountability institutions in Nigeria lag behind established good practices, and many states lack the necessary reforms to enhance financial management. The study concluded that comprehensive reforms are essential for improving performance and ensuring greater accountability in public financial management. It further recommended the development of change management strategies to address resistance from individuals who benefit from existing inefficiencies, emphasizing that such reforms are critical for reducing corruption and fostering transparency in public sector operations.

Vutumu et al. (2024) investigated the effect of internal control systems on fraud prevention in the Nigerian public sector using a PLS-SEM approach based on the COSO framework. Adopting a descriptive cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from 385 accounting and audit professionals across 43 federal ministries and agencies. The results showed that risk assessment, information and communication, and monitoring activities have significant positive effects on fraud prevention, while control activities and elements of the control environment require improvement. The study concluded that effective fraud prevention depends on a strengthened and integrated internal control system and recommended enhancing

communication, reinforcing control measures, and addressing weaknesses in the control environment.

Omemgbeoji and Onuora (2024) examined the effect of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) adoption on transparency and accountability in public sector financial reporting in Nigeria. Using a cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from 121 staff of federal ministries, departments, and agencies in Anambra State and analysed with descriptive statistics and Pearson correlation techniques. The findings showed that IPSAS adoption significantly improves financial reporting transparency and enhances accountability in the Nigerian public sector. The study concluded that IPSAS implementation strengthens public financial management and recommended continuous training and capacity building for accounting personnel to ensure consistent application and full compliance with IPSAS.

Aloysius et al. (2024) investigated the effectiveness of internal control systems in preventing fraud in the Nigerian public sector using a PLS-SEM approach. Employing a descriptive cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from 385 accounting and audit professionals across 43 federal ministries and agencies. The results indicated that risk assessment, information and communication, and monitoring activities have significant positive effects on fraud prevention, while control activities showed a negative significant relationship and the control environment had no significant effect. The study concluded that although internal controls contribute to fraud reduction, weaknesses in control activities and the control environment must be addressed, recommending stronger controls, improved communication, and structural reforms to enhance fraud prevention.

Chidi et al. (2024) explored the link between public sector auditing and financial accountability in Nigeria, analysing Auditor-General's reports from 2015 to 2024. Using qualitative content analysis, the study assessed public financial management through various sources, including legislative hearings, anti-corruption reports, and media investigations on how MDAs address audit queries. The findings highlighted on going challenges such as political interference, inadequate funding, audit delays, weak enforcement, and limited public access to reports. While



reforms like the TSA, IPPIS, and GIFMIS aimed to reduce financial leakages, the study found these issues persist, revealing deeper systemic problems. The study recommended strengthening audit enforcement, enhancing audit institution independence, modernizing financial systems, and increasing public involvement in audit oversight to improve accountability and public financial management.

Ezenwaka et al. (2022) studied the impact of accounting software on transparency in Nigeria's public sector, motivated by persistent corruption in government institutions. The research focused on the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) and the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), which are promoted to improve financial transparency. A survey of 250 staff members from the Federal Pay Office revealed that both systems significantly enhance transparency by improving financial reporting and reducing corruption opportunities. The study concluded that these systems have bolstered public sector transparency and recommended continued strengthening of their implementation to further improve financial accountability and stakeholder confidence.

Methodology

This study employs a descriptive survey research design, suitable for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative data from a cross-section of respondents to examine the relationship between governmental accounting practices and accountability in public fund management. This design also allows for generalization of findings to similar public sector contexts in Nigeria. The study population consists of accountants, internal auditors, finance officers, and administrative managers in selected federal ministries, particularly those involved in budgeting, auditing, and financial reporting. According to the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, approximately 4,000 staff members work across relevant departments in 20 key federal ministries. A sample of 350 respondents was determined using the

Yamane (1967) formula to ensure statistical validity and representativeness. Stratified random sampling was applied to proportionately represent all departments (audit, accounts, budgeting).

Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire developed around the study variables. To ensure validity, the instrument was reviewed by two university lecturers in Accounting and Public Administration, and construct validity was assessed using factor analysis. Reliability was tested through a pilot study involving 30 respondents from non-sampled ministries, with internal consistency evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha, where a coefficient of 0.70 or higher was deemed acceptable. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and multiple regression techniques in SPSS version 25.

