

REGISTRATION ON THE NAFDAC AUTOMATED PRODUCT ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING SYSTEM (“NAPAMS”)

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (“NAFDAC”), the agency responsible for regulating and controlling the importation, sale and use of drugs, food, pharmaceutical products and chemicals, recently introduced the NAFDAC Automated Product Administration and Management System (NAPAMS), which is an e-portal for the electronic registration of regulated products. It is envisaged that the portal will be of benefit to both the NAFDAC and the applicants in the long term, and that it will increase efficacy of the registration process, provide real-time information on applications, create a centralised system for authentic record keeping and data management by the NAFDAC, reduce duplication of registrations and generally simplify compliance and the enforcement by the NAFDAC.

Access to the portal is straight forward and may be achieved using a laptop or a mobile phone. The benefits of the portal to applicants are significant, as the portal, among other things, allows for effective management and tracking of applications through the various stages of the registration process, eliminates long queues at registration points, eliminates the need for repeated submission of application documents, and allows for the maintenance of complete and comprehensive information (including approved changes) on products in a central data base throughout the life of such products.

Although a worthwhile objective, this development is unlikely to result in a complete eradication of queues at the NAFDAC, as applicants are still required to attend NAFDAC’s offices, in person, to submit hard copies of application documents for processing. Also, the portal has been subject to some IT challenges, which means that delays in the registration/renewal process have not yet been totally eradicated. Notwithstanding the setbacks that have been experienced in utilising the on-line portal, it is important for applicants to ensure that information on their products are uploaded on the NAPAMS, as subsequent applications to the NAFDAC will not be accepted until the applicant provides evidence that all information and documentations regarding any prior product registrations with NAFDAC have been uploaded on the NAPAMS portal.

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