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**TED/FEM/FPC/GEN/01/136/08**

**December 30, 2008**

**TO: All Authorised Dealers/General Public**

**YEAR 2008 CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE:**  
**PURCHASE OF PILGRIMS TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE**

The following details are notified for the information of all Authorised Dealers and the general public.

1. The Federal Government has approved a maximum of seventeen thousand (17,000) pilgrims to undertake the 2008 pilgrimage to Israel. The Government has also approved the purchase of a maximum of US\$1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) by each intending pilgrim as Personal Travel Allowance (PTA). The PTA can be purchased at the prevailing Naira/Dollar exchange rate on the day of the purchase in any of the underlisted designated banks:

- 1) Afribank Plc**
- 2) Bank PHB**
- 3) First City Monument Bank**
- 4) FinBank Plc**
- 5) First Bank Plc**
- 6) Fidelity Bank Plc**

**Central Bank of Nigeria**  
Central Business District  
P.M.B. 0187  
Garki, Abuja

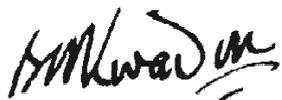
- 7) GTBank Plc**
- 8) Intercontinental Bank Plc**
- 9) Oceanic Bank Int'l Plc**
- 10) Union Bank Plc**
- 11) UBA Plc**
- 12) Unity Bank Plc**
- 13) Skye Bank Plc**
- 14) Zenith Bank Plc**

- 2. The designated banks are required to sell the permissible amount of the PTA to intending pilgrims whose names and passport numbers are included in the pilgrims' master list.
- 3. No pilgrim should be denied the travel allowance on the ground that he/she has no Tax Clearance Certificate.
- 4. In view of the time constraint associated with the pilgrimage exercise, the Chairman or the Secretary of each State Pilgrims' Board, after due identification, may be allowed to sign for and collect the PTA on behalf of the intending pilgrims in his/her State on presentation of the approved list and valid passports of the pilgrims listed against his/her state.
- 5. In accordance with the Israeli Government's Policy, visa shall only be issued to the pilgrims at the point of entry, that is, at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel on arrival. It should also be noted that the pilgrimage will be by chartered flights.
- 6. Therefore, in view of paragraph 5 above, air ticket and visa

requirements for the purpose of procuring the stipulated PTA have been waived. However, an endorsed copy of each pilgrim's passport should be retained by the bank for record purposes.

7. The fourteen (14) designated banks are advised to contact the Director, Foreign Operations Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja for details in respect of the purchase of United States Dollars (US\$) to cover their sales to the intending pilgrims.
8. A schedule showing the list of the States assigned to each of the designated banks for the purposes of procuring the PTA is attached.
9. The designated banks shall render returns in respect of actual sales to the Director, Foreign Operations Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja, within two (2) weeks from the end of the exercise (i.e. from the date of the last departure flight from Israel).

Designated banks are enjoined to ensure compliance with the provisions of this circular as infractions of any requirement or abuse of any waiver shall attract appropriate penalty.



**B. MUSA  
AG. DIRECTOR  
TRADE & EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT**

List of Pilgrims from various states of the Federation is indicated in the table below:

S/NO.	STATES	NO. OF PILGRIMS	CHOICE OF BANKS
1.	TARABA	363	ZENITH BANK PLC
2.	KOGI	242	UBA PLC
3.	OSUN	728	UBA PLC
4.	BAUCHI	316	GTBANK PLC
5.	NIGER	60	BANK PHB PLC
6.	ADAMAWA	61	ZENITH BANK PLC
7.	BORNO	46	ZENITH BANK PLC
8.	YOBE	167	UNION BANK PLC
9.	CROSS RIVERS	155	INTERCONTINENTAL BANK
10.	ONDO	220	ZENITH BANK PLC
11.	OGUN	764	SKYE BANK PLC
12.	NASARAWA	255	UNITY BANK PLC
13.	FCT	450	FIDELITY BANK PLC
14.	KADUNA	1492	ZENITH BANK PLC
15.	KWARA	470	UBA PLC
16.	GOMBE	219	FIDELITY BANK PLC
17.	LAGOS	1006	UNION BANK PLC
18.	OYO	656	SKYE BANK PLC
19.	EBONYI	350	UBA PLC
20.	DELTA	460	ZENITH BANK PLC
21.	RIVERS	2422	UBA PLC
22.	EKITI	266	ZENITH BANK PLC
23.	BENUE	426	ZENITH BANK PLC

24.	ENUGU	274	FIRST BANK PLC
25.	ABIA	531	FCMB PLC
26.	ANAMBRA	134	UBA PLC
27.	KANO	8	UBA PLC
28	IMO	237	FCMB PLC
29.	BAYELSA	1672	ZENITH BANK PLC
30.	EDO	350	EQUITORIAL TRUST BANK
31.	AKWA IBOM	400	UBA PLC

