

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**PAYMENT SYSTEM
MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT
BILL**

(As read a First Time)

(Introduced by the Minister of Finance)

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

_____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing provisions.

[] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing provisions.

BILL

To amend the Payment System Management Act, 2003, so as to empower the Bank of Namibia to determine standards for user fees and charges for service delivery, to ensure compliance thereof and to take remedial actions for non-compliance; to provide for administrative penalties; to create certain offences; and to provide for incidental matters.

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia as follows:

Amendment of section 1 of Act No. 18 of 2003

1. Section 1 of the Payment System Management Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) is amended -

(a) by the insertion after the definition of “Companies Act” of the following definitions:

“cost-effectiveness” means the pricing of payment system service or other connected service in a manner that accurately reflects the cost of producing such service;

“fees and charges” means costs payable by a user of payment system service or other connected service;”; and

(b) by the addition after the definition of “this Act” of the following definition:

“user” means a system participant or a service provider, and includes a customer or client of the system participant or service provider;”.

Amendment of section 2 of Act No. 18 of 2003

2. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion after paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of the following paragraphs:

“(d) to ensure that the fees or charges payable by a user are in the public interest, promote competition, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in service delivery and comply with the standards determined by the Bank;

- (e) to take remedial actions as the Bank may direct, if the Bank is of the opinion that the fees or charges referred to in paragraph (d) are not in the public interest, do not promote competition, efficiency or cost-effectiveness in service delivery, or do not comply with the standards determined by the Bank.”.

Insertion of sections 16A and 16B in Act No. 18 of 2003

3. The following sections are inserted in the principal Act after section 16:

“Administrative penalties

16A. (1) The Bank may impose administrative penalties on any person for any delay in complying with any directive, determination, guideline, standard, circular, specification, order or notice issued by the Bank, under section 13, 14 or any other section.

(2) Before making a decision to impose any administrative penalty on a person, the Bank must serve on the person a written notice calling on the person to show cause as to why the penalty should not be imposed on the person.

(3) If a satisfactory explanation is not received within 14 days from the date of receipt of the written notice referred to in subsection (2), the Bank may impose an administrative penalty in an amount not exceeding N\$100 000 for each day of non-compliance, which amount may not exceed N\$1 000 000 in total.

Offence relating to instrument, device, apparatus or material or component thereof

16B. A person who -

- (a) makes, adapts or repairs;
- (b) buys or sells;
- (c) exports from or imports into Namibia; or
- (d) possesses or uses,

any instrument, device, apparatus, material or a component thereof that the person knows or reasonably ought to have known that it has been used or is intended for use in forging or falsifying a payment instrument, or for use in defrauding a lawful holder of a payment instrument, commits an offence.”.

Substitution of section 17 of Act No. 18 of 2003

4. The principal Act is amended by the substitution for section 17 of the following section:

“Penalties

- 17.** A person convicted of an offence under -
- (a) section 5(5), 6(2), 7(4), or **[13(2)] 16B** is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$1 000 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment; or
 - (b) section 11(2) **[or 14(2)]** is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$20 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.”.

Short title

- 5.** This Act is called the Payment System Management Amendment Act, 2010.
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