Model Specification

$$APFM = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FRS + \beta_2 ICS + \beta_3 AP + \varepsilon$$

Where:

APFM = Accountability in Public Fund Management

FRS = Financial Reporting Standards

ICS = Internal Control Systems

AP = Audit Practices

β_0 = Intercept

$\beta_1 - \beta_3$ = Coefficients

ε = Error term

Data Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Findings

This section presents and analyzes the data collected from respondents in selected Nigerian ministries. It also tests the hypotheses and discusses the implications of the findings. The analysis was guided by the study's objectives, which focus on examining the relationship between governmental accounting practices and accountability in the management of public funds. Out of 350 distributed questionnaires, 330 were completed and returned, representing a 94.3% response rate, which is sufficient for analysis.

Descriptive Statistics Table



Variable	N	Min	Max	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Financial Reporting Standards (FRS)	330	2.00	5.00	1350.5	4.09	0.56	-0.78	1.24
Internal Control Systems (ICS)	330	2.00	5.00	1346.1	4.08	0.58	-0.69	1.02
Audit Practices (AP)	330	2.00	5.00	1328.4	4.02	0.61	-0.62	0.89
Transparency of Fund Usage (TFU)	330	1.00	5.00	1309.2	3.97	0.65	-0.51	0.68
Timely Financial Disclosures (TFD)	330	1.00	5.00	1305.0	3.95	0.67	-0.47	0.74
Responsiveness to Audit Queries (RAQ)	330	2.00	5.00	1320.6	4.00	0.60	-0.59	0.91

Source: SPSS OUTPUT, 2025

Mean Values for all variables are above 3.90, indicating a general agreement among respondents that these practices and outcomes are present and effective in their ministries. Standard Deviations range from 0.56 to 0.67, suggesting moderate variability in responses. Skewness values are all

negative, meaning the data is slightly left-skewed (more respondents chose “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”). Kurtosis values between 0.68 and 1.24 indicate the distributions are slightly leptokurtic, implying more peakedness than a normal distribution.

Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	0.765	0.586	0.579	0.47781	1.841

ANOVA Summary

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig. (p-value)
Regression	112.234	3	37.411	75.623	0.000 (***)
Residual	79.545	326	0.244		
Total	191.779	329			

***Significant at $p < 0.01$

R = 0.765: Strong positive correlation between the independent variables and accountability. R² = 0.586: About 58.6% of the variability in accountability is explained by the model. Adjusted R² = 0.579: Adjusted for sample size and number of predictors. Standard Error:

Indicates average distance between observed and predicted values. F = 75.623, Sig. = 0.000: The model is statistically significant. Durbin-Watson = 1.841: Indicates no autocorrelation (ideal range is 1.5–2.5).

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients (Beta)	t	Sig. (p-value)
Constant	1.052	0.187	–	5.627	0.000 (***)
Financial Reporting Standards (FRS)	0.312	0.074	0.276	4.216	0.000 (***)
Internal Control Systems (ICS)	0.354	0.066	0.332	5.364	0.000 (***)
Audit Practices (AP)	0.401	0.069	0.379	5.812	0.000 (***)



***Significant at $p < 0.01$

Source: SPSS OUTPUT, 2025

All three predictors significantly and positively influence accountability ($p < 0.01$). Audit Practices ($\beta = 0.379$) had the strongest effect, followed by Internal Control Systems ($\beta = 0.332$) and Financial Reporting Standards ($\beta = 0.276$). The positive B values indicate that an increase in any of these accounting practices will likely result in increased accountability levels in public fund management.

