

# Provisions of the Cybercrime Act, 2015



The Cybercrime Act was enacted into law by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in March, 2015. The objectives of this Act are to:

- Provide an Effective and Unified Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for the Prohibition, Prevention, Detection, Prosecution and Punishment of Cybercrimes in Nigeria;
- Ensure the Protection of Critical National Information Infrastructure; and
- Promote Cybersecurity and the Protection of Computer Systems and Networks, Electronic Communications, Data and Computer Programs, Intellectual Property and Privacy Rights.

There are thirty two (32) offenses and penalties in the Cybercrime Act 2015, below are some of the offenses and penalties consumers should keep abreast of:

#### Theft of Electronic Devices:

Any person who steals a financial institutions or Public Infrastructure Terminal commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 3 years or a fine of N1, 000,000.00 or to both fine and imprisonment.

#### Purchase or Sale of Card of Another:

Any person other than an issuer or their authorized agent who sells a card or a person who buys a card from a person other than an issuer or their authorized agent purchase or sale of card of another commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of N500, 000.00 and shall further be liable to payment in monetary terms the value of loss sustained by the card holder or forfeiture of the assets or goods acquired with the funds from the account of the cardholder.

#### Identity Theft and Impersonation:

Any person who is engaged in the services of any financial institution, and as a result of his special knowledge commits identity theft of its employer, staff, service providers and consultants with the intent to defraud is guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be sentenced to 7 years imprisonment or N5,000,000.00 fine or both.

#### Cyber Terrorism:

Any person that accesses or causes to be accessed any computer or computer system or network for purposes of terrorism, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to life imprisonment.