

TAX IMPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IAS 12) ADOPTION: EVIDENCE FROM DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS (DMBS) IN NIGERIA



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ABSTRACT

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The International Financial Accounting Standards (IFRSs) came into being principally to meet the information necessity of users (internal/external). In the light of this fundamental need, this study was geared towards investigating the tax implications of international accounting standards (IAS 12) adoption among selected deposit money banks (DMBs) in Nigeria. However, the expo-facto design was adopted and a sample of thirteen (13) quoted DMBs was selected for the study. The study relied solely on secondary data obtained from the annual reports and accounts of the selected DMBs. The data comprised of profit after tax, income tax, deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities. Consequently, the hypotheses developed were tested using mean comparison and t-test statistical tool. The study found a significant variation between the reported tax figures before and after IFRSs adoption as well as income tax rates of DMBs. In addition, findings indicated that IFRSs adoption has no significant effect on the level of profitability among the studied DMBs. On this note, the study recommended among others that standards setters and DMBs should consider the tax implication of applying any particular standard, more especially as tax laws is at variance across the globe. Furthermore, banks and accounting regulatory bodies should be trained and retrained on the application of IAS 12 standards in order to keep them abreast with recent trends on tax-related matters. As a way of doing this, the Chartered Institute of Taxation in Nigeria is advised to keep abreast with developments in IFRS and areas it may impact on the country's tax laws; this becomes necessary especially in countries practicing common laws which Nigeria is among.

Contribution/ Originality: The study is set out to investigate the implication of tax on the adoption of international financial accounting standards (IAS-12) using selected deposit money banks in Nigeria following the need for international accounting harmonisation and convergence to ease financial reporting across the globe.

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) is a global accounting framework that sprang from the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); a self-regulating or autonomous body registered in the United States of America (USA) but based in the United Kingdom (UK). This global accounting framework (IASB)

is saddled with the responsibility of laying down the regulations that govern financial reporting of private entities as well as those of its twin (public entities) worldwide. Oduware (2012) posited that IFRSs has been adopted in over 120 countries as a result of its global relevance among diverse countries of the world. The purpose of adopting this accounting framework no doubt is to ensure uniformity, reliability and comparability of financial statements of corporate entities across the globe. According to Ocansey and Enahoro (2014) the globalization of the world's economy and markets lead companies and nations to become world global players. However, before the harmonization of accounting standards, various countries have their national accounting standards. For instance, Nigeria operated a distinct accounting standard known as Statement of Accounting Standards (SAS). Oyedele (2011) believed that the fundamental disparity between national standards (IAS) and local standards (SAS) is that IAS is a more-healthy and principle-based set of accounting standards with comprehensive disclosure requirements.

The belief is that IAS brings about transparency and accountability in the financial reporting system of entities. Consequently, in order to uphold transparency and accountability in the financial reporting system of both public and private entities, which result in credibility, acceptability and understandability of financial statements, there is the clamour that corporate entities must adopt international standards of accounting (Ocansey and Enahoro, 2014). Oyedele (2011) noted that international standards of accounting have been developed principally to meet the information necessity of users (internal/external). However, these needs do not align with those of the relevant tax authorities (e.g. extensive utilization of fair-value and application of substance-over-form) in most countries including Nigeria. This may be connected with the complexity of transiting to IFRSs on tax-related matters. Moreover, complexity usually arises from the computation of deferred taxes.

Under IAS 12, deferred tax assets and liabilities are to be reported at the amounts that are expected to flow to or from the reporting entity when the tax benefits are ultimately realized or the tax obligations are settled. In addition, under IFRSs, the basis for computing deferred tax is somewhat different from that of SAS. For instance, IFRSs requires the use of the statement of financial position liability method, which focuses on temporary differences; SAS tilts towards the statement of comprehensive income method, which focuses on timing differences. The statement of financial position liability method which requires full provision for deferred taxes is more complex compared to the statement of comprehensive income method (Oduware, 2012). In line with the above, Samuel *et al.* (2013) asserted that the computational differences has created a challenge for tax laws and the need to revisiting the theoretical and practical nitty-gritty for the application of accounting principles as the initial point for taxation of entities.

