



E-NEWSLETTER

LAWMAKERS TO PASS CREDIT BUREAU BILL



Credit reporting in Nigeria will soon achieve another milestone in its evolution with the passing of a bill to provide legal framework for credit bureau services. The Bill, which is sponsored by the Chairman of Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions, Senator Rafiu Adebayo Ibrahim (APC, Kwara South), would open up access to credit to a larger population.

At the public hearing of the Bill cited "Credit Bureau Reporting Bill 2016", which was held on Wednesday 8th February 2017, stakeholders applaud the move stating that even though there is currently a CBN guideline regulating the operations of Credit Bureaus in the country, it is crucial to back their operations by law.

If passed, the Credit Bureau Reporting Bill 2016 confers certain rights on individuals and entities that would spur increased access to credit by ensuring that incidence of credit denial is discouraged. Section 9 of the Bill states some of these as follows:

- If a credit application is denied, the customer shall be entitled to demand for reason behind such denial which in any case may either be because there is no credit file or due to delinquent credit history; and

- Customers dissatisfied with the accuracy of their credit report shall file a complaint to that effect with the Bureau and copy the user within 15 days from the day of issuance of such report.

In addition, whenever a customer complaint is being treated, credit information issued during such period shall carry an addendum thus "Customer objection to report under investigation".



The Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) is among stakeholders to have endorsed the Bill which will improve Nigeria's World Bank Doing Business ranking. The Secretary to PEBEC and Senior Special Assistant to the President on Industry, Trade and Investment Dr. Jumoke Oduwole believes "the Bill will facilitate credit information sharing between the Credit Bureaus and lenders such as banks and other financial institutions; inevitably lead to an increase in the availability of credit and ultimately reduce cost".