



REGULATORY UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GUIDELINES, LETTERS, CIRCULARS AND **NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED IN APRIL 2025**

! LAGOS | ABUJA | CALABAR









Dear Esteemed Client,

The Central Bank of Nigeria ("CBN"), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Corporate Affairs Commission ("CAC"), the Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission ("FCCPC"), the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency ("NIMASA"), the National Identity Management Commission ("NIMC"), the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission ("FCCPC"), the Nigerian Immigration Services ("NIS"), the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria ("FAAN"), the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control ("NAFDAC"), and the Nigerian Copyrights Commission ("NCC"), issued the following Press Releases, Circulars, and Guidelines in April 2025, containing information and directives for the Banking, Technology, Maritime, Aviation, and Healthcare Sectors, as well as the general public. We hope that you find the information useful in your operations.

Please find the highlights below:

CBN SIMPLIFIES DOCUMENTATION FOR PAN-AFRICAN PAYMENT & SETTLEMENT SYSTEM ("PAPSS") TRANSACTIONS

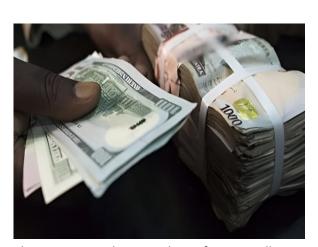


The CBN issued a circular introducing measures to streamline PAPSS transactions. Individuals and corporations can now use basic Know Your Customer ("KYC") and Anti-Money Laundering ("AML")

for transactions up to \$2,000 and \$5,000, respectively. However, transactions exceeding these thresholds will continue to require full documentation as detailed in the CBN Foreign Exchange Manual. The new framework also permits Authorised Dealer Banks ("ADBs") to source foreign exchange for PAPSS settlements directly from the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market, rather than relying on the CBN.

For more information, please refer here:

CBN TO CONDUCT MYSTERY SHOPPING FOR BUREAU DE CHANGE OPERATORS ("BDC") COMPLIANCE



The CBN issued a circular informing all BDC operators about upcoming mystery shopping exercises. These exercises will involve anonymous testers assessing BDCs' adherence to Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Terrorist Financing and Counter-Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) measures. The focus will be on customer identification, KYC guidelines, and the reporting of suspicious transactions. The CBN has cautioned that non-compliance could result in significant penalties, including fines and license revocation.

For more information, please refer here:



SEC ALERTS THE PUBLIC TO UNREGISTERED INVESTMENT SCHEMES



The SEC issued a public advisory regarding CBEX (Crypto Bridge Exchange) and its affiliates, clarifying that they are not registered to operate in Nigeria's

capital market. SEC will, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, take action against CBEX and its promoters, in accordance with the Investments and Securities Act 2025. The regulator also raised concerns about TOFRO.COM ("Tofro"), an online platform suspected of being a fraudulent ponzi scheme and unauthorised to solicit investments in Nigeria.

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

CAC SETS REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR BUSINESSES

The CAC issued a public notice urging unregistered businesses operating in Nigeria to regularise their status within a six-week deadline for compliance, or risk potential sanctions. According to this notice, all businesses are now required to display their registered name and registration number on all official communications and publications. This directive applies to all entities, including those using unregistered names or acronyms, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, and registered companies.

For more information, please refer here:

THE NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY ("NIMASA") ENDORSES KEY AMENDMENTS TO THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION 2006 ("MLC")

The NIMASA endorsed key amendments to eight codes of the MLC, showing its commitment to better welfare and rights for seafarers. These key changes focus on protecting seafarers from discrimination; formally recognising them as key workers; enhancing their access to shore-based welfare facilities; and addressing shipboard violence, harassment, and bullying. The amendments also include improvements to accommodation and recreational facilities onboard vessels.

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

THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ("NIMC") ANNOUNCES INCREASED FEES FOR NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (NIN) SERVICES



The NIMC announced an upcoming increase in the fees for all its services and products, including modifications

to the NIN database. The new pricing structure will be issued over the next few weeks and will be made available on the Commission's website. This adjustment follows years of unchanged service costs and aims to align with industry standards and current operational expenses. The NIMC has directed all Front-End Partners ("FEPs") to strictly adhere to the revised fee schedule.