It is worthy to note that empirical evidence in both developed and developing countries have shown that there is no variation in the amount of profit before tax after the adoption of international standards of accounting (see (McAnally *et al.*, 2010; Nengzih, 2015). These studies have additionally shown that deferred tax assets are capable of predicting future cash flows better until the next 5years in contrast to European Union (EU) Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles (GAAPs). Both studies were carried out in setting other than an African setting and might not be suitable to infer the same occurrence in Nigeria. In the light of the country-to-country settings, this study was geared towards investigating the tax implications of international accounting standards (IAS 12) adoption among selected deposit money banks (DMBs) in Nigeria. Predicted on this, the researchers postulated on the following hypotheses to navigate their investigations:

- H₀₁: There is no significant variation in the reported tax figures among deposit money banks in Nigeria before and after the adoption of international standards of accounting.*
- H₀₂: The adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the income tax rate of deposit money banks in Nigeria.*
- H₀₃: The adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria.*

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of related literature was set out to address both the conceptual and theoretical frameworks as well as a review of empirical studies in Nigeria and the world over.

a. Conceptual Framework

- Adoption of IFRS in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria formally announced its intention to adopt international standards of accounting (IFRSs) and consequently launched the roadmap for its implementation on 2nd September, 2010. It was officially unveiled in Nigeria at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja. The roadmap for implementation was in three phases. However, the second phase was connected with deposit money banks (DMBs) requiring them to adopt the international standards of accounting by 2012 and as such most banks have complied with such in Nigeria. The purpose for adopting this international accounting framework is to have a globally accepted and high-quality financial statement or financial reporting system (Adeboyejo, 2013). It is worthy to note that the third phase of the implementation was to commence January 1st 2013 and that Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) must key into this initiative by January 1st, 2014. This implies that all SMEs are by the law, mandated to adopt IFRSs at the end of 31st December, 2014.

Consequently, entities that do not meet the international accounting framework criterion for SMEs are allowed to prepare and issue their statements of accounts by means of SMEs Guidelines on Accounting (i.e. Tier 3 or Micro-GAAP) issued by the GENEVA-based United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (Asein, 2010) as cited in Ovute and Eyisi (2014)). Gordon *et al.* (2008) identified the benefits emanating from the adoption of IFRS to include but not limited to the following: Improved financial information for shareholders and regulators, enhanced comparability, enhanced transparency of results, amplified capacity to secure cross-border listing, better management of global operations and decreased cost of capital. Van-Greuning (2009) as cited in Ovute and Eyisi (2014) asserted that given the nations drive towards achieving its vision 2020 goals; it was expedient and in the finest interest of the country to raise and improve the quality of financial reporting on a best practices by adopting IFRS. At the moment, global commerce is more and more polarized into multinational corporations (MCS) and national companies. Actually, financial reporting is responding to this business dynamics by following in this direction.

- IFRS and Taxation

There is a variation in the purpose of financial accounting and taxation. This variation stems from the fact that financial accounting primarily seeks to provide useful information to users (internal and external) in order to protect them from being misled. Contrarily, income tax system seeks to determine the equitable collection of tax revenue in order to protect, maintain and expand sources of revenue for the government (US Supreme Court, 1979 cited in Samuel *et al.* (2013)). The collectability of such tax revenue in Nigeria is usually the responsibility of the Federal and State Revenue Service.

According to Samuel *et al.* (2013) how relevant IFRS is from a tax perspective depends on three things; assuming no changes is undertaken in tax legislation in a country. First, to what extent is financial accounting connected to tax accounting in specific country. Second, if a country decides to utilize “full IFRSs” option in their annual accounts of companies. Third, to what extent national accounting standard setters take IFRS into consideration when setting standards for national GAAP and what choices of accounting principles companies can make within national GAAP. The belief is that in countries where there is some degree of association between financial and tax accounting, there are a number of alternative outcomes.

As part of the tenets of IFRSs (IFRSs 1 – First Time Adoption), taxpayers are mandated to prepare and present an opening IFRSs statement of financial position at the date such entity transits to IFRS. This is the first point for

the entities tax year. For instance, a first-time-adopter of IFRSs is demanded by the standard to realize all assets/liabilities whose recognition is vital. That is such entity should not recognise items as assets/liabilities if IFRS do not authorize such recognition; there should be a reclassification of items that is recognized in accordance with prior GAAP. This should be done because IFRSs reclassifies the components of asset, liability and equity in a different manner; and to apply IFRSs in gauging all recognised assets/liabilities. The provision of IFRSs is such that the net asset based on the accounting balance shall not be espoused to minimum tax computation in the year such entity transits to IFRSs. As part of the provisions of IFRSs, the details of recognitions, de-recognitions and reconciliation must be dispatched to Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) by including all adjustments to opening retained earnings in the case of Nigeria.

