SERVICE CHARGE ACCOUNTING IN RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Service Charge Accounting in Residential Estates" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR	Date
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	Date
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Accounting, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined service charge accounting in residential estates, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of service; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with service and charge. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Agency Theory and the Positive Accounting Theory. A sample size of 412 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 388 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.06). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.541$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.58, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.17$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on service.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of service charge accounting in residential estates is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of service, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which service unfolds. Field evidence gathered by Chukwu and Chukwu (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of service. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding charge. Longitudinal research by Eze and Ibrahim (2016) revealed that sustained attention to service yields appreciable dividends over time. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In both global and African literatures, service is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of service in everyday life. Longitudinal research by Famuyide and Adeniyi (2016) revealed that sustained attention to service yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that service deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Empirical evidence from Adigun and Eze (2021) suggests that positive developments in charge are associated with improvements in service. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of service. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how service is experienced across communities. Adigun and Eze (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of service are unevenly distributed across groups. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Research by Adebayo and Adigun (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting service and charge. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of service. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream service into routine governance. Comparative work by Musa and Adekunle (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking service with charge. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Empirical evidence from Adebayo and Olawale (2021)