



## NEW NIGERIAN PASSPORT WITH 10 YEARS VALIDITY: ANY BENEFIT?

True to its promise in 2018, the Federal Government of Nigeria has now launched the new Nigerian e-passport with 10 years validity. The ceremony was performed by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Federal Executive Council meeting held on Tuesday, 15th January 2019.

The introduction of the new passport is a welcome development especially for frequent travellers who will now have fewer concerns about pages of their passports being used up before expiration. Another class of travellers that the new e-passport will benefit are Nigerian residents abroad who will no longer have to renew their passports every five years.

On the other hand, non-frequent travellers may not appreciate the benefit of the 10-year validity considering the high cost of obtaining same.

The new 64-page passport with 10 years validity will cost N70,000 (seventy thousand naira) while the 32 and 64 pages with 5 years validity will cost N25,000 and N35,000 respectively.

One important benefit of the new passport for all users, both frequent and non-frequent travellers, is that it incorporates new technology and enhanced security features that makes it more tamper-safe as well as more protective from wear and damage.

The official information is that the new passports will become available as from February 2019. The old passports will remain valid and will be gradually phased out.

**A News Alert of the Immigration Practice of Jackson, Etti & Edu.**