Furthermore, IFRSs demands that all capital and revenue (i.e. conversion costs) shall be subjected to confirmation by FIRS before it can be considered as qualifying capital or revenue expenditures. There is usually three (3) months extension for filling financial statements for first-time-adopters of IFRSs and related returns in order to allow sufficient time to overcome initial conversion problems. The Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRC) further established that entity who has complied with IFRSs in its financial statement should include their tax returns. However, tax returns under IFRS for first-time-adopters, shall be in line with Section 55 of the Company Income Tax Act (CITA) 2011 and should encompass the statement of financial position as at the beginning of the initial comparative period when a taxpayer applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statement (i.e. a statement comparing the tax effect of IFRS adoption with GAAP), statement of reconciliations from GAAP to IFRS as well as computation of deferred tax.

- Overview of Income Taxes

Income taxes are taxes on income or profits of an entity. They include companies' income tax, education tax, petroleum profit tax, capital gains tax, IT tax and deferred tax charges. Tax on taxable profits for the period (current tax) is recognised as an expense in the profit or loss account, liability in statement of financial position to the extends of unpaid, (e.g. current tax period or prior period tax and error on prior period tax), asset to the extends of a) excess payment on current tax and prior period tax b) tax loss that can be carried back to recover current period tax and c) current tax credit (Adeboyejo, 2013). The amount of tax payable in any particular period does not necessarily bear a direct relationship to the amount of profit or loss shown on the statement of profit or loss. This is because the tax laws provide for the computation of taxable income for a period are based on rules different from the IFRSs followed while preparing the Financial statement. To comply with matching concept, a deferred tax provision is necessary (Adeboyejo, 2013). Figure 1 captured an overview of income tax as well as those tax returns not permitted by the international standards of accounting.

