Nigeria

Current as of May 2014

Comments related to any information in this note should be addressed to India Adams.

Table of Contents

I. Summary
  A. Types of Organizations
  B. Tax Laws
II. Applicable Laws
III. Relevant Legal Forms
  A. General Legal Forms
  B. Public Benefit Status
IV. Specific Questions Regarding Local Law
  A. Inurement
  B. Proprietary Interest
  C. Dissolution
  D. Activities
  E. Discrimination
  F. Control of Organization
V. Tax Laws
  A. Approved List of Taxes
  B. Tax Exemptions
  C. Deductibility of Donations to Nigerian NPOs by Individuals and Corporations Based in Nigeria
  D. Value Added Tax
  E. Double Tax Treaties
  F. Personal Income Tax
  G. Money Laundering
VI. Knowledgeable Contact

I. Summary

A. Types of Organizations

Nigeria is a Federal Republic. The country's legal system is based on the English legal tradition. The law governing voluntary not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) in Nigeria is a product of English common law. Statutory law governs the creation of companies limited by guarantee. Other NPOs, such as unincorporated associations, charitable trusts, cooperatives, friendly societies, political parties, and trade unions also exist in Nigeria. Because cooperatives, friendly societies, and trade unions are mutual benefit organizations, they will not be discussed further in this Note, nor will the Note address political parties. Rather, the Note will focus on:

- Associations with incorporated trustees; and
- Companies limited by guarantee.

B. Tax Laws

Nigerian companies are taxed under the Companies Income Tax Act (CITA). CITA exempts from tax the profits of companies engaged in certain public benefit activities, so long as the profits are not derived from trade or a business undertaking. Profits of companies established to promote sporting activities are also exempt. Nigerian companies may make tax-deductible donations to certain public benefit organizations that are listed in the Fifth Schedule to CITA. Donations made by individuals, on the other hand, are not tax deductible. Companies limited by guarantee are subject to a value added tax (VAT).

II. Applicable Laws

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999
- Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA)
- Companies Income Tax Act (CITA)
- Criminal Code Act
- Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act 1998
- Value Added Tax Act 1993
- VAT Amendment Act 2007
- Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2007
- Personal Income Tax Act 2004
- Personal Income Tax (Amendment) Act 2011
- Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2011
- Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) 2011
- Companies Income Tax (Exemption of Profits) Order 2012

III. Relevant Legal Forms

A. General Legal Forms

Association with Incorporated Trustees

An association of persons, which appoints one or more trustees and pursues registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), is called an association with incorporated trustees. Upon registration, the trustee or trustees become a body corporate and has/have perpetual succession as well as the power to sue and be sued on behalf of the association. There are essentially two forms of associations with incorporated trustees. The first form occurs where the trustees are appointed by any community of persons bound together by customs, religion, kinship or nationality. The second form is identified by the fact that the trustees are appointed by any body or association of persons established for any religious, educational, literary, scientific, social, development, cultural, sporting, or charitable purpose. [CAMA §673]

Individuals not qualified to be appointed as trustees include infants, persons of unsound mind, those who have undischarged bankruptcies and persons convicted of any offence involving dishonesty within a period of five years of the proposed appointment. [CAMA §675] In addition, the Corporate Affairs Commission, which oversees the registration of incorporated trustees, requires that individuals applying for incorporation as trustees undergo a police background check.

Company Limited by Guarantee

A company limited by guarantee is formed for the promotion of commerce, art, science, religion, sports, culture, education, research, charity, or other similar objects. The income and property of the company is applied solely towards the promotion of its objects. No portion of the company's income or property may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the members of the company except as permitted by the CAMA. [CAMA §26(1)]

Common Law Charitable Trust

The unincorporated charitable trust formed under traditional common law rules also exists in Nigeria. A trust may be formed by the settlor *inter vivos* or by testamentary will.

Because the charitable trust is a generic creature of the common law, rather than of specific Nigerian statutory law, it will not be discussed further in this Note.

Unincorporated Association

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states that "Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to … any association for the protection of his interests." [Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria §40] Thus, with certain derogations, (i.e., those contained in §45 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria) people may come together to form unincorporated associations. Such unincorporated associations are not eligible for tax benefits. Because the information relevant to making an equivalency determination will necessarily be contained in the governing documents of each unincorporated association, these types of associations will not be discussed further in this Note.

