

**ARMED FORCES (VERIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT  
OF CONTRACTS) DECREE 1974**



**Decree No. 18**

[11th April 1974]

Commence-  
ment.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows :—

1. This Decree applies in relation to any claim by any person in respect of goods or services supplied or rendered, or purported to have been supplied or rendered to or for the armed forces and arising from any contract or arrangement at any time after 15th January 1966 or purported to have arisen from such contract or arrangement.

Application.

2.—(1) All claims to which this Decree applies—

(a) if forwarded to any member of the armed forces or person employed in the public service of the Federation who is authorised to receive such claims before the commencement of this Decree ; or

(b) when received by any member of the armed forces or person mentioned in paragraph (a) above,

Verification  
and settle-  
ment of  
claims.

shall be directed to the designated officer for examination and verification, and for eventual settlement in accordance with the provisions hereunder.

(2) No payment or settlement shall be made in respect of any such claim—

(a) unless the appropriate authority is of the opinion that the claim is fair and reasonable ; and

(b) unless such claim has been certified by the designated officer as having been duly verified.

(3) After having regard to the rights or interests of any person in relation to any claim to which this Decree applies and the recommendations of the designated officer on such claim, any such claim may be settled by the appropriate authority in part only and subject as recommended by the designated officer proportionately, as the case may require, in relation to any right or interest accruing in respect of the transaction.

(4) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions any claim to which this Decree applies may be rejected wholly or partly at the discretion of the appropriate authority having regard to the circumstances of such claim.

(5) The decision of the appropriate authority in relation to any claim to which this Decree applies shall be final and binding on the parties concerned.

Supple-  
mentary  
provisions.

1963 No. 20.

Interpreta-  
tion.

Citation.

3. The initiation or continuance of any proceeding whatsoever, in respect of any act, matter or thing done or purported to be done pursuant to this Decree or in relation to any claim, or any examination, verification or settlement thereof, in accordance with the provisions of this Decree is, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any enactment (including the Constitution of the Federation) or rule of law, hereby excluded; and any such proceeding initiated before or after the commencement of this Decree shall abate, be discharged and made void.

4. In this Decree—

“appropriate authority” means the Head of the Federal Military Government;

“armed forces” means the armed forces of the Federation or any arm or branch thereof; and

“designated officer” means the officer designated in that behalf by the Head of the Federal Military Government for the purposes of examining and verifying all claims to which this Decree applies and making recommendations thereon.

5. This Decree may be cited as the Armed Forces (Verification and Settlement of Contracts) Decree 1974.

MADE at Lagos this 11th day of April 1974.

GENERAL Y. GOWON,  
*Head of the Federal Military Government,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note does not form part of the above Decree  
but is intended to explain its purpose)*

The Decree provides for the verification of claims arising from contracts and other arrangements entered into or purported to have been entered into (during and after the civil war) for the supply of goods or the rendering of services to the armed forces. The Head of the Federal Military Government is empowered to direct the settlement of all claims which he considers to be fair and reasonable and to repudiate others.