



Suspension of the Implementation of the Expatriate Employment Levy (EEL)

Introduction

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in response to concerns raised by various stakeholders, has recently announced a suspension of the implementation of the Expatriate Employment Levy (EEL) guidelines through a press release issued by the Federal Ministry of Interior. A meeting held on 8 March 2024 between the Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, and a delegation led by the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, Mrs. Doris Uzoka-Anite, aimed to address these concerns.

Considerations

The primary aim of the meeting was to foster constructive dialogue and enhance the implementation of the EEL policy while ensuring the interests of Nigerian citizens and promoting investment opportunities. Dr. Tunji-Ojo acknowledged the concerns expressed by stakeholders and reiterated the government's dedication to finding amicable solutions that not only attract foreign investment but also safeguard employment opportunities for Nigerians.

The EEL policy was established to curb the misuse of the Expatriate Quota System and promote the growth of a competent Nigerian workforce. However, in response to the concerns raised, the Federal Ministry of Interior temporarily halted the implementation of the Expatriate Employment Levy. This decision reflects the government's willingness to engage further with stakeholders and collaboratively devise solutions that meet everyone's needs.

Key Takeaway

This is a welcome development for the various foreign investing communities in Nigeria. This period of collaboration and wider engagement will enable all parties to adequately plan for the effective implementation of the levy while at the same time ensuring the mitigation of unintended consequences. As reiterated by the Minister of Interior, the government is dedicated to fostering collaboration with stakeholders in order to discover mutually advantageous strategies that advance foreign investment and enhance the professional growth of the Nigerian workforce.

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