



BANWO & IGHODALO

Hot Topics in the Nigerian Intellectual Property and Technology Industry

The National Agency For Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Now Enforces Mandatory Foreign Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection Before Granting Marketing Authorization.



The NAFDAC recently issued a Notice dated July 22, 2016 informing all stakeholders that henceforth, all foreign manufacturing facilities will be inspected by the NAFDAC to ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), prior to issuance of a Marketing Authorisation (i.e. Certificate of Registration). This is a departure from the previous practice where inspections were usually conducted following registration of a product.

Further, all holders of subsisting certificates of registration for NAFDAC imported regulated products whose manufacturing facilities have not been inspected and approved by NAFDAC are

required to resubmit their application for inspection for manufacturer's facility to NAFDAC within three (3) months (22nd October 2016), failing which they face the risk of having their registration certificate(s) cancelled or withdrawn.

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Confiscates Counterfeit Products



In line with its mandate to rid the country of counterfeit/unwholesome food and drug products, operatives of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) recently confiscated a trailer load of counterfeit drugs and chemicals in Lagos, which is the major commercial state in Nigeria.

The truck was alleged to be loaded with 570 cartons of unregistered Dr. Relly Extra (Paracetamol, Diclofenac and Caffeine tablets), 448 cartons of Dicloforte 550, 273 cartons of Chlorophenamine (Chlorpheniramine maleate 4mg), five cartons of Kdmotil (Loperamide Hydrochloride tablets), 18 cartons of Newdol

(Diclofenac sodium capsules 50mg), 51 cartons of Bospan, 25 cartons of Tramadol 225mg/200mg, 10 drums of Toluene disocyanate 80/20 (TDI), 10 drums of Malachite Green powder and five drums of Methylviolate crystal.

The counterfeit products were allegedly concealed in bundles of fairly-used clothes, food products and other registered products.

Lagos State Seals Off 30 Illegal Pharmacies, OTC Medicine Outlets



In a renewed efforts at ridding Lagos of fake, substandard and illegal drugs, the Lagos State Taskforce on Fake, Counterfeit and Unwholesome Processed Foods sealed off over 30 illegal pharmacies and Over-the-Counter(OTC) medicine shops operating in the state, and confiscated fake drugs estimated to be valued at millions of Naira.

The Nigerian Copyright Commission Clamps Down on Pirates



In a bid to protect the rights of Copyright holders in Nigeria, the Nigerian Copyright Commission (“NCC”) recently revealed that it destroyed 1,783,914 items of pirated materials ranging from DVDs, books and MP3’s with an estimated value of N1,649,343,460.00 (\$5,400,000). The NCC also reported that it has recently arrested about 98 suspected pirates’ during its new special anti-piracy operations.

Court Dismisses Patent Suit Against Pharmacists Council of Nigeria



The Federal High Court sitting in Akure, Ondo, Nigeria has dismissed a suit filed by the Nigerian Association of Patent and Proprietary Medicine Dealers (NAPPMED) to stop the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (the “PCN”), which is the medicine regulatory body in Nigeria, from regulating its activities.

The suit was dismissed on the ground that it lacks merit. in reaching that decision the court also noted that the PCN Act CAP P15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 empowers the PCN to regulate the operations of pharmacies and matters related to all spheres of the pharmacy profession.

Inauguration of the Cyber Crime Advisory Council



Following the enactment of the Cyber Crime Bill into law, the Attorney General of the Federation and the National Security Adviser has inaugurated the Cyber Crime Advisory Council (the “Council”). The primary responsibility of the Council is to formulate and provide general policy guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of the Cyber Crime Act, 2015.

Nigeria Loses N127bn Annually to Cyber-Crime



During the recent National Conference of the Nigerian Computer Society (“NCS”) with the theme, “Information Technology for National Safety and Security”, the Minister of Communication, Mr. Adebayo Shittu disclosed that Nigeria loses an estimated sum of 127 Billion Naira annually to cybercrime. He noted that the figures represented about 0.08% of Nigeria’s Gross Domestic Products. Mr. Shittu further warned that the trend had to be reversed immediately for national safety.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg Visits Nigeria



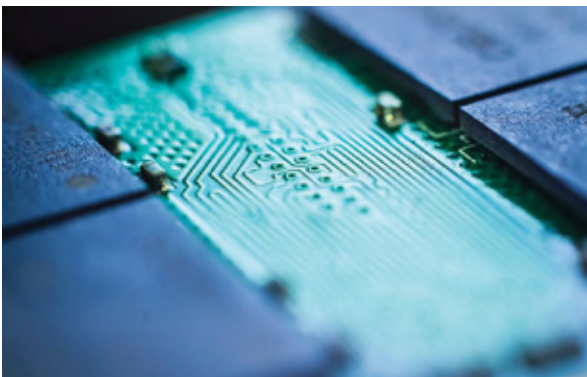
Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder and CEO of Facebook (the most famous online social networking website) is currently on a few days visit to Lagos, Nigeria starting from August 30, 2016, with the view to understudy rising startups in the country and meet with Technology Developers and Engineers.

During his visit, Mark Zuckerberg attended a conference themed: “Facebook for Developers”, which was aimed at assisting Technology Engineers to build better applications and monetize them more effectively. He disclosed that Facebook will be launching a satellite into space to enable more entrepreneurs trade Express

WIFI across Africa. He also visited a ‘Summer of Code Camp’ at the Co-Creation Hub (CcHub) in Yaba, known locally as the Silicon Valley of Nigeria, where young developers learn how to code and develop their solutions while looking for mentors and angel investors.

The visit, coming shortly after the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative invested heavily in Andela, a Tech and Coding company which provides training to young Tech Engineers out of campuses it operates in Lagos and Nairobi, underscores Facebook and Mr. Zuckerberg’s increasing focus on the continent of Africa. Indeed, Mark Zuckerberg’s visit to Nigeria is an indication of the huge potential for expansion and investment in the Nigerian Technology sector.

Lagos Chamber of Commerce And Industry Hosts ICTEL Expo 2016



The Lagos Chamber of Commerce has recently hosted the Information and Communication Technology and Telecommunication (“ICTEL”) expo 2016 - 28th July, 2016. The focus of the ICTEL expo was on the Nigerian information and communication technology and the telecommunication industry, with the objective of providing a comprehensive overview of trends in the Nigerian ICT Industry. The event was themed “Mobility, Technology and the Nigerian Economy”.

Lagos Hosts Africa's Biggest Tech Event, Techplus 2016



Recently, the second edition of Africa's biggest tech event called "Techplus" was held in Lagos, Nigeria. Launching with the theme, "A Connected World", the two-day TechPlus conference which lasted from the 22nd - 23rd of July 2016, was aimed at providing a colossal tech experience through its conferences and exhibitions. It served as a platform for knowledge, sharing and large scale networking.

During the conference, the United States Chief Information Officer, Mr. Tony Scott stated that the government of the United States will assist Nigeria in building smart cities that are envisioned to deliver a good mix of technology, economic development and governance to the people of Nigeria.