

**REGULATORY UPDATE** HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GUIDELINES, LETTERS, CIRCULARS AND NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2025





### Dear Esteemed Client,

The Central Bank of Nigeria ("**CBN**"), the Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission ("**FCCPC**"), the Federal Ministry of Works ("**FMoW**"), and the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy ("**FMoCIDE**") issued the following Press Releases, Circulars, and Guidelines in February 2025, containing information and directives for the Banking, Telecommunications and Infrastructure Sectors. We hope that you find the information useful in your operations.

Please find the highlights below:

# CBN EXTENDS FX SALES TO BDCS, MAINTAINS WEEKLY CAP



The CBN has extended the temporary access granted to Bureau de Change (BDC) operators to purchase foreign exchange (FX) from Authorized Dealers in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM).

This temporary access that was initially set to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, is now valid until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

For more information, please refer here:

# CBN REINFORCES FX SALES GUIDELINES FOR BDCS, TIGHTENS OVERSIGHT

The CBN issued a circular to extend and clarify its policy on foreign exchange (FX) sales to BDC operators. Under this new policy, Authorized Dealers are required to sell FX at the prevailing NFEM rate, while BDCs are restricted to a maximum resale margin of 1% of the buying rate. The policy also introduced stricter reporting requirements for both Authorized Dealers and BDCs by mandating daily sales reporting and mandatory Bank Verification Number (BVN) verification for all transactions.

For more information, please refer <u>here</u>:

#### **CBN REVISES ATM FEES TO BOOST EFFICIENCY**

The CBN issued a circular reviewing the transaction fees charged on Automated Teller Machines (ATM). Under the new policy, debit card transactions on the same bank ("On-Us") remain free. Debit card transactions on different banks ("Not-On-Us") withdrawals will incur a \$100 charge, plus an additional surcharge of up to \$500 for off-site ATMs per \$20,000 withdrawal. International withdrawals will be charged by the acquiring institution. The previous three free monthly "Not-On-Us" withdrawals have been discontinued.

For more information, please refer here:

# CBN CLARIFIES DORMANT ACCOUNT PUBLICATION RULES

The CBN issued a circular clarifying the information that banks and other financial institutions must publish regarding dormant accounts. This clarification addresses concerns about the publications not complying with the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 ("NDPA"). Only the account name, type, bank name, and branch location need to be published on websites and annually in two national daily newspapers or on the premises of the State and Unit Microfinance Banks.

For more information, please refer here:



### CBN REASSURES PUBLIC ON KEYSTONE BANK STABILITY AMID SHARE FORFEITURE

The CBN issued a press release assuring the public that Keystone Bank remains stable and fully operational and depositors' funds are safe. This comes off the back of a court order forfeiting Keystone Bank's shares to the Federal Government. The CBN has been closely monitoring the bank's operations since taking over its management in January 2024 as it seeks to protect depositors, staff, and stakeholders, ensuring the bank's continued stability and service delivery.

For more information, please refer here:

### FCCPC SUES MULTICHOICE FOR DEFYING PRICE HIKE DIRECTIVE



The FCCPC has taken legal action against MultiChoice Nigeria and its Chief Executive Officer for

unilaterally increasing its subscription fees. MultiChoice implemented a price increase for DStv and GOtv despite an FCCPC directive to suspend the hike pending an investigation. The FCCPC accuses MultiChoice of obstructing their inquiry and undermining consumer protection.

For more information, please refer here:

# FCCPC WINS JURISDICTION OVER TELECOMS IN LANDMARK RULING

A Federal High Court has affirmed the FCCPC authority to regulate competition and consumer protection in the telecommunications sector. This ruling clarifies that the FCCPC's mandate extends across all sectors, including telecoms, superseding any conflicting provisions in the Nigerian Communications Act. The court emphasized that both the FCCPC and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) share concurrent jurisdiction in the telecoms industry, ensuring a collaborative approach to protecting consumers and promoting fair competition. This decision strengthens the FCCPC's role in safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring a level playing field in the telecommunications market.

For more information, please refer <u>here</u>:

## MINISTRIES UNITE TO PROTECT FIBER OPTIC CABLES DURING ROAD PROJECTS



The Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy have established a Joint Standing Committee on the Protection of Fiber Optic Cables to address the persistent issue of fiber optic cuts and damages caused by road construction and rehabilitation activities. This initiative aims to reduce service disruptions across Nigeria, addressing the over 50,000 fiber cut incidents reported last year, with 30,000 attributed to roadworks. The committee will establish communication channels, set industry standards, and ensure that fiber cable placement is considered in road project planning. The move seeks to prevent costly repairs and network outages, allowing telecom operators to focus on network expansion and improved services. The committee's efforts are seen as crucial to supporting Nigeria's digital economy and ensuring seamless broadband connectivity.

For more information, please refer here:



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