B. Public Benefit Status

Nigeria does not grant a special public benefit status to organizations that engage in public benefit activities. However, the public benefit character of certain organizations that engage in public benefit activities is recognized through the grant of tax preferences (please refer to Section V(B) below).

IV . Specific Questions Regarding Local Law

A. Inurement

Association with Incorporated Trustees

No portion of the income and property of a body or an association with incorporated trustees may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise to the members of the association. [CAMA §686(1)] Associations with incorporated trustees may pay their employees reasonable remuneration for services rendered. [CAMA §686(2)]

Active members of the managing council or governing board of an association with incorporated trustees may not take within the organization a salaried position or any other position that is paid by fees. [CAMA §686(2)(a)] Members of the managing/governing bodies may, however, be reimbursed for expenses

incurred in connection with the work of the association and be paid a reasonable rent for properties leased to the organization. [CAMA §686(2)(b)]

Company Limited by Guarantee

No portion of the income and property of a company limited by guarantee may be paid or distributed, directly or indirectly, to its members except as permitted under the CAMA. [CAMA §26(1)] A company limited by guarantee may not have as its object carrying on business for the purpose of making profits for distribution to its members. [CAMA §26(4)] The CAMA makes the carrying on of business for the purpose of distributing profits an offense punishable by a fine. [CAMA §26(5)] Any provision in the memorandum or articles, or any resolution of the company purporting to give any person a right to participate in the divisible profits of the company other than as a member is void. [CAMA §26(3)]

B. Proprietary Interest

Association with Incorporated Trustees

Upon incorporation, the property of the association vests in the trustees. [CAMA §679(2)] The trustees of the association acquire, hold, and dispose of the property of the association for the purposes of the association. [CAMA §679(1)] The powers vested in the trustees are exercised subject to the directions of the association or its governing council. [CAMA §685]

Company Limited by Guarantee

A company limited by guarantee does not issue shares [CAMA §26(2)], and so does not create ownership rights in any persons, legal or natural. A company in which persons may be granted a proprietary interest will be designated as a 'company limited by shares' or an 'unlimited company.' [CAMA §21(1)] Any provision in the memorandum, articles, or any resolution of the company that purports to divide the company's undertaking into shares or interests is void. [CAMA §26(3)]

C. Dissolution

Association with Incorporated Trustees

Upon dissolution, an association with incorporated trustees must transfer any property remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities to other institutions having similar objects. These institutions will be determined by the members of the association at or before the time of dissolution. [CAMA §691(4)] No property may be paid to or distributed among the members of the association. [Id.] If, for some reason, the remaining property cannot be transferred to institutions with similar objects, the remaining property will be transferred to "some charitable object." [CAMA §691(5)]

Company Limited by Guarantee

Upon dissolution, a company limited by guarantee must transfer any property remaining after the discharge of all its debts and liabilities to another company limited by guarantee with similar objects, or must apply the remaining property to some charitable object. [CAMA §26(10)] The company or charity receiving the property must be determined by the members prior to dissolution. [Id.] None of the property remaining after a company limited by guarantee discharges its debts and liabilities may be distributed among its members. [Id.]

D. Activities

1.General Activities

Association with Incorporated Trustees

The application for the registration of an association of incorporated trustees must state the aims and objectives of the association, which must be for the advancement of any purpose that is:

- religious,
- educational,
- literary,
- scientific,
- social,
- development,
- cultural,
- sporting, or
- charitable.

[CAMA §674(1)(b)]

Company Limited by Guarantee

A company limited by guarantee is established to promote:

- commerce,
- art,
- science,
- religion,
- sports,
- culture,
- education,
- research,
- charity, or
- other similar objects.

[CAMA §26(1)]

It is important to note that the Nigerian Criminal Code Act, which is applicable in the southern states of Nigeria, prohibits certain societies as unlawful, based on their activities. Societies of persons are unlawful if formed for any of the following purposes:

- levying war or encouraging or assisting any person to levy war on the Government or the inhabitants of any part of Nigeria;
- killing or injuring or encouraging the killing or injuring of any person;
- destroying or injuring or encouraging the destruction or injuring of any property;
- subverting or promoting the subversion of the Government or its officials;
- committing or inciting to acts of violence or intimidation;

- interfering with, or resisting, or encouraging interference with or resistance to the administration of the law; or
- disturbing or encouraging the disturbance of peace and order in any part of Nigeria.

