

## **Effect of Digital Tax Administration on Nigerian Business Environment: Evidence from Abia State**

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### **Abstract**

*This study was carried out to examine the effect of digital tax administration on Nigerian business environment; evidence from Abia State. In order to determine the relationship between digital tax administration and Nigerian business environment, the study proxy digital tax administration using digital direct tax assessment and digital road taxes. The study adopted an ex post facto design and data were collected from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Using Wilcoxon statistical test tool, the findings of the study indicate a positive and significant relationship between digital direct tax assessment, digital online road taxes and Nigerian business environment 1% and 5% significant level respectively. Thus, the study concludes that the digital tax administration has positive effect on Nigerian business environment. The study therefore recommended the need for the adoption of digital tax administration which enhances the revenue generation of the state other than the former (manual collection) where most of the collected taxes and levies are not remitted to the government.*

**Keywords:** *Digital Tax Administration, Digital Direct Tax Assessment, Digital Road Taxes, Nigerian Business Environment*

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## 1.1 Introduction

Tax that has been an avenue through which societies can earn revenue. Government can use tax to encourage or discourage some consumption of goods which can be reinvested into capital projects. Tax can be used for income redistribution, so as money can be transferred from the rich to the poor. This normally occurs when tax payers pay their taxes, the government then uses it for provision of social amenities which in the long run will boost the economy and cause businesses to thrive. It can reduce inequalities by reinvesting the money collected in payment of workers salaries and provision of employment. Nigeria has long relied on the revenues from oil, recovered loots, Grants, aids and repatriated funds. There is a widespread recognition of the need to justify the sources of the government project and build a more sustainable revenue base for accountability and inclusive growth. As the value or the posted price of crude oil drops on daily basis, as a reason of technological advancement, pandemic and economic crisis. (Ajuonu , 2022) There is an urgent need for States to look for a means to diversify their revenue other than the statutory allocation they receive from the federal government which is dwindling. It is high time the states looked outside the box to improvise on various ways of earning revenue which they will reinvested into capital projects that will stimulate and revive their economy in other to boost the business environment. There's an urgent call for states to look for means to generate revenue and block loopholes on the already existing revenue that are been collected but are not dully accounted for .

Digital Tax Administration can be seen as a way in which government can help curb tax evasion, monitor the tax cash inflows because of it's automation. It is believed that a healthy society is a wealthy society. A society can be seen as healthy, when all the basic amenities that will keep live going are present such as good roads, constant light, health facilities and good drainage system. Tax is seen as a contribution and when it is been contributed and it is not been geared towards the purpose for which the contribution was made, it will make the taxpayers to slack in the payment of the contribution or rather tax evasion. Internal generated revenue remains the only panacea of infrastructural development and public funding service as oil revenue is dwindling, state should use effective and innovative revenue management skills to increase their IGR to the point of adequately funding both capital and recurrent expenditures .(Ajuonu, 2022) When adequate digital administration are put in place, it will reduce tax evasion and the revenues being used to put in place necessary infrastructure will be beneficial to the tax payer and at the same time boost the economic development and activities of the state because when there is an enabling environment for business to thrive, the taxpayers will happily pay taxes without compulsion.

Revenue generation has remained a major concern for numerous nations comprising Nigeria . Okauru, (2011). Tax is never a new discovery in Nigeria or in the world, it has been in existence as man is. Online tax is neither a novel idea but just that it has not been adopted by so many states in Nigeria in their internally generated revenue (Ajuonu , 2023). Tax is a charge imposed by a government on persons, entities or property, administered to generate revenue for the government. According to world Bank report on Nigeria published on the 1st May 2013 "it was stated that 95% of the government budget expenditure depended on his projected oil revenue based on current

world prices". According to federal account allocation committee (FAAC) most states of the federation depend solely on federal allocation.

