

## Key Contact

**Chike Obianwu**  
Partner

T: +234 1 271 9766

E: [chike.obianwu@templars-law.com](mailto:chike.obianwu@templars-law.com)



### About Templars:

Templars is an internationally recognized, full-service law firm with legal expertise in the Nigerian business environment. The firm's practice areas include: Energy & Projects, Finance, Corporate & Commercial, Dispute Resolution and Tax.

Templars has 9 partners, 63 lawyers, and a network of offices across Nigeria. The firm is consistently rated among the leading firms in Nigeria by global legal directories (IFLR1000, Chambers Global Guide, Legal 500) because of its breadth of experience and diverse client base.

## CBN clarifies Currency Substitution and Dollarisation of the Nigerian Economy

MAY 2015 – The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has made further clarifications on some of the provisions of its 17 April, 2015 circular on *Currency Substitution and Dollarisation of the Nigerian Economy*.

In a new circular dated May 21, 2015 issued by the Director for Banking Supervision on the same subject of *Currency Substitution and Dollarisation of the Nigerian Economy*, the CBN reiterated that the pricing of goods and services in Nigeria shall continue to be in Naira only, and that it is a criminal offence to refuse the Naira as a legal tender for payment in the exchange of goods and services in Nigeria.

The CBN however provided a list of revenue-generating government agencies as well as businesses permitted to conduct business payments/receipts in foreign currency. According to the new circular, these agencies and operators include: the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the Nigerian Ports Authority, Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency, the Nigeria Shippers Council, Operators in Oil and Gas – including Oil service companies, Operators in Maritime and Aviation Industries, Licensed operators in Export Processing and Free Trade Zones.

In addition, the CBN circular stated that holders of domiciliary accounts are allowed to make payments to and from their accounts according to existing regulations, but emphasized that CBN foreign exchange intervention funds and funds obtained from the interbank foreign exchange market are not permissible for deposit into domiciliary accounts.

The new circular which was intended to supersede the controversial circular of 17 April was most likely issued in response to various reactions and representations that followed in the aftermath of the release of the 17 April circular.

Templars will continue to monitor this subject and update you on any further developments.

[Click here to view the full CBN Circular of 21 May 2015](#)

To contact us on this story, send an email to:  
[communications@templars-law.com](mailto:communications@templars-law.com)