

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CYBERCRIMES ACT NO. 17 OF 2015, TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE ACT TO INCLUDE CRIMES SUCH AS THE USE OF DEEP FAKE TECHNOLOGY, RANSOM WARE ATTACK, DOXXING, ONLINE HARASSMENT, AND CYBER BULLYING, TO STRENGTHEN DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY, AND INCREASE PENALTY PROVISIONS FOR CYBER OFFENCES SUCH AS FINANCIAL FRAUD, HACKING, AND IDENTITY THEFT, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Olusoji Abidemi Adetunji .

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

- 1 **1.** The Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act No. 17 of
2 2015 (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act") is amended as set out this
3 Bill. Amendment of
th Cybercrimes
Act No. 17 of 2015
- 4 **2.** Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in- Amendment of
Section 6
 - 5 (a) sub-section "(If, by substituting figures "5" and N5,000,000.00 for
6 figures "7" and N7,000,000.00"; and
 - 7 (b) sub-section "(2)" by substituting figures "7" and
8 N7,000,000.00 for figures "10" and N10,000,000.00" .
- 9 **3.** The Principal Act is amended by inserting after the existing Insertion of
Section 12A
 - 10 section 12, a new section "12A":
 - 11 “12A Penalty for
Ransomware
attack
 - 12 Any person who knowingly and unlawfully locks and encrypts a victim's
 - 13 data, files, devices or systems, rendering them inaccessible and unusable
 - 14 commits an offence of ransomware attack and is liable on conviction to
 - 15 imprisonment for 10years without any option of fine".

Amendment of
Section 13

1 4. Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the
2 existing section, a new section "13":

3 "13:

4 A person who knowingly and unlawfully accesses any computer or network
5 and inputs, alters, deletes or suppresses any data resulting in inauthentic data
6 with the intention that such inauthentic data will be considered and acted upon
7 as if it were authentic or genuine, regardless of whether or not such data is
8 directly readable or intelligible, commits an offence and is liable on conviction
9 to imprisonment for a term not less than 7years or to
10 a fine not less than N10,000,000.00 or both".

Amendment of
Section 14

11 5. Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended by-

12 (a) substituting for the existing sub-sections "(1)", "(2)" and "(3)" new
13 sub-sections "(1)", "(2)" and "(3)":

14 "(1) Any person who knowingly and without authority or in excess of
15 authority causes any loss of property to another by altering, erasing, inputting
16 or suppressing any data held in any computer, whether or not for the purpose of
17 conferring any economic benefits on himself or another person, commits an
18 offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 7
19 years or to a fine of not less than N10,000,000.00 or both fine and
20 imprisonment";

21 "(2) Any person who - with intent to defraud sends electronic message
22 which materially misrepresents any fact or set of facts upon which reliance the
23 recipient or another person is caused to suffer any damage or loss, commits an
24 offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less
25 than 7 years and to a fine of not less than N10,000,000.00 or to both fine and
26 imprisonment";

27 "(3) Any person who with intent to defraud, franks electronic
28 messages, instructions, super scribes any electronic message and or
29 instruction, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to
30 imprisonment for a term of not more than 5years or to a fine of not more than

1 N7,000,000.00 or to both such fine and imprisonment"; and

2 (b)in sub-section "(4)", by substituting figure "7" for figure "10".

3 **6.** Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for
4 the existing sub-section "(1)", a new sub-section "(1)":

Amendment of
Section 21

5 "(1) Any person or Institution, who operates a computer system or
6 a network, whether public or private, must immediately inform the National
7 Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordination Center within
8 7 days of any attacks (including ransomware attacks), attempted cyber
9 extortion, intrusions and other disruptions liable to hinder the functioning of
10 another computer system or network, so that the National CERT can take the
11 necessary measures to tackle the issues."

12 **7.** Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by-

Amendment of
Section 22

13 (a) substituting for the existing subsection "(1)", a new subsection
14 "(1)":

15 "(1) Any person who is engaged in the services of any financial
16 institution, and as a result of his special knowledge commits identity theft of
17 its employer, staff, customers/ clients, service providers and consultants
18 with the intent to defraud is guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be
19 sentenced to 10 years imprisonment or N10,000,000.00 fine or both": and

20 (b) inserting after the existing sub-section "(4)", a new sub-section
21 "(5)":

22 "(5) Any person who is a repeat offender of identity theft as in sub-
23 section (1) is liable on conviction to imprisonment for not less than 15 years
24 or a fine of N20,000.000.00 or both".

25 **8.** The Principal Act is amended by inserting after the existing
26 section 24, new sections "24A", "24 B" and "24C":

Insertion of
Section 24A to C

27 "24A :

28 Any person who sends, posts, or shares negative, harmful, or false content
29 online about someone else commits an offence of cyber bullying and is
30 liable on conviction to imprisonment for not less than 5 years or a fine of not

1 less than N 10,000,000.00".

2 "24B:

3 Any person who exposes private information about an individual online
4 without their consent, commits an offence of doxxing and is liable on
5 conviction to imprisonment for not less than 5 years or a fine of not less than
6 N10,000,000.00".

7 "24C:

8 Any person who uses information and communication technologies to cause
9 harm to another person in an online setting commits an offence of online
10 harassment and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for not less than 5 years
11 or a fine of not less than N10,000,000.00".

Insertion of
Section 25A

12 **9.** The Principal Act is amended by inserting after the existing section
13 "25", a new section "25A":

14 "25A:

15 Any person who intentionally uses deep fake technology for content creation
16 and dissemination to deceive, manipulate, or harm individuals commits an
17 offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for 5 years or a fine of
18 N10,000,000.00 or both".

Interpretation

19 **10.** In this Bill:

20 "cyber bullying" includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, or
21 false content online about someone else including sharing personal or private
22 information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation;

23 "deep fake technology" means an image or recording that has been
24 convincingly altered and manipulated to misrepresent someone as doing or
25 saying something that was not actually done or said;

26 "doxxing" means an act of exposing private information online including
27 pictures or videos or identifying information about an individual without their
28 consent, especially as a form of punishment or revenge;

29 "online harassment" include the use of information and communication
30 technologies to cause harm to another person either through threats,

1 embarrassment or humiliation in an online setting; and
2 "ransomware attack" means locking and encrypting a victim's data, files,
3 devices or systems, rendering them inaccessible and unusable until the
4 attacker receives payment.

5 **11.** This Bill may be cited as the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Citation
6 Prevention, Etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Cybercrimes Act No. 17 of 2015, to expand the scope of the Act to include crimes such as the use of deep fake technology, ransomware attack, doxxing, online harassment, and cyberbullying, strengthen data protection and privacy, and increase penalty provisions for cyber offences such as financial fraud, hacking, and identity theft.