



Exploring the Current State of Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia and Possible Ways of Elevating It to Assist the Government Fighting Corruption

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Abstract

Corruption occurs when there is a misuse of current resources to maximize personal benefits at the expense of other parties, causing financial problems and preventing the development of emerging economies. Forensic accounting services utilize financial data to solve legal disputes. Saudi Arabia's government does not tolerate obstacles that impede the realization of its ambitious Vision 2030, a long-term plan for transforming society and reforming the economy. The war on corruption has been observed in Saudi Arabian domestic policy. Whether the forensic accounting profession and the readiness of accountants qualified to conduct forensic inquiries and investigations are effectively accompanied by the government's fight is probed. This study explores the current state of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia. Potential means of employing such status to make Saudi Vision 2030 a reality to combat corruption and the ability of forensic accounting to ease the government's fight are also investigated. A questionnaire was conducted on 181 participants comprising accountants, auditors, judges, accountancy academics, Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority employees, and any supervisory body in Saudi Arabia. The results show that 46% of the surveyed participants were unaware of forensic accounting, implying that despite its significance and demand for its services, forensic accounting is undersupplied in Saudi Arabia. Thus, it is inferred that the current state of forensic accounting is below the required level. To address this issue, forensic accounting should be incorporated into accounting curricula, accountants should join specialized scholarship programs and seek to be certified forensic accountants. Policy-makers must develop charter institutions and related forensic accounting standards.

Keywords: *forensic accounting, investigation, Saudi Arabia, Vision 2030, corruption*

1. Introduction

Accountancy is an essential facet of society (Wyatt, 2004). Accounting information is produced to reflect the perceived economic reality of underlying entities (Roman, 2010); accounting affects and is affected by societies (Kaidonis, 2008). High-quality and fraud-free accounting information considerably contributes to rationalizing capital market participants' investment decisions (Roman, 2010).

The separation between ownership and corporate control (Berle and Means, 1932) challenges the function of reporting to stakeholders about corporate prospects, affairs, performance, and financial position (Al-Adeem, 2017, 2021; Al-Adeem and Fogarty, 2010; Al-Hazzani and Al-Adeem, 2020; Alshiban and Al-Adeem, 2022; Hunt, 2003; Merino, 1993; Previts and Merino, 1998). Agency theory, a contemporary proposed corporate model, suggests that with the limited influence of shareholders on the managers' behavior, managers may utilize corporate capital inefficiently or behave fraudulently (Hunt, 2003), serving their own self-interest and maximizing their utility function at the expense of fund providers. Managers are incentivized to influence corporate reporting tasks to ensure that the information reported serves their utilization of corporate resources that are allocated to them (Watts and Zimmerman, 1978; 1979; 1986). When agents are entrusted with the use of resources, agency rises as an issue (Jensen and Meckling, 1976), even in the public sector (McCue and Prier, 2008; Schillemans and Busuioc, 2015).

Fraud and corruption may occur when the decision-making process regarding the content of corporate reporting is delegated to personnel who self-serve their interests at the expense of shareholders (Søreide, 2014). In addition, rapid changes in the business environment and corporate financialization have contributed to financial transactions that increase the risk of unlawful financial practices (Al-Olaiwi, 2011). At the international level, 85% of legal disputes encompass financial and accounting issues (Al-Olaiwi, 2011). The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) issued a report estimating that global losses from fraudulent actions amounted to \$3.6 billion (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 2022). Corruption represents a major obstacle to the development of emerging economies by disturbing investments, delaying growth, misallocating resources, and impairing service delivery (Azfar and Nelson, 2007).

The inability of proprietors to manage corporations, where their wealth and savings are invested, augments the chance of delegated individuals, such as executives, committing white-collar crimes. Crimes may not be directly detected as wrongdoers can use numerous means to cover fraudulent practices (DiGabriele, 2009). White-collar crimes, namely fraud, material

misstatements, money laundering, and bribery, subject perpetrators to legal consequences, potential punishments, and business costs (Healy and Serafeim, 2019). Judges may face vagueness when determining situations of white-collar crimes because they differ from obvious street crimes (Podgor, 2006). Such a determination relies on ethics and professional judgments that require adequate data, facts, and evidence (Green and Kugler, 2012) to form proof beyond doubt. Demands exist for forensic accounting to gather sufficient information (Van Akkeren and Buckby, 2017) to uncover a variety of wrongdoings in the workplace, whether in business enterprises or other entities.

Forensic accounting focuses on resolving Byzantine financial problems, probing into fraud cases, identifying losses, evaluating businesses, and solving various financial disputes through implementing certain skills, using critical analysis, and understanding human attitudes (Chilvers, 2000). It relies on thorough investigation of fraud and includes comprehensive examinations of accounting archives to detect any fraud evidence (Singleton and Singleton, 2010) or non-compliance with rules and regulations (Thornhill, 1995). Forensic accountants mainly depend on financial information; nevertheless, they collect non-financial information associated with fraud when required to submit reports to management or courts (Singleton and Singleton, 2010). Courts depend on accounting information, which forms evidence to solve civil or criminal disputes (Thornhill, 1995). Since evidence obtained by forensic accountants is given to courts, forensic accounting focuses on the relationship between financial data and legal issues (Singleton and Singleton, 2010), which makes the role of forensic accountants presenting complicated issues to non-accountants in a simple and explicit way, and helps them understand the judicial system and the standards anticipated from them (Chilvers, 2000).

Some executive management of publicly traded corporations in the Saudi capital market misinforms investors, restricting them from rationally and appropriately deciding upon their invested wealth (Zerban, 2017). As a result, the Saudi market has witnessed several fraudulent activities attributed to the accounting and auditing professions (Zerban, 2017). Mohammad Al Mojil Group, Etihad Etisalat (Mobily), which is one of the high-profile telecommunication companies in Saudi Arabia (Rashad and Al-Sayegh, 2015), and Bishah Agriculture Development Corporation, which was prohibited from exchanging shares in the Saudi capital market (Al-Adeem, 2015) are just a few examples that became public.

