Title of Articles: Mandatory Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in Nigeria: The Unresolved Institutional Question
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Abstract: Preeminently, the objective of the paper is to examine the perceived impact of Nigerian institutional infrastructure (i.e. Educational Institution, Professional Accounting Bodies, Legal Framework, SEC and NASB or FRCN) on the mandatory adoption of IFRS, which took effect from January 2012. The study adopts the questionnaire survey method to seek respondents’ views on the subject matter. One of the major perceived differences between IFRS and Nigerian SAS is that the former allegedly provides more discretion (i.e., less specific standards and less implementation guidance). Although more reporting discreetness is not necessarily a challenge, firms’ reporting incentives, which are shaped by Nigerian institutional framework, play a foremost role in how organizations would apply the discernment under IFRS. We therefore employed Multiple Regression techniques as well as One Way Repeated Measure Analysis of Variance, in testing the two hypotheses in the paper. The result shows that four of the five institutions are ready and strong enough to support the mandatory adoption of IFRS. We recommended inter alia, that the capacity of regulators (Corporate Affairs Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, National Insurance Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria to mention but a few) must be strengthened so as to enable them to effectively deal with accounting and financial reporting practices of the regulated concerns, so that the mandatory adoption of IFRS in Nigeria, does not become a mere labeled or nominal one.

Key words: IFRS, FRCN, Institutions, Legal framework, and SEC.