Eze et al (2019) postulated that in Nigeria, in terms of public revenue generation tax revenue is ranked next to revenue from petroleum sector. Every state has the potential to be self-sufficient if only they can harness her potential adequately and in the verge of this , Abia state government abolished the use of tout in revenue collection on the 11th of February 2021 and begins e- ticketing (Online tax) (Gordi Udejah, Guardian Newspaper) as a means to ensure transparency , accountability, increase in the internally generated revenue to fund their capital and recurrent expenditure as well as to augment other expenditures. Predictably the oil revenue has continued to decline at the international market due to technological innovation that seek to eliminate consumption of oil products. The total revenue accruable to the nation from sale of oil is determined by the forces of demand, supply, and the quantity sold at the international crude market determines the amount to be shared among the tiers of government. It is on this note that this study arises to examine the effect of Digital Tax Administration on Nigerian Business Environment Evidence from Abia State.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

In Abia State, sequel to the incessant misconduct, misappropriation, mismanagement of revenue realised through paper ticket, tickets forgery, poor accountability on remitted funds by the revenue drivers and collectors , double taxations by the tax payers, complaints of racketeering, touting, misconduct and sundry ills by revenue collectors has made the taxpayers to loose faith and trust in tax payment.(Ajuonu, 2023) . This prompted the government to look for a way to santitize the tax administration in Abia State.

In Abia state , the sundry ills by commuters as touts jumping in moving vehicles and dragging of steering with drivers as such as it causes accidents, choas and endangers the lives of citizenries and unwholesome act traced to illegal enforcers led to high tax avoidance and evasion in the state which has been one of the major challenges in the tax administration in the state. E-tax was introduced with the chief aim of combating vices that were mainly associated with the collection of taxes like; Tax evasion, filing of wrong tax returns and claiming of undeserved tax refunds.Wamathu,(2014). In Nigeria, revenue from income taxes has been grossly understated due to improper tax administration, assessment and collection. Ola, Adegbie and Fakile (2011). As a result of fraud , forgery that is been encountered by the print or paper ticket made the government to ban illegal enforcers and touting in other to adopt a more transparent means of revenue collection. (Ajuonu, 2023)

Owing to the precarious situation in the country, there is an urgent need for States to look outside the box to tighten loopholes were money were leaking to ensure accountability in their tax administration which could help sort some recurrent and capital expenditures. Because, it is believed that it is the duty of the citizens to pay tax and the contractual duty of the government to account for all the taxes received. Abia state is a state that has the manpower, the natural resources,

the market and the economy to boom. If all the amenities that will foster production are put in place.

It is against this background that this study arises to examine the effect of Digital Tax Administration in Abia State to examine its compliance and any effect it has on the business environment of the state since its adoption .

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the effect of Digital Tax Administration on business environment in Abia State. The specific objectives were crystallized into the following:

1. To determine the effect of Digital direct tax assessment on business environment in Abia State.
2. To determine the effect of Digital Road Taxes on business environment in Abia State.
3. To determine the effect of MDA's Revenue on business environment in Abia State.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What is the effect of digital direct tax assessment on business environment in Abia State?
2. To what extent does digital road taxes have effect on business environment in Abia State?
3. To what extent does MDA's Revenue have effect on business environment in Abia State?

### **1.5 Hypotheses**

In order to direct the flow of this work, the following hypotheses were formulated:

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Digital Direct Tax Assessment does not have significant effect on business environment in Abia State.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** Digital Road Taxes does not have significant effect on business environment in Abia State.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** MDA revenue does not have significant effect on business environment in Abia State.

## **2.0 Review of the Related Literature**

### **2.1 Conceptual Framework**

#### **2.1.1 Digital Tickets or E-Tickets**

It is a digital ticket that is valid as a paper ticket or its equivalent. It is an electronic ticket which gives the holder rights like the paper ticket. It could mean a ticket one buys online. Digital tax administration is a system in which tax is paid through a debit card or payment through banks and once the payment is made, a receipt is given as a receipt that the taxpayer is to be presented whenever

the need arises. It requires taxpayers to pay their duties online from their individual or business bank account (FIRS, 2015).

The author, sees online tax as the process of taking advantage of digitalisation on the collection of compulsory payment or charges levied on the citizens, corporate organisations and business entities in order to assist government on developmental projects and to finance government expenditures

### **2.1.2 E-tax.**

Electronic tax or e-tax reporting refers to the process of filing the report and its comfortable supporting documents to an authority using a computer or publicly switches to the phone or cell phone lines via the internet (William Wagner).

Electronic taxation (e-taxation) is the deployment of computer system and networks in the process of levying and payment of taxes. It involves the application of computer techniques in the process of tax assessment collection and administration. It is generally referred to as a payment and a feeling it is an extension of the growing concept of e-governance and e-commerce. Newman and Eghosa E (2019) refers to organisational process with data transfer between the IT system of professionals and those of tax authority. Position must support tax authority processes workflow systems and electronic record management on the other hand acknowledge management and automated risk analysis to assess the credibility of tax returns, the tax inspectors required support not only to check the accounting data of taxpayers but also to fight against illegal employment, tax evasion and social security fraud at the construction site (Makolm & Orthofer (2007)).

