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The ALP Review

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
AND PUBLIC SECTOR



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Tariff Increase in Telecommunication Sector

In January 2025, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) approved a 30% increase in telecommunications tariffs, responding to operator's requests amid rising operational costs. This adjustment was deemed necessary to bridge the gap between current tariffs and escalating expenses, as tariffs have remained unchanged since 2013.

The tariff hike affects various services as outlined below:

- **Voice Calls:** The cost per minute increased from ₦11 to ₦14.50.
- **Data Services:** A 1GB data bundle rose from ₦287.50 to ₦371.25.
- **SMS:** Charges per message went up from ₦4 to ₦6.

Despite initial protests, the telecom industry is navigating the implementation of the new tariffs, with operators like MTN and Airtel beginning phased rollouts.

The Nigeria Revenue Service Bill

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu proposed four executive bills aimed at implementing tax reform in Nigeria, including the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS) Bill, which seeks to repeal the Federal Inland Revenue Act 2007 and overhaul the nation's revenue collection framework. The NRS Bill aims to transform the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) into the Nigeria Revenue Service, reflecting a broader role in revenue administration and enhancing collaboration with subnational governments.

A significant aspect of the proposal is the consolidation of revenue collection functions. Currently, multiple agencies, including the Nigeria Customs Service and the Nigerian Ports Authority, have revenue collection roles. The NRS Bill proposes to centralize these functions within the NRS, thereby reducing redundancies and enhancing efficiency. President Tinubu reiterated the benefits of the proposed reforms

The NCC has instructed operators to provide clear information to subscribers about the changes and to ensure that existing data plans remain valid until their expiration. The situation remains dynamic, with ongoing discussions between regulators, operators, and consumer advocacy groups to address the implications of the tariff adjustments.

Comment

The NCC's approval of a 30% telecom tariff increase highlights the challenge of balancing industry sustainability with consumer affordability. While operators have argued that the increase is necessary to offset rising costs and maintain service quality, the backlash from labor unions and consumer advocacy groups highlights public concerns over affordability, especially in light of current economic factors. Transparency and reinvestment into service improvements will be critical to justifying the hike and maintaining public trust in Nigeria's telecommunication sector.

For more information, please click [here](#).

such as improving taxpayer compliance, strengthening fiscal institutions, and creating a more transparent fiscal regime.

As of May 9, 2025, the Senate has passed the bill, following the House of Representatives' approval in March. The next step involves reconciling both chambers' versions before presenting the final bill to President Bola Tinubu for assent.

Comment

There are concerns about the bill's implications for Nigeria's federal structure. The bill, by consolidating fiscal power within the federal government, would reduce states' capacity for financial independence. Ultimately, by undermining the fiscal autonomy of states, the proposed law would contradict the principles of federalism enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution. The Northern Governors' Forum has urged President Tinubu to reconsider the bill, highlighting its potential to disrupt the balance of power between the federal and state governments.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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