In addition, a society will be deemed unlawful if declared by an order of the President to be a society dangerous to the good government of Nigeria or of any part thereof. [See Criminal Code Act §62]

2. Public Benefit Activities

The activities listed in the Companies Income Tax Act that for purposes of tax exemption and deductibility of donations are considered to be of public benefit are activities that:

- are ecclesiastical,
- are charitable,
- are educational, or
- promote sports.

[CITA §§19(1)(c) and (d)]

3. Economic Activities

Association with Incorporated Trustees

An association with incorporated trustees may engage in economic activities. There is no statutory provision that prevents it from doing business directly or through a for-profit subsidiary. Income derived from economic activities is subject to tax at the regular rate. There are no tax rules that distinguish between commercial or economic activities related or unrelated to the core objects of the association.

Company Limited by Guarantee

A company limited by guarantee may not be incorporated with the object of carrying out business for the purpose of making profits for distribution to its members. [CAMA §26(4)] In addition, §26 (1) of CAMA, requires that a company limited by guarantee apply its income and property "solely towards the promotion of its objects," which must be the promotion of "commerce, art, science, religion, sport, culture, education, research, charity or other similar objects."

4. Political Activities

There is no statutory prohibition that prevents Nigerian NPOs from engaging in advocacy or from endorsing candidates for public office. It seems possible that the provisions of §62 of the Criminal Code Act [See above at IV(D)(1) describing unlawful societies] could be used to prohibit some organizations from engaging in political activities. Companies limited by guarantee may not directly or indirectly make a donation of property or funds to a political party or association for any political purposes. [CAMA §38(2)]

E. Discrimination

Section 15(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) prohibits discrimination on the basis of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties. Furthermore, the Constitution states that every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law. [Constitution §17(2)(a)] The Constitution requires the government to direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. [Constitution §18(1)] The

government shall provide free, compulsory and universal primary education where practicable. [Constitution §18(3)(a)]

At the same time, the rights enumerated above are non-justiciable. Moreover, they apply only to state actors and do not apply to private or non-governmental entities.

F. Control of Organization

In general, no restriction exists on the control of not-for-profit organizations by other organizations or persons. It is possible that a Nigerian NPO may be controlled by a for-profit entity or by a foreign grantor.

V. T ax Laws

A. Approved List of Taxes

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act 1998 No. 21 ("Approved List of Taxes Law") is the most comprehensive and authoritative legislation on taxes that can be collected by each level of government - i.e., Federal, State, or Local Government - in Nigeria. [1]

B. Tax Exemptions

In Nigeria, certain types of income are exempt from income tax. Exempt income includes:

- the profits of any company [2] engaged in ecclesiastical, charitable, or educational activities of a public character in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such company; and
- the profits of any company formed for the purpose of promoting sporting activities where such profits are wholly expendable for such purpose. [CITA §23(1)(c) and (d)]

Companies limited by guarantee may also apply to the President for an order exempting them from all or any profits from any source. [CITA §23(2)] The President issued the Companies Income Tax (Exemption of Profits) Order (2012) pursuant to his authority under § 23(2) of the CITA. The Order, which shall be in force for a period of five years (until 2017), specifies three categories of tax relief as follows:

§1 (1) - Employment Tax Relief (ETR): ETR entitles employers who employ recent graduates and satisfy other criteria to an income tax exemption of 5% of its assessable profits or the amount of the gross salaries paid to the qualifying employees (whichever is lesser).

§1(3) - Work Experience Acquisition Programme Relief (WEAPR)**:** An employer with a minimum net employment of five new employees; who retains them for a minimum of two years is entitled to WEAPR. WEAPR affords such employer an income tax exemption of 5% of its assessable profits at the end of the second year of employment of the affected employees.

§3 (1) - Infrastructure Tax Relief (ITR): 30% of the cost incurred by Nigerian Companies in the provision of infrastructures or facilities of a public nature is now exempted from income tax.