The King of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdulaziz, declared that corruption is one of the key obstacles to economic growth faced with just and decisive governmental actions to provide citizens with prosperity and progress (Aboudi, 2017). The Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, sees corruption as cancer that rubs out a body if not adequately treated with

chemotherapy (“Reforms Aimed at ‘Cancer’ of Corruption,” 2018).¹ Saudi Arabia has envisioned the nation’s prospect in 2030 as a “corruption-free environment” (Saudi Gazette Report, 2017), and that by 2030, financial and administrative corruption will be eliminated (Saudi Vision 2030, n.d.). Whether forensic accounting can facilitate the government’s movement against corruption and business needs to meet expectations is worthy of inquiry. Accordingly, assessing the current state of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia and inquiring about possible ways to elevate its status to a level that assists the realization of Saudi Vision 2030, contributes to our knowledge and can lead to recommendations and implications.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature. Section 3 describes the research method employed for data collection. Section 4 presents the findings of the study. Section 5 briefly discusses the research results and their implications. Section 6 concludes the study, proposes ways to improve forensic accounting to a level that makes it an effective mechanism for fighting corruption, offers recommendations, discusses the limitations, and suggests directions for future research.

2. Literature Review

2.1. About Forensic Accounting

Crumbley *et al.* (2017) defined “forensic” and “accounting” separately. Forensic refers to anything related to courts and legal matters, while accounting can be defined in several ways and refers to the activities that affect financial records. Crumbley *et al.* (2017:5) stated that “Forensic accounting is the action of identifying, recording, settling, extracting, sorting, reporting, and verifying past financial data or other accounting activities for settling current or prospective legal disputes or using such past financial data for projecting future financial data to settle legal disputes.”

Meyer *et al.* (2010) defined forensic accounting as an accounting division that aims to provide information for court use. The Forensic and Litigation Services Committee at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA; 2004) affirms that forensic accounting requires the implementation of specialized skills in accounting, auditing, finance, quantitative approaches, law, inspection, and scrutinizing skills to gather, examine, and assess

¹ Under the title of *Reforms aimed at ‘cancer’ of corruption, says Saudi crown prince*, The Arab News on March 01, 2018 quoted:

“You have a body that has cancer everywhere, the cancer of corruption. You need to have chemo, the shock of chemo, or the cancer will eat the body,” Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told The Washington Post in an interview published on Tuesday night.”

evidence, and to find and share results. The Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants (ICFA) requires forensic accountants to employ accounting, auditing, and inspection skills to investigate certain cases and provide accurate financial information in legal venues (Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants (ICFA), n.d.d). The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan (ICPAP) describes forensic accounting as a means of resolving disputes regarding suspected fraud (Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan, n.d.).

Forensic accountants not only look at numbers but also go beyond them and deal with perceived reality, which warrants them to serve as witnesses and legal counselors (Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants (ICFA, n.d.d). Forensic accounting includes litigation; professional identification; and a request by proper authority and investigation of suspicious fraudulent, illegal, or improper activities, which may result in civil, criminal, or disciplinary proceedings (Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan, n.d.).

Forensic accounting services include implementing specific knowledge and inspection skills to gather, examine, and assess evidence to provide findings in legal rooms (AICPA, 2014). These services are divided into two categories: litigation support services and investigative accounting services (AICPA, 2004). The former requires the forensic accountant to acquire professional skills to act as an expert witness in legal venues, while the latter requires fraud investigation and detection (Meyer *et al.*, 2010). Fundamentally, forensic accounting involves not only fraud identification and financial crime investigations but also other services such as consultations in strategy formation, damage detection, business facts attestation, and professional witnesses (Markman *et al.*, 2015).

Losses resulting from incorrect accounting information require accumulated accounting and legal knowledge (Hao, 2010). Hao (2010) also demonstrated that forensic accountants determine whether wrong accounting information is derived based on neglecting, which requires civil responsibility, or intentionally misleading users of this information, and results in civil and criminal responsibilities; consequently, courts make different legal decisions.

2.2. The State of Forensic Accounting in Different Countries

At the end of 2003, the U.S. National Institute of Justice Office of Justice Programs granted a \$614,000 endowment to West Virginia University's Accounting Division to support efforts to construct a model curriculum for fraud and forensic accounting (Fleming *et al.*, 2008). The demand for forensic accounting in the U.S., both in academia and practice, is growing (Tiwari and Debnath, 2017). Various colleges and universities have met such demands by

including forensic accounting in their curricula, either as courses or as separate degree programs (Pedneault *et al.*, 2012).

The AICPA established the Forensic and Valuation Services Center, a division that focuses on fraud, forensic accounting, business valuation, and legal assistance services (Pedneault *et al.*, 2012). They also developed and introduced a certification, certified in financial forensics (CFF), to permit certified public accountants (CPAs) who offer forensic services to distinguish themselves from those who do not (Kass-Shraibman and Sampath, 2011). In addition, the AICPA cooperated with the ACFE to disseminate articles and studies and prepare courses and other materials concerning fraud issues (Pedneault *et al.*, 2012). However, not all institutions require forensic accountants to become CPAs (Tiwari and Debnath, 2017).

The Financial Forensics Institute, a National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts division, offers master analysts in financial forensics (MAFF) qualifications to provide assurance to legal and financial groups (The National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts, n.d.). The American Board of Forensic Accounting offers a program that evaluate CPAs' knowledge and capabilities in professional forensic accounting services and enables them to be certified forensic accountants (American Board of Forensic Accounting, n.d.). Other certifications offered to specialists in the United States (US) include forensic CPA (Forensic CPA Society, n.d.), certified financial crime specialists (The Association of Certified Financial Crime Specialists, n.d.), and certified anti-money laundering specialists (The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, n.d.). However, qualifying bodies are not regulated. For example, no specific license that authorizes the practice of forensic accounting exists; conversely, various professional bodies issue several certifications (Van Akkeren *et al.*, 2013).

ICFA, chartered under Letters of Patent granted by the Federal Government of Canada and registered under the Laws of the State of Delaware in the US, prepares accounting experts working in the forensic area (ICFA, n.d.a). The institute has various branches globally (ICFA, n.d.c). Qualified graduates become certified professional forensic accountants when they complete a diploma in forensic Accounting. The institute enables students who pass specific courses to be certified fraud specialists (ICFA, n.d.b). Forensic accounting standards were developed in the US by the courts of law (Gray, 2008). In 2019, the AICPA released the first professional standards for forensic accountants (AICPA, 2019). Canada also has standard

practices for investigative and forensic accounting engagements (Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, 2006).

As accounting institutions do not issue formal certifications for those who want to provide forensic accounting in Australia, forensic accountants can qualify by applying for certifications from international institutions (Van Akkeren *et al.*, 2013). Although several Australian universities include or consider courses in forensic accounting areas in their curricula, degrees mainly focused on forensic accounting are very limited, and academic research on forensic accounting in Australia is still in its primary stage (Van Akkeren *et al.*, 2013).

