

8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

The Director,  
Consumer Protection Department  
Central Bank of Nigeria  
Plot 33, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Way  
Central Business District  
Abuja, F.C.T

Dear Sir,

**PETITION FOR A REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION OF BANK FRAUDULENT CHARGES AND DEDUCTIONS IN THE NIGERIAN BANKING SECTOR**

The above subject matter refers.

The Human and Environmental Development Agenda Resource Centre is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards. These objectives are pursued through research and publications, campaigns, human rights education and empowerment projects and programmes.

We hereby bring your attention to the recent growing concerns over fraudulent and ridiculous financial service charges and deduction rates, especially in the banking sector. There are several allegations of arbitrary, unauthorized and unfair charges or deductions on the savings and current account of consumers by banks in Nigeria. This also includes reports of the imposition of charges that are not transparent and communicated in advance to customers.

It is observed that some of the charges or deductions are not in tandem with the provisions of the most recent 2017 CBN Guide on financial charges. Particularly, the charge of a N50 stamp duty charge on all deposits made to current and savings accounts by banks comes to the fore, especially as there is a court decision in *Standard Chartered Bank Limited v. Kasmal International Services Ltd*, where it was held that based on the provisions of the Stamp Duties Act, there is no provision authorizing the deduction and remit-

tance of the N50 stamp duty on deposits. It is unfortunate that banks have continued to charge the said duty on customers' deposits without any justification for same.


Another notorious charge introduced by banks to unjustly fleece Nigerians is the card maintenance fee which there is no obvious explanation for its introduction, where card holders are recorded to have paid a particular amount to get the card in the first place. The banks still charge customers bank maintenance fee and account maintenance fee at the end of every month.

We thereby urge you to use your good office as a regulator of corporate environment in service delivery to urgently intervene in this development and ensure that hardworking Nigerians are not fleeced unjustly and unduly in a flagrant exhibition of systemic corruption and a fundamental banking fraud aimed at impoverishing Nigerians.

We look forward to your investigation and the outcomes of same, in the tradition of your council on similar matters.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

  
Olanrewaju Suraju  
Chairman