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) issued guidelines stating that:

All NPOs are expected to register with the nearest Integrated Tax Office (ITO) of FIRS with the following documents:

i) A copy of registration certificate issued by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
ii) Certified copy of Memorandum or Constitution, Rules and Regulations governing the NPO;
iii) List and Profiles of the Trustees/Board Members nominated; one of the Trustees/Board member must be a serving government official from relevant MDA responsible for the activity of the NPO;
iv) Copy of the current Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) of each of the Trustees. [Paragraph 5 of the *Guidelines On The Tax Exemption Status Of Non-Governmental Organisations* issued on August 27, 2010, pursuant to Section 8(1)(t) of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2007].

Paragraph 6 of the *Guidelines* stipulates that in line with section 55 of CITA, it is mandatory for every NPO to file a tax return every year at the ITO where it was registered. An NPO seeking clarification on its tax exemption status can direct its inquiry the ITO where it was registered. [*Guidelines at* Para 7.1]

C. Deductibility of Donations to Nigerian NPOs by Individuals and Corporations Based in Nigeria

The laws of Nigeria do not provide for the deductibility of donations made by individuals to Nigerian NPOs.

Companies are taxed at a rate of 30%. A tax benefit, in the form of an allowable deduction, is available to any Nigerian company that makes a donation to certain Nigerian funds and institutions. Specifically, the amount of any donation made by a company to any of the Nigerian funds and institutions specified in the Fifth Schedule of CITA may be deducted. The amount of the deduction for any year of assessment may not exceed 10% of the total profits for the company during that year. [CITA §25(3)] The Council of Ministers may alter this limitation on the amount of the deduction by order in the Federal Gazette. [CITA §25(3)]

Institutions to which tax deductible donations may be made include the ecclesiastical, charitable, benevolent, educational and scientific institutions, established in Nigeria, which are specified in the Fifth Schedule to the Companies Income Tax Act. [CITA 23(1)(c)]

The Finance Minister is empowered to amend the listing in the Schedule "in any manner whatsoever." [CITA §25(6)] On December 12, 2011, the Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance exercised this power using Order No. 1 of 2011 to amend the Fifth Schedule to CITA. Numbers 35-42 were added to the list of institutions to which tax deductible donations may be made. As a result, any donation made to institutions, bodies or funds engaged in the following broad categories of activities will now be tax deductible provided that such organizations are not set up for the purpose of profits or gains to individual members of the society or associations:

1. Promotion or defense of human rights;
2. Women empowerment and development;
3. Re-orientation, rehabilitation, welfare support service for orphans, widows, physically challenged, refugees and all categories of persons that may require social or economic rehabilitation and transformation;
4. Youth empowerment and development;
5. Leadership and resource development;
6. Promotion of national unity and patriotism;

7. Promotion of social and economic development;
8. Accident prevention and control activities;
9. Information system development and awareness;
10. Creation of awareness for transparency in governance and electoral processes;
11. Promotion of national unity and patriotism;
12. Museum development and promotion of sports, arts and culture;
13. Rendering assistance in the provision of safe water, electricity, infrastructure and agricultural development; and
14. Any professional body established under an Act of the National Assembly for the regulation and practice of the profession. [3]

D. Value Added Tax

In 1993, VAT was introduced in Nigeria; the current rate is 5%. [4] Nigerian NPOs are not exempt from payment of VAT. However, VAT will not be assessed on the provision of certain goods and services, including:

- medical and pharmaceutical products;
- basic food items;
- books and educational materials;
- baby products;
- commercial vehicles and commercial vehicle parts;
- fertilizer, agricultural and veterinary medicine, farming machinery and farming transportation equipment;
- all exports;
- medical services;
- services rendered by Community Banks, People's Bank and Mortgage Institutions;
- plays and performances conducted by educational institutions as part of learning;
- all exported services;
- plant and machinery imported for use in the Export Processing Zone;
- plant, machinery and equipment purchased for utilization of gas in downstream petroleum operations; and
- tractors, ploughs and agricultural equipment and implements purchased for agricultural purposes. [Value Added Tax Act 1993 §3 and Schedule] [Value Added Tax Act and Schedule, as amended]

E. Double Tax Treaties

No double taxation treaty exists between the United States and Nigeria.