Accounting firms have teamed up with specialized groups of forensic accountants in the US, England, Wales, Australia, and New Zealand (D'Ath, 2008). Moreover, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), France, and Australia have integrated forensic accounting into their existing accounting curricula at either the undergraduate or postgraduate level (Johnson-Rokosu, 2015).

The status of forensic accounting in Arab countries may not be as developed as in the US, UK, Canada, and Australia. For example, the current state of forensic accounting in Jordan is far from solving disputes. Courts do not call forensic accountants to testify (Al-Kubaisi, 2016). Al-Kubaisi (2016) highlighted the absence of governmental agencies, institutions, and authorities that provide forensic accounting courses and training programs to qualify forensic accountants. Similar to forensic accounting education in other Arab countries, the curricula in Jordan lack the sufficient information required for forensic accounting careers (Al-Kubaisi, 2016); only two private universities in Jordan include forensic accounting subjects in their accounting degree curricula, and the current curricula should be rebuilt to meet the needs of influential forensic accountants (Shanikat and Khan, 2013). There is a need to teach forensic accounting in the accounting curricula, whether in separate courses or through existing accounting and auditing courses in Sudanese (Ismael and Elgali, 2017) and Egyptian universities (Ahmed, 2013). Forensic accounting features do not exist in Iraq (Al-Jalili, 2012). Forensic accountants, consultations, and witnesses' requests for solving disputes do not exist in Iraqi courts (Al-Jalili, 2012). Almost no Iraqi educational institution offers forensic accounting curricula (Alabdullah *et al.*, 2013). Al-Jalili (2012) acknowledged that forensic accounting in Iraq has not attracted researchers' attention. Al-Kubaisi (2016) also observed a lack of research on forensic accounting in the Arab world.

In the Arabian Gulf countries, which are part of the Arab world, Al-Hadrami and Hidayat (2015) documented that although forensic accounting practices exist in Bahrain, forensic accounting courses are absent in Bahraini universities. Bhavani and Mehta (2018) also confirmed a lack of forensic accounting courses in the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) universities. Rehman and Hashim (2019) recommend using forensic accounting as an investigative tool within Omani institutions to promote corporate governance. Al-Saad (2013) found that the vital role of forensic accountants in Saudi Arabia, based on academics and external auditors' perspectives, is limited to clients' representation in financial cases in courts and represents clients in front of specialized judicial committees, such as Zakat, tax, insurance, and customs committees. Saudi CPAs who provide forensic accounting services are not subject to the supervision of the Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants (SOCPA) (Al-Mugren, 2018). Saudi universities lack adequate courses in forensic accounting, resulting in a shortage of qualified forensic accountants (Al-Saad, 2013). To address this shortage, Saudi universities should consider including forensic accounting in accounting curricula to promote a fair and equitable judicial system (Al-Saad and Fattani, 2021). Recently, the SOCPA² sponsored the translation of a book to Arabic so that universities could utilize it (SOCPA, 2022).

2.3. Forensic Accounting Role in Preventing Corruption

Transparency International defined corruption as the exploitation of delegated authority for personal benefits (Transparency International, n.d.b). The United Nations (2004) declared that there is no general agreement on the definition of corruption; however, it is described as the failure to use public or private positions for private gains. According to the World Bank, corruption is affording, getting, or requesting any valuable thing to inappropriately affect counterparties' activities (The World Bank, n.d.). According to Yalamov (2012), corruption is an example of non-compliant behavior that acts as a means to attain specific aims by evading rules and regulations. According to Transparency International, corruption can occur in various forms, such as money laundering, bribery, clientelism, blackmail, and tax evasion (Transparency International, n.d.a). In addition to their effects, such behavior costs societies in various ways, which can be classified as political, economic, social, and environmental effects.¹⁷

² Previously known as the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants (SOCPA).

Corruption prevention and economic growth enhancements through a high flow of resources require professional accountants who acquire investigative and forensic skills and adequate knowledge of how to apply efficient internal control procedures (Kirtley, 2016). For example, the high level of financial fraud and corruption in Iraq can be attributed, inter alia, to the absence of forensic accounting in Iraqi universities, resulting in the production of less knowledgeable graduates and practitioners (Alabdullah *et al.*, 2013). Forensic accountants can uncover ambiguous and complicated financial crimes by meticulously investigating financial records and revealing hidden accounts to present them as expert court witnesses (United Nations, 2004), which arguably positively correlates forensic accounting with financial corruption prevention (Alabdullah *et al.*, 2013).

Forensic accountants can combat corruption through several services. First, they can be proactive and reactive (Rehman and Hashim, 2019; Perduv *et al.*, 2018). Second, they conduct or help employees conduct anti-corruption risk valuations by collecting information through interviews with key employees, recognizing the business category of the company, identifying and assessing procedures, policies, and controls, especially functions and suitability of internal controls, and examining published reports that indicate the perceived risk and corruption, such as Transparency International (Shah *et al.*, 2015). Third, they apply sophisticated technological techniques to their inspection procedures (Rezaee and Wang, 2019). Fourth, they exploit technological advances (Rechtman, 2020) and store all gathered data related to the investigation to ensure that no relevant data have been removed, concealed, demolished, or changed (Shah *et al.*, 2015). Fifth, if a forensic accountant was suspicious about a specific employee, paid leave was given to continue the investigation without obstacles (Shah *et al.*, 2015). Sixth, they examine financial and non-financial information (Tiwari and Debnath, 2017). Seventh, they may be asked to prepare due diligence and evaluate fraud and corruption risks (Wolski and Adams, 2013). Eighth, they may engage in building, presenting, or consulting international anti-corruption programs (Shah *et al.*, 2015).

Institutions that combat corruption demand forensic accounting services in the private and public sectors (Shanikat and Khan, 2013; Aduwo, 2016; Liodorova and Fursova, 2018). Such services continue the existing efforts of other professional bodies to decrease fraudulent actions and enhance internal control systems to prevent fraud (Owojori and Asaolu, 2009).

Forensic accounting is mandatory when dealing with financial fraud and corruption (Shah, 2018). The need for qualified forensic accountants with specialized skills and

capabilities has increased (Kranacher and Riley, 2019). To meet these needs, business programs should include big data, data analytics, and forensic accounting (Rezaee and Wang, 2019). Forming international groups of forensic accountants who can support investigative procedures in proper cases is currently optimal (United Nations, 2004). Inappropriate actions usually occur in countries with poorly developed rules and regulations (Yalamov, 2012). Conversely, these actions are less common in countries where rules and penalties for breaching them are well imposed (Yalamov, 2012). Not all countries can wait for the formation of such groups to obtain the necessary help in forensic accounting.