### **2.1.3 The Operation of Online Road Tax Ticket**

The online ticket is operated by feeding the mini computer, phones with the name of the operator, the plate number and the mobile number of the buyer. A text message is sent to the operators, when the task force asks for it, the text messages will confirm it and plate number of the payers and the number or code given. And it will help drivers and operators to run their business at ease. The state partners with staff of banks involved in revenue collection, take them through the new process and also work with interswitch group to ensure payment across all channels remain seamless and easy. This is applicable for other taxes and levies (Abia State internal Revenue Service, 4th Sept 17.43 Facebook for android).

ABBSIN: Abia State social identity number; it is an electronic number that uniquely identifies a tax-paying entity, (individual) corporate to the other state government and a state internal revenue service. The TIN is generated once for life and needed to access most of the online services of Abia State internal Revenue Service and this is how the direct assessment is carried out.

### **2.1.4 Internally Generated Revenue.**

It is the revenue that Local and State government generate within the area of jurisdiction. The capacity of local government to generate revenue internally is one of crucial consideration for

creation of a local council. The State Internally Generated Revenue is computed by the National Bureau of Statistics and Joint Tax Board from official records and it is submission by the 36 States Board of Internal Revenue. This submission are then validated and authenticated by the joint tax board chaired by the Federal Inland Revenue Service.

### **2.1.5 The Components of Taxes Administered by the state.**

i. **MDA's Revenue;** this relates to revenue generated administratively by state Ministries Departments and Agencies during the course of providing various services to residents in the States

ii. **Direct Assessment;** direct assessment may relate to a form of personal income tax used to assess tax for self-employed individual with the self-assessed tax, a new taxpayer can assess him /himself and pay the calculated amount. Direct assessment may also relate to those imposed on business especially (informal) by the state authority, this is based on the size of their activities.

iii. **Pay As you earn (PAYE)** this is a form of personal income tax that refers to tax deducted directly from wages and salaries of employees operating in the formal sector. All employees in Nigeria are responsible for deducting Pay As You Earn (PAYE) that is from their employees earnings.

iv. **Road Taxes;** road tax is the daily levies paid by commercial transporters, tricycle operators , Motorcycle operating within the States.

v. **Other Taxes;** these include various taxes such as levies on market traders, land registration and other land related fees /development levies on individuals , pool betting/ lottery/ gaming fees, stamp duties on individuals .Schedule of taxes and levies by the state government are; pay as you earn, direct taxation (self assessment) withholding taxes for individual, capital gains tax for individual, stamp duties on instrument executed by individuals, pool betting ,lotteries gaming and casino taxes, road taxes, business premises registration ,development Levy for individual, naming of Street registration fees in state capitals ,right of occupancy fees on land owned by the state government, market taxes and levies ,real estate finance involved Hotel , restaurant and event centre .Consumption tax (where applicable, environmental tax, ecological, mining and quarry fees (where applicable ) slaughter/ abattoir fees where Government is involved in its construction, service charges ,development Levy, social services contribution levy.

### **2.1.6 How to Strengthen Connection between Digital Tax Administration and Accountability and sustainable business environment.**

According to Webster's Dictionary, "Accountable is defined has been responsible, liable, explainable legally bound to". Accountability implies that performance is measured and it will result in consequences that depend on the failure or success to meet the expected standard for which they are responsible. In order to improve the tax morale and compliance, taxpayers need to understand taxes they pay and what the revenue are used for. Because when citizens are forced to pay taxes, they are more likely to feel ownership, ( i.e ) to determine the stewardship and

accountability of the tax they pay because accountability is about stewardship explainable, liable to something and when entrusted with such, one should be seen to be up and doing and this could only be achieved only through stringent digital tax administration system that could help reduce double taxations, tax racketeering ,mismanagement of tax revenue because the revenue will go directly to one account of the government which will implore the government to provide amenities , infrastructure and enabling environment for business to thrive.

## **2.2 Theoretical Review on Digital Tax Administration.**

This work is anchored on technology acceptance model (TAM) developed by Davis et al (1989), Lindahl tax and theory of accountability as explained by Vanice et al (2013). This term is preferred because it suits the study scenario. According to Szajna (1994) and Legris, Ingham and Collette (2003), TAM has predictive validity for intend to use and self-reported usage and has proven to be a theoretical as in explaining individual acceptance, behaviour towards an information systems such as e-filing . As reported by other scholars Park (2009). The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is an information system theory model that help to explain and predict user behaviour of information technology. Also the TAM framework is explaining individual acceptance behaviour towards an information systems such models how users come to accept and use a technology.

