A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT, CAP. M7, LAWS OF
THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT TO BE
PAID AS PENALTY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2020

Sponsored by Hon. Obinna Chidoka

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

1. The Matrimonial Causes Act, CAP. M7, LFN 2004 (in this Bill
referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out below:

2. Section 31, of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act is
amended in line 3 and 4 by deleting the words "five kobo" and inserting the
words "one thousand five hundred naira" to read as follows:

"On any occasion on which an employer makes a payment under
this schedule in respect of a defendant, the employer may retain for his own
use out of any balance of the defendant earning remaining after the making
of that payment the sum of One Thousand Five hundred Naira or if on that
occasion the employer makes payment in pursuance of two or more
attachment of earning order relating to the defendant the sum of one
dozen and one thousand five hundred naira in respect of each such payment."

3. Section 32 (1) C, of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act is
amended in line 3 by deleting the words "two hundred naira" and inserting
the words "five thousand naira" to read as follows:

"recklessly furnishes such a statement or notice that is false or
misleading in a material particular shall be guilty of an offence punishable
on conviction by a fine not exceeding five thousand naira".

4. Section 33, of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act is
amended by deleting the words, "Two hundred naira" and inserting the
words "five thousand naira" to read as follows:

"Any person who dismisses an employee or injures him in his employment or alters his position to his prejudice by reason of the circumstance that an attachment of earning order has been made in relation to the employer or that the person is required to make payment under such an order in relation to the employer commits an offence punishable on conviction by a fine not exceeding five thousand naira."

5. This Bill shall be cited as the Matrimonial Causes Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the provisions of Sections 31, 32{1}c and 33 of the Third Schedule of the Act by increasing the amount to be paid as penalty for the commission of an offence under the Act.