F. Personal Income Tax

Personal Income Tax that is charged on the income of an individual, community, family, trusts etc. (other than a company) is regulated by the Personal Income Tax Act 2004.

The Personal Income Tax (Amendment) Act was assented to by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the June 14, 2011 and publicized on the December 12, 2011.

Some of the major changes introduced by the Personal Income Tax (Amendment) Act 2011 include:

- Introduction of Consolidated Relief Allowance (CRA)§ 33 [5]
- Subjection of temporary/contract staff to taxation under PITA §. 3(1)b: [6]
- Changes in the rules for taxation of non-resident individuals§. 10(1) [7]
- Stiffer penalties for non-compliance with provisions of PITA –§. 47(3), 49(3), 52(1), 81(1) etc. [8]
- New PAYE filing requirement for employers and change in due date for filing of annual returns – §.81 [9]
- Introduction of new personal income tax rates §34 (3) [Sixth Schedule] [10]

G. Money Laundering

The Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is now charged with monitoring, supervising and regulating the activities of Designated Non-Financial Institutions (DNFIs) in line with the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act ML(P)Act 2011 and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) 2011.

Section 25 of the ML(P) Act defines DNFIs as dealers in jewelry, cars and luxury goods, chartered accountants, audit firms, tax consultants, clearing and settlement companies, legal practitioners, hotels, casinos, supermarkets, or such other businesses as the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment or appropriate regulatory authorities may from time to time designate.

In line with Section 25 above, NPOs are now required to register and cooperate with SCUML guided by the following: Registration is free but compulsory; and NPOs are to report their financial transactions in excess of the statutory threshold of $1,000 cash transaction.

VI. Knowledgeable Contact

Ayo Adebusoye: ayo.nnngo@gmail.com

Footnotes

[1] The list of taxes and levies for collection by the three tiers of government, as approved and published by the Joint Tax Board (J.T.B.), includes, but is not limited to:

1. Taxes collectible by the Federal Government:
    - Companies income tax;
    - Withholding tax on companies;
    - Petroleum Profit Tax;
    - Value-added Tax (VAT);
    - Education tax;
    - Capital-gains tax - Abuja residents and corporate bodies;
    - Stamp duties involving a corporate entity;
    - Personal income tax in respect of:
        - armed forces personnel;
        - police personnel;
        - residents of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;
        - external affairs officers; and,
        - non-residents.
2. Taxes/Levies collectible by state governments:
    - Personal income tax;

        - ⟦ Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE);
        - ⟦ direct (self and government) assessment;
        - ⟦ withholding tax (individuals only);
    - Capital gains tax;
    - Stamp duties (instruments executed by individuals);
    - Pools betting, lotteries, gaming and casino taxes;
    - Road taxes;
    - Business premises registration and renewal levy;
        - ⟦ urban areas (as defined by each state);
        - ⟦ rural areas;
        - ⟦ registration Nigerian Naira (NGN) 2,000 per annum (approximately $13);
        - ⟦ renewal NGN 1,000 per annum;
    - Development levy (individuals only) not more than NGN 100 per annum on all taxable individuals;
    - Naming of street registration fee in state capitals;
    - Right of occupancy fees in state capitals;
    - Rates in markets where state finances are involved.
3. Taxes/Levies collectible by local governments:
    - Shops and kiosk rates;
    - Tenement rates;
    - On and off liquor license;
    - Slaughter slab fees;
    - Marriage, birth, and death registration fees;
    - Naming of street registration fee (excluding street capitals);
    - Right of occupancy fees (excluding state capitals);
    - Market/motor park fees (excluding market where state finance are involved);
    - Domestic animal license;
    - Bicycle, truck, canoe, wheelbarrow, and cart fees;
    - Cattle tax;
    - Merriment and road closure fees;
    - Radio/television (other than radio/television transmitter) licenses and vehicle radio license (to be imposed by the local government in which the car is registered);
    - Wrong parking charges;
    - Public convenience, sewage, and refuse disposal fees;
    - Customary, burial ground, and religious places permits; and,
    - Signboard/advertisement permit.

[Parts I, II, and III of the Schedule to the Approved List of Taxes Law]

Legal challenges on the taxing powers of the various tiers of government, especially with respect to which tier of the government has the authority to charge and collect value added tax (VAT), lottery, and gaming fees licenses, etc., are pending in some courts of law.