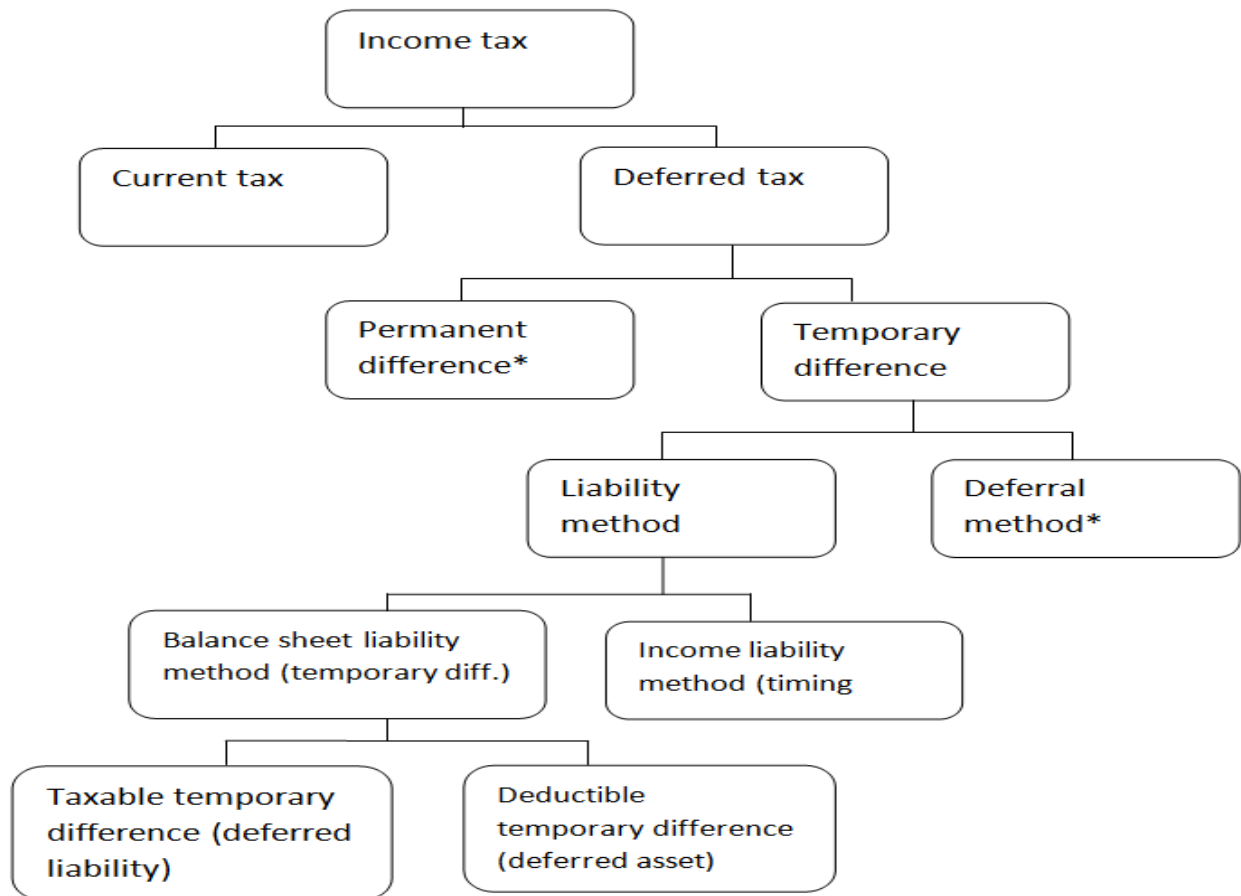


Figure-1. Overview of Income Tax

Source: Adeboyejo (2013).

Note that areas with asterisk implies tax items not permitted by the international standards of accounting.

b. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study was anchored on the Pure Impression Management Model and New Institutional Theory

- Pure Impression Management Model (PIMM)

The theory of PIMM of accounting was propounded by Keppler in 1995. The PIMM holds that accountability serves as a connection construct by persistently reminding people of the need to act in tandem with the existing form and content of financial reporting and advance convincing, justification/excuses for conduct that depart from the form and content of financial reporting. In its simplest form, impression management (also called self-presentation) refers to the process by which individuals attempt to control the impressions others form of them. Since the impressions people create on others have inference for how others perceive, evaluate, and treat them, as well as for their own outlook of themselves, people sometimes conduct themselves in ways that will generate certain impressions in others' eyes Leary and Kowalski (1990). In the real sense, financial reporting cannot be accepted by the general public or would-be investors if certain guidelines or standards that are in general expected are not followed and observed. Thus, PIMM recognizes uniformity and observation of appropriate standards for the smooth functioning of the public entities (Ezeani and Oladele, 2012).

- New Institutional Theory (NIT)

NIT is a development of the conventional institutional theory, and explains that the development of the organization is not simply a technical process that is oriented on competence factor, but rather a direct result of the motivation and rationality which is owned by the actors in it [Nengzih \(2015\)](#). Motivation and rationality are based on the principle of its organization, which is to obtain legitimacy from the parties that it relates to. According to [Scott and Meyer \(1994\)](#) elements of institutional theory are institutions, organizations and the people. Institutions provide rules that must be followed by the organizations in conducting its activities and in its involvement in the competition. Institutions will also impact individually on the behaviour and viewpoint owned by the people in its organization. As [Scott \(1995\)](#) believed, in order for organizations to survive, they must stick to the rules and belief systems predominant in the environment. Thus, legitimacy can be actualized if the organizations in the process of their business activities are able to stick to the norms, rules and value system in their institutional environment ([Nengzih, 2015](#)).

c. Empirical Review

Empirical evidences on IFRS have been carried out, but the focus of research on the variation in the period before and after IFRS adoption on the level of profitability and the tax rate is still limited. [Angela \(2012\)](#) study found that there is a significant variation between the total amount of assets before and after the adoption of IFRSs on investment properties. The empirical outcomes of Studies by [Zeghal et al. \(2012\)](#); [Ilham \(2010\)](#); [Hellman \(2011\)](#); [Murni et al. \(2011\)](#) showed that the adoption of IFRS improved the quality of financial reporting, such that IFRS was able to lower creative accounting, enhance information timeliness, conditional conservatism and value relevance. More recently, [Nengzih \(2015\)](#) investigated the effect of IFRS adoption on the level of profitability and tax income rate in Indonesia listed companies. Their findings suggested that the average ratio of companies' profitability increases as a result of the adoption of IFRS. However, there was no change in the amount of profit before tax after IFRS adoption. A study by [McAnally et al. \(2010\)](#) found that deferred tax assets are capable of predicting future cash flows better until the next five (5) years when compared to the EU GAAP.