According to Davis (1989) users are motivated to use the system by two main factors: perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Perceived usefulness is the user's expectation that by adopting new technology could result into improvement of work performance. While perceived ease-of-use being a degree to which a person expects that using a particular system will be free of effort.

### **Lindahl Tax.**

A Lindahl tax is a form of taxation conceived by Erik Lindahl in which individuals pay for public goods according to their marginal benefits. They pay according to the amount of satisfaction or Utility they derive from the consumption of an additional unit of the public goods. Lindahl taxation is designed to maximise efficiency for each individual and provide the optimal level of a public goods. Lindahl can be seen as an individual share or the collective tax burden of an economy. The optimal level of a public good is that quantity at which the willingness to pay for one more unit of the good taken in totality for all the individual is equal to the marginal cost of supplying that good. Lindahl tax is the optimal quantity times the willingness to pay for one more unit of that good at it's quantity.

As explained carefully by Vanice, et al (2013) the useful way to understand accountability is to distinguish between it's two most prevalent uses; (1) As a virtue (2) As a mechanism.

As a virtue, accountability is seen as a quality in which a person displays a willingness to accept a responsibility, a desirable trait in public officials, government agencies or firms. In this use, accountability is positive feature of an entity. As a mechanism accountability seen as a process in which a person has a potential obligation to explain his or her actions to another party who has the

right to pass judgement on the actions as well as to subject the person to potential consequences for his or her actions. Accountability Theory Focuses on the process of accountability, it proposes several mechanism that increases accountability perception. For example quotes "even the simplest accountability manipulation necessarily implicate several empirical distinguishable sub manipulations" Lerner and Tetlock (1999), including the presence of another person, identifiability and expectation of evaluation. Recent research has shown that IT design artifacts of systems can manipulate the four core components of accountability Theory and thus improve employees felt accountability towards organisation system security without disruptive intervention of training.

### **2.3 Empirical Review**

Studies conducted in Tanzania by Yonazi (2020) Rumanyika, & Mashenene (2014) reported constraints related to low level of ICT development in the country. Nevertheless, making compliance with regulation for e-filing affordable cannot be neglected in the process of rolling out the systems to taxpayers.

Ajuonu (2022) analysed the impact of online taxes as accountability tool on Internally Generated Revenue of Abia State. The study determined the relationship between online tax adoption and internally generated revenue, the study proxy online tax adoption using online direct tax assessment (ODTA) and online road taxes (ORT). The study adopted an ex post facto design and data were collected from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Using Wilcoxon statistical test tool, the findings of the study indicate a positive and significant relationship between online direct tax assessment (ODTA), online road taxes (ORT) and internally generated revenue in Abia State Nigeria

Nnubia et al (2020). Analysed the impact of the tax assessment on income generation in Nigeria. The assessment applied optional information gotten from federal inland revenue service charge report and CBN statistical delivery and quarterly economic report. This data were time arrangement data covered the time frame from first quarter 2012 to second quarter of 2018. The information gathered were broken down into ordinary least square method. The results show a hopeful gigantic effect of pre (before the starter of e -charge evaluation)organisation personal expense and value-added tax on income generation in Nigeria and an opposite irrelevant effect of post association yearly obligation pay were included appraisal pay income, age in Nigeria. after the presence of e-charge assessment at 5% degree of basic.

Nkechi and Onuora (2018) investigated the effect of internally generated revenue on infrastructural development of the South Eastern States in Nigeria. Secondary data were used for the study and they were obtained from budget estimate of each five states of the Eastern States of Imo, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu and Anambra state from the period of 2013 -2017. The study adopted descriptive statistics correlation and linear multiple regression for data analysis and interpretation. Findings from the study revealed that that is a significant positive relationship between IGR and infrastructural development in the south east States.



Peter and Ferdinand (2017) analyse the relationship between IGR and capital expenditure utilisation in Cross River State Nigeria from 2007 to 2015. Secondary data sought from Cross River State budget office of internal revenue service, ministry of finance were used for the study. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the relationship between IGR and capital expenditure utilisation in Cross River State. Findings from the study indicate that increase in government expenditure without corresponding Revenue will widen the budget deficit, stating that Cross River State government should increase the size of its IGR in order to accommodate the capital expenditure of the State.