For more information, please refer here



FCCPC TRIBUNAL UPHOLDS \$220 MILLION FINE AGAINST META AND WHATSAPP LLC FOR DATA PRIVACY VIOLATIONS



The FCCPC Tribunal affirmed a USD220 million fine against Meta Platforms Inc. and WhatsApp

LLC., having found that the companies violated Nigeria's data protection and consumer rights laws by sharing Nigerian users' data without their consent and denying them control over their personal information, treating them unfairly compared to users elsewhere. Following an investigation that began in May 2021, the FCCPC determined breaches of the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) regulations and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA). Despite Meta's appeal, the Tribunal upheld the penalty, ordering the company to cease unauthorised data sharing and comply with Nigerian data protection standards.

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

THE NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE ("NIS") EXTENDS CONTACTLESS PASSPORT RENEWAL TO MORE COUNTRIES

The NIS expanded its Contactless Biometric Passport Application System to the United States, Mexico, Jamaica, and Brazil. This initiative will allow Nigerians in these countries to renew their passports without in-person visits for biometric data capture. They can also utilise the NIS Mobile App, currently available on the Google Play Store, with an Apple Store version coming soon. This move aims to simplify the passport renewal process for Nigerians living abroad.

For more information, please refer here:

NIMASA TO DISBURSE \$700 MILLION CABOTAGE FUND BY AUGUST 2025

The NIMASA announced the disbursement of the long-awaited Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF), now valued at \$700 million, by August 2025. Although streamlined guidelines are to be introduced to enable shipowners to access the funds within three to four months, NIMASA has appointed twelve Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to manage the disbursement. Under the funding regime, only shipping companies with the capacity to trade and repay will be considered, with banks conducting initial risk assessments. The agency is also advocating for single-digit interest rates and a repayment period of up to 20 years to support the competitiveness of Nigerian shipping companies.

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

THE FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA ("FAAN") ELIMINATES PHYSICAL LUGGAGE CHECKS AT LAGOS AIRPORT WITH ADVANCED SCANNERS

The FAAN has discontinued physical luggage screening for international flights at both terminals of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) in Lagos. This upgrade follows the installation of advanced Rapiscan screening machines and surveillance systems. The new technology aims to expedite security checks, with physical searches now limited to instances where the Rapiscan systems flag suspicious items. Four high-capacity scanners capable of detecting drugs, concealed currency, and prohibited items have been deployed. Surveillance monitors linked to a central system will also aid border control agencies.

For more information, please refer here:



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES BISONFLY PROJECT TO REDUCE FEDERAL AIR TRAVEL COSTS

The Federal Government has launched the BisonFly Project, a technology-driven program aimed at optimising air travel costs for the Federal Civil Service. The initiative, spearheaded by the Federal Ministry of Finance, will establish a centralised, technology-enabled system to secure discounted rates for air travel across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). This system will integrate digital booking tools and platforms to ensure transparency and efficiency in official travel arrangements, with an expected launch in the coming months.

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

NAFDAC TO IMPLEMENT BIOEQUIVALENCE FOR QUALITY GENERIC MEDICINES

The NAFDAC has announced a mandatory implementation of bioequivalence ("BE") studies in ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of generic drugs in Nigeria, making them interchangeable with innovator brands. BE confirm that studies generics provide comparable therapeutic effects, promoting public health by reducing substandard medicines and fostering trust in the pharmaceutical industry. To facilitate compliance, NAFDAC has issued comprehensive regulations and guidelines, including a specific Note to Industry for Contract Research Organisations (CROs). The agency is also investing in capacity building for staff and stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.

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

THE NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ("NCC") INTRODUCES NEW REGULATIONS TO STRENGTHEN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The NCC introduced two new legislations to bolster its intellectual property framework, including the Collective Management Regulations, 2025, which will enhance accountability and good governance within Collective Management Organisations ("CMOs"). Additionally, the Proceeds of Crime (Designation of Nigerian Copyright Commission as a Relevant Organisation) Order, 2025, designates the NCC as a relevant organisation under the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022. This designation will empower the Commission to improve its efforts in battling copyright infringement investigations and prosecutions, particularly concerning online piracy.

For more information, please refer here:

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