In Nigeria, [Ezeani and Oladele \(2012\)](#) explored the extent to which IFRSs adoption influences financial reporting system by utilizing 160 senior accountants and internal auditors in Nigerian universities. The study found that the current situation of public accountability of Nigerian institutions needed to be rescued and that out of seven (7) implications for IFRSs adoption generated in the study, auditors and accountants rated four (4) implications 3.00 and above. Auditors and accountants had mean ratings of 2.50 – 2.99 in three (3) of the implications for IFRS adoption. [Akintoye and Tashie \(2013\)](#) examined the effect of tax compliance on economic growth and development. Tax compliance was proxied as willingness of the citizens to pay tax. The study found that taxpayers are willing to comply with tax and when this happens, economies flourish leading to developmental programmes in the country.

[Zainab et al. \(2014\)](#) evaluated the impact of the amendment on the revenue generated by the Kaduna state board of internal revenue. Their study utilized primary and secondary data and chi-square and t-test were employed in the analysis of data. Their findings revealed that the personal income tax law of 2011 has not effectively encouraged taxpayers to willingly comply with self-assessment and compliance. Thus, the new tax law is not successful in driving the force of change that will reduce the occurrence of avoidance and evasion of taxes. Thus, it has not enhanced the revenue base of the state boards of internal revenue.

[Nassar and Taiwo \(2005\)](#) investigated the income profiles of Oyo state government by assessing the personal income tax effect on the income accruable to the state. Their study utilized secondary data obtained from the approved budgets of Oyo state from 2000-2006. The stepwise regression tool was employed in the analysis of data. The findings indicated that personal income taxes have the utmost contribution of 68.4% effect on internally

generated revenue (IGR) in Oyo state while both tax and license accounted for about 68.8% variation in IGR in the state.

Otu and Adejumo (2013) examined the influence of tax revenue on economic growth in Nigeria with the aid of time series data spanning from 1970 to 2011. The study employed the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression tool and established that tax revenue positively influence economic growth in Nigeria. The result showed that domestic investment, labour force and foreign direct investment have positive and significant effect on economic growth in Nigeria.

3. METHODS

The study made use of expo-facto design. According to Kerlinger and Rint (1986) an expo-facto investigation seeks to reveal possible relationships by observing an existing condition or state of affairs and searching back in time for plausible contributing factors. The population of the study encompassed all deposit money banks quoted on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). The DMBs include Access Bank Plc, Diamond Bank Plc, Ecobank Transnational Incorporation*, First City Monument Bank, Fidelity Bank Plc, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc, Skye Bank Plc, Sterling Bank Plc, UBA Plc, Union Bank Nigeria Plc, Unity Bank Plc*, Wema Bank Plc and Zenith Bank Plc. However, DMBs carrying asterisk implies DMBs whose transition could not be obtained. In validating the hypotheses of the study, hypothesis one and three were validated using the Paired Samples T-Test while hypothesis two with simple mean comparison. The analysis was done with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 22.0).

4. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Descriptive statistics measures the central of tendency as well as the variances associated with the variables of a study (Farouk and Hassan, 2014).

Table-1. Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev.
Profit Before Income Tax	13	-16261015	35177078	1838900.31	13025975.874
Profit Before Income Tax [IFRS]	13	-17964928	37634686	2351787.69	13593973.953
Income Tax	13	1331	6861517	1360462.46	2246026.983
Income Tax [IFRS]	13	201	7720982	1352820.38	2284281.468
Deferred Tax Assets	13	0	23384264	2655006.38	6530793.977
Deferred Tax Assets [IFRS]	13	0	23337475	2977766.62	6691406.848
Deferred Tax Liabilities	13	0	3474838	323161.54	962182.803
Deferred Tax Liabilities [IFRS]	13	0	3646484	302742.54	1006495.905

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

The minimum column from the table above shows the lowest value from the observations (data-set), while the maximum value shows the highest value from the observations (data-set). The mean shows the average value of the observations before and after IFRS adoption. From the table above, we observed a higher value for average Profit before Tax (IFRS) than Profit before Tax (NGAAP); average Income Tax (IFRS) was lower than Income Tax (NGAAP); average Deferred Tax Assets (IFRS) was higher than average Deferred Tax Assets (NGAAP); while, average Deferred Tax Liabilities (IFRS) was lower than average Deferred Tax Liabilities (NGAAP).