2.4.Fighting Corruption in Saudi Arabia to Realize Saudi Vision-2030

Corruption and global economic surveys indicate that all countries and industries are vulnerable to corruption (Kenyon and Tilton, 2015). The ACFE's report issued in 2022 indicated that corruption is the most prevalent fraud scheme in the Middle East and North Africa (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 2022). According to the Global Competitiveness Report issued by the World Economic Forum, corruption is one of the obstacles to conducting business in Saudi Arabia (Schwab, 2017). The Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International indicated that Saudi Arabia failed to rank in the top 50 countries in the index, scoring 53 out of 100 in 2021, where 0 is extremely corrupt and 100 is corruption-free (Transparency International, 2022).

Saudi Arabia has based its Vision 2030 on three major pillars: a spirited community, prosperous economy, and aspiring nation (Saudi Vision 2030, n.d.a). This vision focuses on providing high levels of transparency and accountability by launching various short- and long-term plans (Ross, 2016). The Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha, 2017), an anticorruption-governmental body, is determined to prevent and eliminate corruption in Saudi Arabia (Saudi Vision 2030, n.d.b). As weak governance—described by a lack of clarity and accountability—enhances corrupt activities (Lambert-Mogiliansky *et al.*, 2007), Saudi Vision 2030's strategy for transition and reforms focuses on transparency and accountability that strengthen governance (Saudi Vision 2030, n.d.c).

Some recent anti-corruption actions have taken place after the announcement of Saudi Vision 2030. At the beginning of 2022, a case of laundering \$2.67 billion resulted in the imprisonment of 11 people in Saudi Arabia (AlArabiya News, 2022). In addition, the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) issued judicial rulings on 11 criminal cases in June 2022. Rulings were issued against a previous ambassador, a previous prosecutor, a Health

Affairs Director, judges including the Execution Court head, former municipality head, former officer with the rank of Brigadier, two officers in the Ministry of Defense, a number of citizens, and a resident (Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority, 2022). Furthermore, Nazaha conducted continuous investigation visits to various governmental bodies to prevent corruption. Table (1) presents the results of the Nazaha inspection visits during the first half of 2022. Accordingly, 26,528 inspection rounds were conducted on various governmental bodies, and several employees from different ministries were seized for their participation in bribery, power abuse, money laundering, and forgery.

Table 1: Nazaha Inspection Visits Results in 2022

Month	Number of Investigation Visits	Number of Arrested Victims	Corrupt Activities (Charges)	Bodies where Corruption Occurred
<u>January</u>	4,286	234	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery	Ministries of defense, interior, national guard, foreign affairs, health, justice, municipal, rural affairs and housing and education.
<u>February</u>	5,072	143	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery	Ministries of defense, interior, health, justice, education and municipal, rural affairs and housing.
<u>March</u>	5,279	127	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery	Ministries of defense, interior, health, justice, education and municipal, rural affairs and housing.
<u>April</u>	3,384	43	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery	Ministries of defense, interior, national guard, health, justice, education and municipal, rural affairs and housing.
<u>May</u>	3,835	41	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery	Ministries of defense, interior, health and municipal, rural affairs and housing.
<u>June</u>	4,672	48	- Bribery - Abuse of power - Forgery - Money laundering.	Ministries of health, education, municipal, rural affairs and housing, in addition to the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority.
<u>1st half of 2022</u>	26,528	636		

Sources:

Saudi Gazette Report. (2022, February 02). Nazaha Arrests 234 Government Staff on Charges of Corruption. Saudi Gazette. Retrieved from [Nazaha arrests 234 government staff on charges of corruption - Saudi Gazette](#), last accessed 04/July/2022.

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- Saudi Gazette Report. (2022, June 28). Nazaha Investigate 171 Government Employees and Suspends 48 on Several Charges. Saudi Gazette. Retrieved from [Nazaha investigate 171 government employees and suspends 48 on several charges - Saudi Gazette](#), last accessed 04/July/2022.*

Nazaha issued rulings on several cases in 2021 against various parties in different ministries and divisions such as an officer in the rank of lieutenant colonel working in a police department and a judge at a Commercial Court (Saudi Gazette Report, 2021). In 2020, Nazaha filed 117 financial and administrative corruption cases against several parties that tried to use their positions for personal benefits or caused damage to the public interest (Saudi Press Agency, 2020). Nazaha also declared the issuance of initial judicial rulings in several corruption cases, including money laundering, bribery, and illegal use of public funds (Nazaha, 2020). An anti-corruption committee, led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, began an anti-corruption campaign and arrested several individuals, including high-ranking officials and ministers who were engaged in corrupt behavior (Anderson and El Sirgany, 2017). The Attorney General stated that many of these individuals chose to settle cases brought against them by the government, valued at more than \$100 billion (Saudi Press Agency, 2018). The Ministry of Justice responded to an investigation by Nazaha and stopped a Chief Justice, two notaries, and an employee who engaged in the transfer of fake land deeds that were valued in the market at more than \$100 million (Al-Sakran, 2017). In addition, the National Water Company expelled its CEO and many of its executives, subjecting them to urgent investigations after discovering their corrupt practices (Al-Masoodi, 2017). Other illegal activities occurred in the Saudi Electricity Company (SEC), where several employees, including two executives, were expelled (Askar, 2018). The SEC's CEO declared that the company had started to move toward more decisive decisions (Askar, 2018).

Various supervisory bodies in Saudi Arabia, such as the General Court of Audit (GCA), Public Prosecution, and Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Garoob, 2012), which contains the Control and Investigation Board and administrative investigation department, fight against illegal practices (Saudi Gazette Report, 2019). The country signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (United Nations, n.d.), and the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention (League of Arab States, 2010). It has established a national strategy for protecting

its integrity and combating corruption (Nazaha, 2007), comprising the Anti-Money Laundering Law, the Anti-Bribery Law, and the Anti-Forgery Law, which are under the National Security, Civil Status, and Criminal Laws (Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, n.d.). The Saudi Central Bank established an Anti-Money Laundering Committee comprising members from different ministries and authorities to combat anti-money laundering by issuing an Anti-Money Laundering Law (Anti-Money Laundering Committee, n.d.). Furthermore, a regulation was introduced in 2007 that required all governmental bodies to establish internal auditing divisions (Al-Katarish, 2010), but this regulation was not implemented effectively by all bodies (Ba Ajaja, 2019). The GCA issued guidelines manual for internal audit units in government agencies and public institutions (GCA, 2010); however, these bodies lack judicial power that permits the reservation of money and the ability to submit cases directly to courts (Aarm and Al-Hasan, 2016). Instead, lawsuits are directed to public prosecution, which may lack legal and financial experts who can detect financial fraud (Aarm and Al-Hasan, 2016). Al-Saud³ declared that the legal system in Saudi Arabia needs to develop new jobs for legal consultations in forensic majors and jurisprudence of accounting (Maedy, 2010).