Nasir (2015) analyses executing electronic duty fillings and installment in Malaysia: The fundamental target was to call attention to the advantages of taking up a decent e -charge framework rather than a manual framework. The investigation utilised auxiliary information from Malaysia Inland Revenue report from 2004 to 2011 utilising pattern examination to feature the expansion in expense firms made since the inception of e-charge framework in 2004. For the initial 2 years , the quantity of citizen utilising the e-filing framework stayed far beneath desire at about 5% and expense specialist were all while handling difficulties presented by the new framework from disillusioning 4% to an encouraging 34% and 37% in 2012. Over a similar assessment forms expanded from 14.5% of 52GDP to 15.3% is likewise indicated, how consistence was expanded and less hour utilised in gathering charges whenever actualized well and utilised by most citizens advantages and expenses specialist this ensure a superior way of life for all.

Afubero and Okoye (2014) examined the influence of tax collection on income generation in Nigeria, regarding FCT and some named state in the nation. Utilizing a regression investigation, figured with the guide of SPSS. The agent applied on salary and essential Springs of information termination uncovered among others that destination has a noteworthy interest on income generation, its Impact on assessment has an important effect on gross domestic product.

Akwe (2014) examines the effect of non-oil tax revenue on economic growth from 1993 to 2012 in Nigeria. To accomplish this, examination of objective, significant, optional information utilised from the 2012 statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) were used this information examined utilising the adoption of online taxes ensures and enhances revenue generation in Abia State Nigeria. Likewise a positive effect of non-oil tax revenue on monetary growth in Nigeria.

Lai (2008) analysed the effect of e-filing on revenue generation in Malaysia, using a survey investigation and auxiliary widespread of information. Most of the investigation uncovered that tax collection has a lot of effect on Income generation. Former tax collection has an important impact on gross domestic product (GDP), tax evasion and tax avoidance have noteworthy effects on income generation in Malaysia

Sweeny, et al (1999) and Yilmaz and Coolidge (2014) reported some of these costs for small tax payers, additional capital may be needed to invest for e- filing in order to put the system in place. This may entail purchasing of hardware and connectivity to internet. If the costs are high, it is likely that they affect e-filing adoption in the short-run in the long run, the accumulated benefits outweighs these cost.

### 3.1 Methodology

This study adopts ex-post facto design in examining the impact of online tax adoption as an accountability tool on internally generated revenue (IGR) in Abia state. This was adopted based on the fact that our data is secondary data that exists already which cannot be manipulated or controlled. Data for the study were collected from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Hence, the study was limited to Abia state Nigeria. Wilcoxon statistical test tool was employed to examine the relationship which exists between online tax adoption and internally generated revenue in Abia State Nigeria. Secondary data collected from national Bureau of Statistics and the figures are given in the table below:

#### Internally Generated Revenue at State Level.

	<b>PRE ONLINE TAX ADOPTION (2019)</b>	<b>ROAD TAX (2019)</b>	<b>MDA</b>
1.	Direct Assessment (2019) N177,303,831.36	N130,613,394.51	
2.	Direct Assessment (2020) Q1 N85,519,703027	N96,089,570.00	
3.	Direct Assessment (2020) Q2 = N20,169.757.9	Road Tax 2020 Q2 N22,200,000.00	
4.	Grand Total 2020 N105,689,490.36	Grand Total 2020 N118,289,570.00	
5	<b>Post Digital Tax Administration</b>	<b>Post Digital Tax Administration 2021</b>	Post Digital Tax Administration 2021
5.	Direct Assessment 2021 Q1 = N81,640,899.59	Q1 = N130,298,465.84	Q1=681,306,632.68
6.	Direct Assessment 2021 Q2= N58,937,015.00	Road Tax Q2 = N102,928,885.00	MDA Q2=254,161,962
	Grand Total 2021 N140,577,914.59	Grand Total 2021 N233,227.350.84	Grand Total 2021 : 935468595.18

Source: National Bureau of Statistics internally generated revenue at state level H1, 2019, H1 2020, H2 2021

Q1= 1<sup>st</sup> Half of the year

Q2= 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the year

### 4.1 Results and Discussion

Wilcoxon Statistical Test Tool was employed to test the linear relationship between the dependent and independent variables. It was operated using SPSS version 20 as shown in the table 4.1.1-4.1.2 below:

