



COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE REGULATION

As part of our regulatory oversight functions in our bid to assuring your company remains in compliance with all subsisting laws, rules and regulations in Nigeria, we wish to bring to your kind attention some new regulations which impact the residency of expatriates employed by Companies in Nigeria and such expatriates dependents.

Recently, pursuant to powers conferred on the Minister charged with responsibility for immigration by Section 51 of the Immigration Act Cap I1 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, the Nigerian Immigration Service ("**NIS**") released new regulations with respect to the issuance of a new Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card ("**CERPAC**"). As you are most likely aware, the CERPAC is a permit that enables a non-Nigerian reside in Nigeria and carry out activities as specified in the permit, or to accompany a resident or citizen of Nigeria as a dependent in accordance with the laws of Nigeria. Possession of a valid CERPAC does not however exempt the holder from having a valid entry or re-entry permit/visa.

The new CERPAC is an improvement over the old one as it is embedded with enhanced security features for identifying and tracking foreign residents as well as monitoring their activities in Nigeria and will replace the old one **irrespective of whether the old CERPAC has expired**.

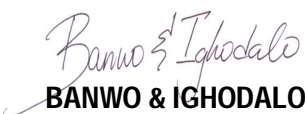
The old CERPAC was valid for an initial period of one (1) year renewable for further periods of one (1) year at any one time. However, in contrast, the new CERPAC is valid for an initial period of **two (2) years** renewable for further **two (2) year** periods subject to the validity of the employer's expatriate quota approval. Please note that the term of re-entry visas granted to expatriates during the validity of the CERPAC, is unchanged and remains valid for one (1) year and renewable for a further period of one year upon expiration.

All expatriates with valid CERPAC are required to apply to the NIS to obtain a new CERPAC card before the prescribed **deadline of Wednesday, April 30, 2014**, after which the old CERPAC will no longer be acceptable as evidence of an expatriate's right to live and work in Nigeria. Specifically, please be mindful that the NIS has directed that **any expatriate holding the old CERPAC at the expiration of the deadline may face deportation from Nigeria**.

Premised on the foregoing, we advise that your good company should ensure that its expatriate personnel take immediate steps to apply for a new CERPAC in compliance with this new regulation.

We are available to provide such assistance and/or clarification which you may require in relation to the foregoing.

Yours faithfully,


BANWO & IGHODALO

A listing of all the lawyers in the firm can be found at www.banwo-ighodalo.com

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