Limited research exists in the field of forensic accounting in Arabian Gulf countries (Bhavani and Mehta, 2018). Few studies have been conducted in Saudi Arabia on forensic accounting, and no prior studies have linked forensic accounting to the implementation of Saudi Vision 2030. The Vision is a long-term plan for transforming society and reforming the economy, and the ruler of Saudi Arabia does not tolerate obstacles that impede its realization. Whether the forensic accounting profession and readiness of professional accountants, who can perform forensic inquiries and examinations, are successfully associated with the government's combat is examined. This study also aims to fill this research gap by exploring the current state of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia and possible ways to elevate it to assist the government in fighting domestic corruption, enabling the realization of Saudi Vision 2030.

3. Research method

An online questionnaire was used to collect data and address the research questions proposed in this study. The questionnaire was subjected to pilot tests to verify its reliability and suitability. Five accountants who possessed knowledge of the research took the initial survey. All their comments have been addressed. Accordingly, the modified final version was sent

³ A faculty member at the Higher Judicial Institute and member of the Advisory Committee at the College of Sharia at Najran University.

electronically to the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority and the Public Persecution Office through their e-services and an email attachment to three departments in the Ministry of Justice and more than 260 accountancy academics in Saudi Arabia. The questionnaire was also distributed to individuals who fell under the target sample through social media applications and email. A 5-point Likert scale was used, where 5 = strongly agree, 4 = agree, 3 = do not know, 2 = disagree, and 1 = strongly disagree.

To encourage participants in Saudi Arabia and increase the response rate, Arabic was used as this is the main language in the country. After inquiring about the subjects' demographic data and background information, the survey items were presented in three parts. The items were adopted from prior Arabic studies (Al-Saad, 2013; Aarm and Al-Hasan, 2016). In addition to their efficiency, ready-developed items ensure reliability of these items because they have been subjected to rigorous testing (Hyman *et al.*, 2006). Essential modifications have been conducted on some items to better convey the researchers' intent. The term in Arabic that matches "forensic" was substituted with a better term. The items were divided into dichotomous and multiple-choice categories. Open-ended questions were used only in the demographic and background sections, when needed. The targeted sample included accountants, auditors, judges, accountancy academics, Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority employees, and other supervisory bodies in Saudi Arabia.

A total of 193 individuals voluntarily participated in the study. Since the target sample included only accountants, auditors, judges, accountancy academics, employees of the Control and Anti-Corruption Authority, or any other supervisory body in Saudi Arabia, 12 subjects were excluded from the analysis because they did not fall under these categories, resulting in 181 subjects who were appropriate for the analysis. As shown in Table (2), accountants and auditors represent approximately half of the sample, whereas accounting academics comprised 20%. Employees of Nazaha and judges were the least responsive segments in the sample, comprising 6% and 4% of the sample, respectively. The remaining participants, represented 18% of the total sample. More than half of the sampled subjects were holders of a bachelor's degree, followed by master's degree and Ph.D. holders, comprising 38% and 9% of the sample, respectively.

Table (2) also shows that the sampled individuals were accounting educated, with 81% holding a degree in accountancy. The majority of respondents had worked for less than 10 years, divided as follows: 39% had less than five years of work experience, 38% had 5 to less than 10 years of experience, and 17% had 10 to 20 years of work experience.

Table 2: Demographic and Background Information (N=181)

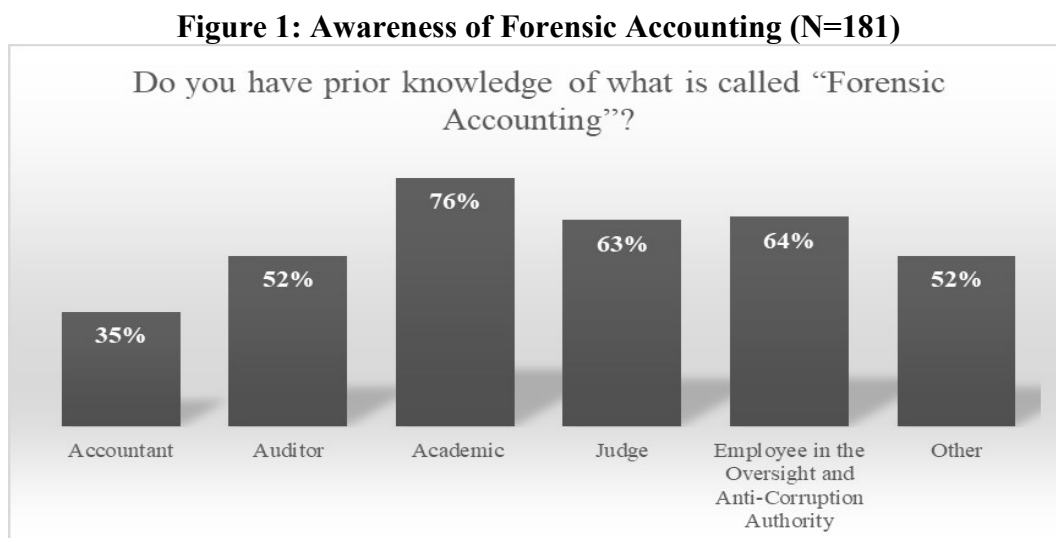
		Accountant		Auditor		Academic		Judge		Employee in Nazaha		Other		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Qualification	Bachelor	36	38%	25	27%	6	6%	1	1%	5	5%	21	22%	94	52%
	Master	12	18%	18	26%	18	26%	5	7%	6	9%	9	13%	68	38%
	Ph. D	0	0%	0	0%	13	76%	2	12%	0	0%	2	12%	17	9%
	Other	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	2	1%
Major	Accountancy	45	31%	39	27%	37	25%	0	0%	4	3%	22	15%	147	81%
	Law	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%	4	31%	4	31%	4	31%	13	7%
	Other	3	14%	4	19%	0	0%	4	19%	3	14%	7	33%	21	12%
Years of Experience	Less than 5 years	25	36%	22	31%	10	14%	0	0%	3	4%	10	14%	70	39%
	From 5 to less than 10	19	28%	13	19%	16	24%	7	10%	4	6%	9	13%	68	38%
	From 10-20 years	3	10%	8	26%	9	29%	1	3%	4	13%	6	19%	31	17%
	More than 20 years	1	8%	1	8%	2	17%	0	0%	0	0%	8	67%	12	7%
Total		48	27%	44	24%	37	20%	8	4%	11	6%	33	18%	181	100%