Of note, Section 8(q) of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2007 enjoins the FIRS to issue a unique taxpayer identification number (TIN) to every company, enterprise, and individual. A Federal Government order contained in the government notice on the Value Added Tax Act 1993 dated May 25, 2007 also ordered all current existing bank account holders to have a TIN. The use of TIN became mandatory February 1, 8 for all taxpayers dealing with FIRS and for the payment of taxes to all Collecting Banks.

[2] For purposes of the CITA, the term ‘company’ means any company or corporation (other than a "corporation sole") established by or under any law in force in Nigeria or elsewhere. Therefore, it appears that only not-for-profit organizations established as companies limited by guarantee or associations with incorporated trustees (the trustees of which are a body corporate) will be entitled to tax exemption under CITA §§23(1) (c) and (d) or §23(2). Because the tax exemption is only available to companies, not-for-

profit organizations such as charitable trusts formed under the common law and unincorporated associations are not eligible to receive tax exemption.

[3] The recently launched National Tax Policy makes tax waivers/incentives broad-based rather than for selected organizations as was the case prior to the amendment of the schedule.

[4] The Value Added Tax Act 1993 set Nigeria's VAT rate at 5%. The VAT Amendment Act 2007 removed the fixed rate of 5% and gave the Minister of Finance the power to determine the VAT rate. The Minister of Finance exercised the authority granted and raised the VAT rate to 10%. The Minister of Finance later rescinded his decision, and the rate reverted to 5%.

[5] Personal relief granted in the Principal Act under the old §.33 has been abrogated, while a consolidated relief allowance (CRA) in lieu of it has now been introduced under the new §.33.

A taxable person is now entitled to the higher of a consolidated relief allowance of N200,000 or 1% of gross income plus 20% of the gross income, with the balance taxable in accordance with the revised graduated income tax rates

This is an improvement on the provisions in the principal Act of personal allowance of N5,000 plus 20% of earned income, with earned income having a definition of gross income in the main Act and basic salary under the subsidiary PAYE regulations.

[6] The PIT (Amendment) Act has now brought temporary employees or contract staff otherwise known as "casual staff" into the Personal Income Tax net, effectively eliminating the argument that had persisted under the principal Act on the applicability of the PITA/PAYE to temporary or contract staff who do not hold employment letters issued by their employers.

Companies which make use of the services of casual workers; which employees are not on their payroll, may not be able to escape the PAYE tax net any longer with this amendment.

[7] The (Amendment) Act has introduced more stringent rules in the taxation of non-resident individuals by amending the conditions for determining liability to tax in Nigeria. The changes are:

- expatriates working in Nigeria on behalf of a Non-Nigerian employer but whose remuneration are borne by a fixed base in Nigeria are now liable to tax in Nigeria;

- including the days spent on annual leave or temporary periods of absence in the calculation of the 183 days residency rule qualifying non-residents for tax exemption in Nigeria (It would be pertinent to find out how wide Revenue Authorities' interpretation of the term 'temporary' would be); and

- limiting the recognition of the tax paid by the non-resident only to taxes paid in countries that have double taxation treaties with Nigeria.

[8] The Principal Act made provision for fines of N5,000 for corporate bodies and N500 for individuals.

Under the (Amendment) Act this has been increased to N500,000 for corporate entities and N50,000 for individuals.

It is worthy of note that the infringements mentioned in these sections clearly give rise to criminal liabilities, as they specify that the fines and penalties are to be imposed on conviction of the offenders.

[9] Under the Principal Act, employers had no formal tax filing obligation, thus making compliance monitoring difficult. The provision under §.41 of PITA, strictly speaking, put the obligation on private individuals to file their Personal Income Tax Returns on or before March 30 of every year.

This has now changed as the PIT (Amendment)Act has now made it a legal requirement for every employer of labor to file PAYE returns not later than January 31 of every year; showing all the emoluments paid to its staff in the preceding year.

[10] The PIT (Amendment) Act now provides for new tax rates as follows.

first N300,000 @ 7%

next N300,000 @ 11%

next N500,000 @ 15%

next N500,000 @ 19%

next N1,600,000 @21%

above N3,200,000@ 24 %