Discussion of Findings

The results clearly show that all three components of governmental accounting practices financial reporting standards, internal control systems, and audit practices have a significant and positive impact on accountability in the management of public funds. This finding is consistent with the work of Aloysius & Ademola, (2024) who found that internal controls significantly reduce financial irregularities in Nigerian ministries. Similarly, Omengbeoji and Onuora (2024) affirmed that IPSAS adoption enhances transparency and comparability of financial information. Moreover, Ezenwaka et al,(2022) emphasized that responsiveness to audit queries is strongly linked to the presence of effective auditing frameworks.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the findings of the study, it is evident that effective governmental accounting practices are indispensable tools for achieving accountability in the management of public resources. Ministries that enforce financial reporting standards, maintain robust internal control systems, and uphold audit integrity tend to exhibit greater financial transparency, prompt reporting, and swift response to audit concerns. Therefore, accountability in Nigerian public ministries is not merely a function of institutional will but also of the systems and practices in place to ensure discipline, openness, and responsible use of public funds. The study concludes that strengthening financial reporting, internal controls, and audit practices is critical for sustainable governance and improved public sector performance in Nigeria. Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

- 1. Full Implementation and Monitoring of IPSAS:** Government ministries should not only adopt but fully implement International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) with rigorous oversight by regulatory bodies. Regular training and capacity building should be provided to accounting personnel to ensure compliance.
- 2. Strengthening Internal Control Systems:** Each ministry should design and enforce comprehensive internal control frameworks tailored to their operational needs. These controls must be regularly reviewed and updated to address emerging risks, particularly in digital fund management.
- 3. Enhancement of Audit Practices:** Audit departments must be empowered to operate independently, with access to all relevant financial documents. Timely audit reports should be made public, and ministries must be held accountable for implementing audit recommendations.
- 4. Automation of Financial Disclosure Systems:** The government should invest in real-time reporting technologies and integrated financial management systems (GIFMIS and TSA) to ensure timely and accurate disclosures of public fund activities.
- 5. Oversight by the Auditor-General and Public Accounts Committees:** Stronger enforcement mechanisms should be established through regular follow-ups by the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation and the Public Accounts Committees to ensure ministries respond to audit queries.
- 6. Citizen Engagement and Public Disclosure:** Ministries should publish quarterly financial statements and audit outcomes on official portals. Public access to these documents promotes social accountability and deters misuse of public resources..

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Questionnaire

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Please tick (✓) the option that best represents your opinion.

Section A:

1. Gender: Male Female
2. Age Group: 18–30 31–40 41–50 51 and above
3. Highest Educational Qualification: B.Sc/HND M.Sc/MBA PhD Others (specify): _____
4. Job Title/Position: Accountant Auditor Finance Officer Admin Officer Other: _____
5. Years of Work Experience: Less than 5 years 5–10 years 11–15 years Above 15 years
6. Ministry/Department (Optional): _____

Section B

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements using this scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Financial Reporting Standards

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	My ministry complies with IPSAS in preparing financial statements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Financial reports are presented in a clear and understandable manner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Our financial statements are prepared on time and follow standard formats.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Financial reports are accessible to internal and external stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Adherence to financial reporting standards enhances accountability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Internal Control Systems

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
6	My ministry has documented internal control procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Duties and responsibilities are properly segregated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Authorization processes are followed before expenditures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Regular internal audits are conducted to review financial activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Internal controls help prevent fraud and mismanagement of funds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Audit Practices

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
11	Audits are conducted regularly by internal and external auditors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Audit findings are communicated promptly to management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Corrective actions are taken based on audit recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Audit results are disclosed to oversight bodies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	The audit process promotes financial accountability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Transparency of Fund Usage

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
16	Public fund expenditures are properly documented and tracked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Stakeholders can access information on fund allocation and use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Budget implementation is carried out in an open and transparent manner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Irregularities in fund usage are investigated and addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



20	Transparency has improved public confidence in financial management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Timely Financial Disclosures

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
21	Financial reports are submitted within stipulated deadlines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Delays in reporting are minimized by using automated systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Timely disclosure of financial information aids decision-making.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	My ministry complies with reporting timelines set by the Auditor-General.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Late submission of reports attracts penalties or sanctions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Responsiveness to Audit Queries

S/N	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
26	Audit queries are addressed promptly in my ministry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Officials provide adequate explanations for audit findings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Audit recommendations are implemented without delay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Deliberate efforts are made to avoid repeat audit issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Responsiveness to audits has improved accountability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>