Source: Authors' own research

The seven items of the first part collectively investigated whether Saudi society is aware of the importance of forensic accounting and examined the demand for forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia (Al-Saad, 2013). The second part, comprising nine items, explored the current state of forensic accounting and whether obstacles confronting its use in fighting corruption exist in Saudi Arabia (Al-Saad, 2013; Aarm and Al-Hasan, 2016). The third part, comprising 12 items, explored possible means of improving forensic accounting practice and elevating it to assist the government in fighting financial and administrative corruption to realize its 2030-Vision (Aarm and Al-Hasan, 2016). Respondents were required to identify their level of agreement with the given mechanisms related to forensic accounting that help limit financial and administrative corruption to measure the extent to which forensic accounting has developed to achieve an aspect of the Saudi Vision 2030 regarding preventing financial and administrative corruption.

4. Results

As shown in Figure (1), accountancy academics represent the most knowledgeable segment in forensic accounting, followed by Nazaha employees, judges, other segments, auditors, and accountants.



Source: Authors' own research

For the sake of accuracy, only the responses of those who declared that they possessed knowledge in forensic accounting were deemed suitable for analysis. They were 97 in total as shown in Table (3). Arguably, individuals who declared that they were unaware of forensic

accounting were unsuitable for surveying their opinions on items related to the demand for forensic accounting, its current state in Saudi Arabia, and possible ways to improve it.

Table 3: Awareness of Forensic Accounting

	Accountant		Auditor		Academic		Judge		Employee in Nazaha		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Do you have prior knowledge of what is called "Forensic Accounting"?	17	35%	23	52%	28	76%	5	63%	7	64%	17	52%	97*	54%
In your opinion, does forensic accounting differ from external auditing?	17	100%	19	83%	25	89%	5	100%	6	86%	16	94%	88**	91%

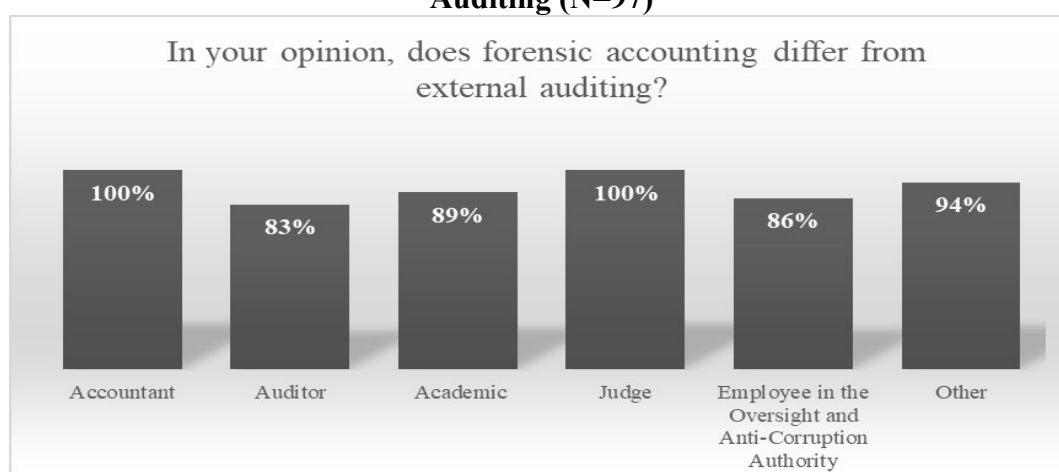
* Out of 181 respondents (entire sample).

**Out of 97 respondents (the proration of the sample who has prior knowledge in forensic accounting).

Source: Authors' own research

Of the 97 respondents who declared knowledge of forensic accounting, 91% believed that forensic accounting differs from external auditing. As shown in Figure (2), all accountants and judges, 83% of auditors, 89% of accountancy academics, and 86% of Nazaha employees suggested that these two fields are distinct.

Figure 2: Awareness of the Difference between Forensic Accounting and External Auditing (N=97)



Source: Authors' own research

As shown in Table (4), on average, the respondents strongly agree that all items are important, resulting in an increasing demand for forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia. The mean

of the items inquiring about the demand for forensic accounting ranged between 4.56 and 4.02, and the grand mean for all such items was 4.33. Meeting the needs of criminal courts with more specialized accountants who are familiar with the forensic and legal aspects of financial disputes, in addition to their proficiency and knowledge of the accounting aspects, scored the highest, at 4.56. This finding suggests that criminal courts require experts who combine criminal and legal aspects with accounting knowledge.

Other reasons underlying the demand for forensic accounting include a large number of recent financial crimes such as fraud, electronic financial crimes, money laundering crimes, and fraudulent contributions. The second reason was the employment of accountancy graduates in forensic jobs related to financial and accounting issues. The third reason was the large number of Zakat, tax, customs, and insurance cases, in addition to commercial papers filed on crime committees and bodies. Another source of demand is the issuance of new judicial regulations and the introduction of more specialized courts, such as commercial and traffic courts. The occurrence of some significant economic events, such as the collapse and bankruptcy of some companies before, during, and after the global financial crisis, also motivates the demand for forensic accounting services. However, few respondents believed that the collapse and bankruptcy of some companies before, during, and after the global financial crisis would increase the demand for forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia.

Table 4: The Demand for and the Significance of Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia (N=97)

	Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Maximum	Minimum	Rank
Item 1	There is an increased demand for forensic accounting services.	4.02	0.84	5	2	7
Item 6	Meeting the needs of criminal courts with more specialized accountants who are familiar with forensic and legal aspects of financial disputes in addition to their proficiency and knowledge of the accounting aspects.	4.56	0.56	5	2	1
Item 5	The large number of recent financial crimes such as fraud, electronic financial crimes, money laundering crimes, fraudulent contributions and others.	4.52	0.66	5	2	2
Item 3	The employment of accountancy graduates in forensic jobs related to financial and accounting issues.	4.35	0.76	5	2	3
Item 7	The large number of Zakat, tax, customs, and insurance cases in addition to commercial papers cases filed to the crime committees and bodies.	4.34	0.79	5	1	4
Item 2	The issuance of new judicial regulations and the introduction of more specialized courts, such as commercial and traffic courts.	4.29	0.71	5	2	5
Item 4	The occurrence of some important economic events such as the collapse and bankruptcy of some companies before, during and after the global financial crisis.	4.27	0.73	5	1	6
	Grand Mean	4.33				

Source: Authors' own research

Table (5) shows that of the 97 respondents, only 37% or their institutions practice forensic accounting. The low supply of forensic accounting services may not cover the growing demand, as observed in Table (4). Moreover, 71% of respondents reveal that obstacles impeded the implementation of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia.