Hypothesis One:

H₀: There is no significant variation in the reported tax figures among deposit money banks in Nigeria before and after the adoption of international standards of accounting.

Table-2. Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Income Tax	1360462.46	13	2246026.983	622935.804
	Income Tax [IFRS]	1352820.38	13	2284281.468	633545.689

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

Table-3. Paired Samples Correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Income Tax & Income Tax [IFRS]	13	.984	.000

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

Table-4. Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Income Tax - Income Tax [IFRS]	7642.077	406644.778	112782.969	-238090.903	253375.057	.068	12	.947

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

The Sig. value is greater than .05 (t .068, df. 12). Owing to this, we rejected the alternative and accepted the null hypothesis. This implies that there is no significant variation in the reported tax figures among deposit money banks in Nigeria before and after the adoption of international standards of accounting.

Hypothesis Two:

H₀₂: The adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the income tax rate of deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Table-5. Report

	Income Tax	Income Tax [IFRS]	Deferred Tax Assets	Deferred Tax Assets [IFRS]	Deferred Tax Liabilities	Deferred Tax Liabilities [IFRS]
Mean	1360462.46	1352820.38	2655006.38	2977766.62	323161.54	302742.54
N	13	13	13	13	13	13
Std. Dev	2246026.983	2284281.468	6530793.977	6691406.848	962182.803	1006495.905

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

The difference between Pre-Income tax and Post-Income tax is (1360462.46 – 1352820.38 = 7642.08). This represents approximately .005% reduction in carrying value of income tax; we thus agree that the adoption of international standards of accounting has effect on the income tax rate of deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Hypothesis Three:

H₀₃: The adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Table-6. Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Dev.	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Profit Before Income Tax	1838900.31	13	13025975.874	3612755.687
	Profit Before Income Tax [IFRS]	2351787.69	13	13593973.953	3770290.010

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

Table-7. Paired Samples Correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Profit Before Income Tax & Profit Before Income Tax [IFRS]	13	.995	.000

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

Table-8. Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences				t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower				Upper
Pair 1	Profit Before Income Tax - Profit Before Income Tax [IFRS]	-512887.385	1432691.880	397357.233	-1378654.423	352879.654	-1.291	12	.221

Source: SPSS Output, 2016

The Sig. Value is greater than .05 (t -1.291, df. 12). Owing to the above, we rejected the alternative and accepted the null hypothesis. This implies that the adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria. On the overall, we found a slightly differing variation in the reported income tax figures under both standards.

5. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Federal Government of Nigeria formally announced its intention to adopt international standards of accounting and consequently launched the roadmap for its implementation on 2nd September, 2010. The roadmap for implementation was in three phases. However, the second phase was connected with banks requiring them to adopt the international standards of accounting by 2012 and as such most banks have complied with such in Nigeria. However, this study was carried out with the view to investigating the tax implication of International Accounting Standards (IAS 12) adoption among deposit money banks in Nigeria. In spite of the adoption of international accounting standards, more specifically IAS 12, the study has shown that there is no significant variation in the reported tax figures among deposit money banks in Nigeria before and after the adoption of international standards of accounting. However, the adoption of international standards of accounting has effect on the income tax rate of deposit money banks in Nigeria.

More interestingly, our study suggested that the adoption of international standards of accounting has no effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that standards setters and DMBs should consider the tax implication of applying any particular standard, more especially as tax laws is at variance across the globe. Furthermore, DMBs and accounting regulatory bodies should be trained and retrained on the application of IAS 12 standards in order to keep them abreast with recent trends on tax-related matters. As a way of doing this, the Chartered Institute of Taxation in

Nigeria is advised to keep abreast with developments in IFRS and areas it may impact on the country's tax laws; this becomes necessary especially in countries practicing common laws which Nigeria is among.

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