**Table 4.1.1: Result on Effect of Digital Direct Tax Assessment (ODTA) on business environment in Abia State.**

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The median of differences between IGR and ODTA equals 0.	Related-Samples Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test	.005	Reject the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

**Table 4.1.2: Result on Digital Road Taxes (ORT) on business environment in Abia State Nigeria**

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The median of differences between IGR and ORT equals 0.	Related-Samples Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test	.017	Reject the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

#### 4.2: Discussion of Findings

The result of the analysis of the study using Wilcoxon test tool operated with SPSS version 20 is expressed as follows:

**H<sub>01</sub>: Digital Direct Tax Assessment (DDTA) does not have significant effect on** the business environment in Abia State analysis as shown on Table 4.1.1 the result shows a median difference between digital direct tax assessment (DDTA) and business environment in Abia State. This implies that digital direct tax assessment has positive and significant impact on business

environment. The Wilcoxon test as shown on the table above shows a p-value of 0.005. This probability value is statistically significant at 1% level. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected as suggested by the decision rule shown in the Table and alternate hypothesis accepted which contends that the adoption of digital direct tax assessment (DDTA) have significant effect on business environment in Abia State.

This is in tandem and in agreement with the findings of Peter and Ferdinand (2017). That analysed the relationship between IGR and capital expenditure utilisation in Cross Rivers State Nigeria from 2007 to 2015. Found that increase in government expenditure without corresponding Revenue will widen the budget deficit stating that Cross River State government should increase the size of its IGR in order to accommodate the capital expenditure of the State.

**H<sub>02</sub>: Digital Road Taxes does not have significant effect on business environment in Abia State.** As can be viewed by the analysis as shown on Table 4.1.2, the result shows a median difference between digital road taxes (DRT) and business environment implies that digital road taxes have positive and significant impact on internally generated revenue. The Wilcoxon test as shown on the table above shows a p-value of 0.017. This probability value is statistically significant at 5% level. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected as suggested by the decision rule shown in the Table and alternate hypothesis accepted which contends that the digital road taxes (DRT) have significant effect on the business environment in Abia State.

This is in consonance and aligns with the findings of Nkechi and Onuora (2018) effect of IGR on infrastructural development of Eastern States, findings revealed that there's a significant positive relationship between IGR and the infrastructural development in South East Nigeria. Likewise, Lai (2008) found that tax collection has effect on Income alongside the former (print tickets) have impact on tax evasion, GDP and tax avoidance.

## 5.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

The study having established a model fit on online tax adoption (DDTA, MDA & DRT) found that online tax adoption is an accountability tool for revenue generation in Abia State Nigeria. Hence, the study concludes. Based on our findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. The study having found positive and significant association between the digital direct tax assessment on business environment which enhances the revenue generation other than the former (manual tax collection) where most of the collected taxes are not remitted to the government and at the same time will enhance accountability and sanity in tax administration, curb tax evasion, boost accountability on the IGR and in the long run boost infrastructural development of the state.
2. Government should ensure that road tax rate will not be seen as a burden to the payers and its incidence be light so that the taxpayers could comply and in the long run, this will curb tax evasion. Moreover, taxpayers will be ever willing to pay, when the burden of tax is not so much felt and will slack in payment of the tax if the government doesn't provide infrastructural development and enabling environment. Those touts that were revenue drivers should be absorbed into the digital

ticket marketers or should be empowered into one skill or the other to make them gainfully employed to avoid constituting nuisance or miscreants threatening the economic development of the state.

## 5.2 Contribution to knowledge

Previous studies digital Tax Administration did not test it on business environment in Abia State. Here, digital direct assessment, digital road taxes and MDA's on Abia State. Rather, the test on other variables like Custom duties, Value added tax, IGR on infrastructural development and economic development on other states in Nigeria. But this study, arises to fill the gap in literature and contributing to knowledge by adding to the body of literature by using data collected from National Bureau of Statistics to test the digital tax administration on business environment of Abia State. And this will be of relevance to tax administrators, state governments that are having challenges on accountability on digital tax administration. This will help to strengthen the loopholes in revenue collection, cut down cost of print tickets and at the same time made the government to be responsive to the citizens by creating infrastructural development and social amenities which will also make the taxpayers to respond by paying their taxes as at when due because they are enjoying the dividends of the taxes which they receive through rehabilitation and creation of infrastructural development that were provided by the government and the same time boost their economy and make businesses to thrive.

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## INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE AT STATE LEVEL

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Abia State