Table 5: Current State of Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia (N=97)

Yes Answers														
	Accountant		Auditor		Academic		Judge		Employee in Nazaha		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Have you or your firm practiced forensic accounting?	7	41%	15	65%	2	7%	2	40%	4	57%	6	35%	36	37%
Are there any barriers to applying forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia?	11	65%	20	87%	16	57%	3	60%	6	86%	13	76%	69	71%

Source: Authors' own research

As shown in Figure (3), 65%, 57 %, 41 %, and 40% of auditors, Nazaha, accountants, and judges, respectively, or their institutions, provide forensic accounting services in Saudi Arabia. 87% of auditors, 86% of Nazaha employees, 65% of accountants, and 60% of judges believe that there are difficulties in applying forensic accounting in the country.

Figure 3: Current State of Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia (N=97)



Source: Authors' own research

Table (6) explores the current state of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia. The results reveal that the means of the items range from 3.93 and 2.41, and the grand mean is 3.23. With means of 3.93, 3.90, and 3.46, respectively, respondents agree that forensic accounting can be applied currently in Saudi Arabia, but establishing it requires much time. Legal consultancy firms rely on forensic accounting. This finding suggests that forensic accounting can be implemented in the country, but it requires time for dissemination.

With mean ratings of 3.39, 2.91, and 2.61, respectively, the surveyed individuals lack knowledge of whether legal legislation regarding the importance of including forensic accounting in administrative courts exists, whether financial and criminal authorities in Saudi Arabia are fully aware of the objectives and elements of forensic accounting, and whether training and qualifying courses in the forensic accounting field exist. There is disagreement regarding multiple expertise in the field of forensic accounting among governmental agencies. This finding indicates that government sectors lack expertise in forensic accounting, making them fertile environments for corrupt practices.

Table 6: Current State of Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia (N=97)

	Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Maximum	Minimum	Rank
Item 8	Forensic accounting can be applied currently in Saudi Arabia.	3.93	0.88	5	2	1
Item 3	The process toward the existence of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia requires a lot of time to circulate it.	3.9	0.82	5	2	2
Item 4	There are legal consultancy firms that rely on the application of forensic accounting.	3.46	0.92	5	1	3
Item 5	There are legal legislations regarding the importance of including forensic accounting in administrative courts.	3.39	0.85	5	2	4
Item 6	All financial and criminal authorities in Saudi Arabia are fully aware of the objectives and elements of forensic accounting.	2.91	0.99	5	1	5
Item 9	There are many training and qualifying courses in forensic accounting field.	2.61	1.1	5	1	6
Item 7	There is multiple expertise in the field of forensic accounting in governmental agencies.	2.41	0.89	5	1	7
	Grand Mean	3.23				

Source: Authors' own research

As shown in Table (7), the means of the items exploring possible ways to improve forensic accounting range between 4.55 and 3.82, and the grand mean was 4.29. Overall, respondents showed different levels of agreement with all items. They agreed with items 2, 6, and 12 and strongly agreed with the rest of the items.

With corresponding means of 4.04 and 3.94, respectively, surveyed individuals agreed that executives of public funds supervision bodies, financial crimes investigation authorities, and anti-corruption authorities support the existence of a forensic accountant among their employees, and that judges of administrative courts support the existence of forensic accountants in commercial dispute resolution departments and public funds supervision bodies. Whereas most respondents disagreed that the lack of interest in forensic accounting is a significant reason for the existence of financial corruption, they strongly agreed on all other ways that the survey includes for improving forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia to achieve Vision 2030.

Based on the participants' responses, the use of forensic accounting contributes to obtaining benefits and serves the interests of several segments of Saudi society. First, it

increases the confidence of investors, shareholders, and borrowers in obtaining rights. Second, relying on forensic accounting leads to increased efficiency and effectiveness of various supervisory bodies. Third, the existence of forensic accountants in the investigation department of financial crimes leads to an increase in accurate and fair public prosecution regulations directed toward the judiciary. Moreover, the overall results suggest that various supervisory bodies in Saudi Arabia must adopt forensic accounting to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. This should decrease the time and effort required by judges to solve financial disputes because they lack accounting knowledge. Departments that investigate financial crimes need forensic accountants who raise accurate and fair statements of claims to judiciary systems. Among other benefits, respondents concur that the use of forensic accounting provides a source of confidence to investors and creditors in Saudi Arabia in preserving their rights.

Table 7: Part 3: Possible Ways for Improving Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia to Achieve Vision 2030 (N=97)

	Items	Mean	Standard Deviation	Maximum	Minimum	Rank
Item 7	The use of forensic accounting increases the confidence of investors, shareholders and borrowers in obtaining their rights.	4.55	0.56	5	3	1
Item 3	Relying on forensic accounting leads to increased efficiency and effectiveness of various supervisory bodies.	4.49	0.65	5	2	2
Item 1	The existence of forensic accountants in the investigation department of financial crimes leads to raising accurate and fair public prosecution regulations directed to the judiciary.	4.46	0.71	5	2	3
Item 11	The existence of legal rules that rely on forensic accounting helps reduce financial corruption.	4.45	0.65	5	3	4
Item 5	Forensic accounting leads to the availability of counseling expertise in criminal arbitration bodies, that work on the accuracy of the judgment.	4.44	0.59	5	3	5
Item 10	Financial issues need to first be presented to a forensic accountant to obtain their opinion before the litigation process.	4.44	0.77	5	2	6

Source: Authors' own research

Table 7: Part 3: Possible Ways for Improving Forensic Accounting in Saudi Arabia to Achieve Vision 2030 (N=97)

Item 4	Different administrative courts and arbitrators need to have a special department for forensic accounting.	4.31	0.81	5	2	7
Item 8	The application of forensic accounting reduces financial crimes as well as administrative and financial corruption.	4.27	0.83	5	2	8
Item 9	Litigation in financial disputes takes considerable time and efforts as judges have no accounting background.	4.27	0.89	5	2	9
Item 2	Executives of public funds supervision bodies, financial crimes investigation authorities, and anti-corruption authorities support the existence of a forensic accountant among their employees.	4.04	0.85	5	1	10
Item 6	The judges of administrative courts support the existence of forensic accountants in commercial dispute resolution departments and public funds supervision bodies.	3.94	0.83	5	2	11
Item 12	One reason for the existence of financial corruption is the lack of interest in forensic accounting.	3.82	1.04	5	1	12
Grand Mean		4.29				

Source: Authors' own research

5. Discussion

The demand for and importance of forensic accounting is growing in Saudi Arabia. Despite such demands, the supply of these services does not meet expectations. The current state of forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia is low. Various obstacles hinder its application; hence, its implementation requires time. Governmental sectors lack expertise in forensic accounting, making them fertile environments for corrupt practices.

The development of accounting curricula by including forensic accounting may potentially contribute to the nation's fight against corruption, a major objective of Saudi Vision 2030. The knowledge of forensic accounting of the majority of academics, and their ability to differentiate between forensic accounting and external auditing, indicate that accountancy academics have the ability to include forensic accounting courses in accounting curricula. Forensic accounting may be incorporated into accounting curricula in Saudi universities either as separate degree programs or courses at either undergraduate or postgraduate levels. These programs or courses must be developed carefully to meet practical requirements by integrating relevant knowledge and skills to respond to current issues and challenges. Students should join scholarship programs to learn forensic accounting in top universities in this area to develop a strong and sustainable national workforce that is able to spread the gained knowledge and apply it in practice. Certified forensic accountants are required to satisfy the increasing demand for such services in Saudi Arabia.

Policy-makers must consider the notion of charter institutions, such as the Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants, which has several branches globally. In addition, they ought to benefit from American and Canadian experience in developing general standard practices for investigative and forensic accounting engagements. Moreover, the government should pay attention to forensic accounting to control and investigate suspected corrupt actions. Several anti-corruption laws must be enforced and implemented effectively.

6. Conclusion

Saudi Arabia has begun a rigorous movement against corruption. This study investigates the ability of the forensic accounting profession and professional accountants' readiness to conduct forensic inquiries and investigations to fight corruption. It examines the demand for forensic accounting, its current state in Saudi Arabia, and possible ways to improve

it. Approximately 54% of the surveyed individuals were aware of the forensic accounting profession, and their perceptions were considered in this study.

There is an increased demand for forensic accounting in Saudi Arabia to meet the needs of criminal courts with more specialized accountants who combine criminal and legal aspects with accounting knowledge. In addition, the large number of recent financial crimes and the increased number of different cases filed on crime committees and bodies motivated the demand for forensic accounting services. Further, the hiring of accountancy graduates in forensic positions to deal with financial and accounting related matters, the introduction of new judicial regulations and specialty courts, and the occurrence of some major economic events increased the demand for forensic accounting services.

Notwithstanding its importance and increasing demand, forensic accounting faces obstacles to its implementation in Saudi Arabia. The application of such services needs time. There is a lack of knowledge of whether legal legislation regarding the importance of including forensic accounting in administrative courts exists, whether financial and criminal authorities in Saudi Arabia are fully aware of the objectives and elements of forensic accounting, and whether training and qualifying courses in the forensic accounting field exist. Additionally, there is a shortage in skillful forensic accountants in public sectors, which makes them fertile environments for corrupt practices. Several parties, including judges and executives of public fund supervision bodies, financial crime investigation authorities, and anti-corruption authorities, can use these services; however, the supply of such services is inadequate.

Forensic accounting can be improved in Saudi Arabia to achieve Vision 2030 via several means. The inclusion of its services provides assurance to different stakeholders to get their rights, increases the efficiency and effectiveness of various supervisory bodies, and results in precise and fair public prosecution regulations if used in the investigation department of financial crimes. Furthermore, the results indicate that several supervisory bodies in Saudi Arabia should implement forensic accounting to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. This will save judges' time and effort to resolve financial disputes. Investigation of financial crimes requires forensic accountants who are capable to raise accurate and fair statements of claims to judiciary systems.

6.1. Limitation and further research

This study has some limitations, such as the low response rate of some categories in the survey, which raises a risk to generalize from such samples to the intended population. Also, the rapid changes in the Saudi legislative environment required continuous updates on the

information mentioned throughout the research and may result in some obsolete information in the near future.

Forensic accounting research in Saudi Arabia is in its preliminary stages; therefore, further research must be conducted. It is suggested that a similar study be conducted over a longer period and with different data collection and analysis tools. Since Saudi Vision 2030 aims to develop sophisticated digital infrastructure, research ought to further investigate the role of forensic accounting in digital environments and combating cybercrimes.

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Sažetak

Korupcija se javlja kada postoji zloupotreba tekućih resursa za maksimiziranje lične koristi na račun drugih strana, izazivajući finansijske probleme i sprečavajući razvoj ekonomija u nastajanju. Usluge forenzičnog računovodstva koriste finansijske podatke za rješavanje pravnih sporova. Vlada Saudijske Arabije ne toleriše prepreke koje ometaju realizaciju njene ambiciozne Vizije 2030, dugoročnog plana za transformaciju društva i reformu ekonomije. Rat protiv korupcije je uočen u unutrašnjoj politici Saudijske Arabije. Ispituje se da li je profesija forenzičnog računovođe i njihova spremnost i kvalifikovanost za sprovođenje forenzičnih istraživanja i istraga efektivno praćena podrškom vlade. Ova studija istražuje trenutno stanje forenzičnog računovodstva u Saudijskoj Arabiji. Također se istražuju potencijalni načini korištenja sposobnosti forenzičnih računovođa kako bi se Saudijska vizija 2030 ostvarila u vladinoj borbi protiv korupcije. Upitnik je sproveden na uzorku od 181 učesnika, koji se sastoji od računovođa, revizora, sudija, akademskih radnika, zaposlenih u Upravi za nadzor i borbu protiv korupcije, te bilo kojeg nadzornog tijela u Saudijskoj Arabiji. Rezultati pokazuju da 46% ispitanih učesnika nije bilo upoznato sa forenzičnim računovodstvom, što implicira da, uprkos njegovom značaju i potražnji za njegovim uslugama, forenzično računovodstvo je nedovoljno razvijeno u Saudijskoj Arabiji. Stoga se zaključuje da je trenutno stanje forenzičnog računovodstva ispod potrebnog nivoa. Da bi se riješio ovaj problem, forenzično računovodstvo bi trebalo biti uključeno u računovodstvene nastavne planove i programe, računovođe bi trebalo da se pridruže specijalizovanim programima stipendiranja i traže da budu certificirani forenzični računovođe. Kreatori politike moraju razviti krovne institucije i odgovarajuće standarde forenzičnog računovodstva.

Ključne riječi: *forenzično računovodstvo, istraga, Saudijska Arabija, Vizija 2030, korupcija*