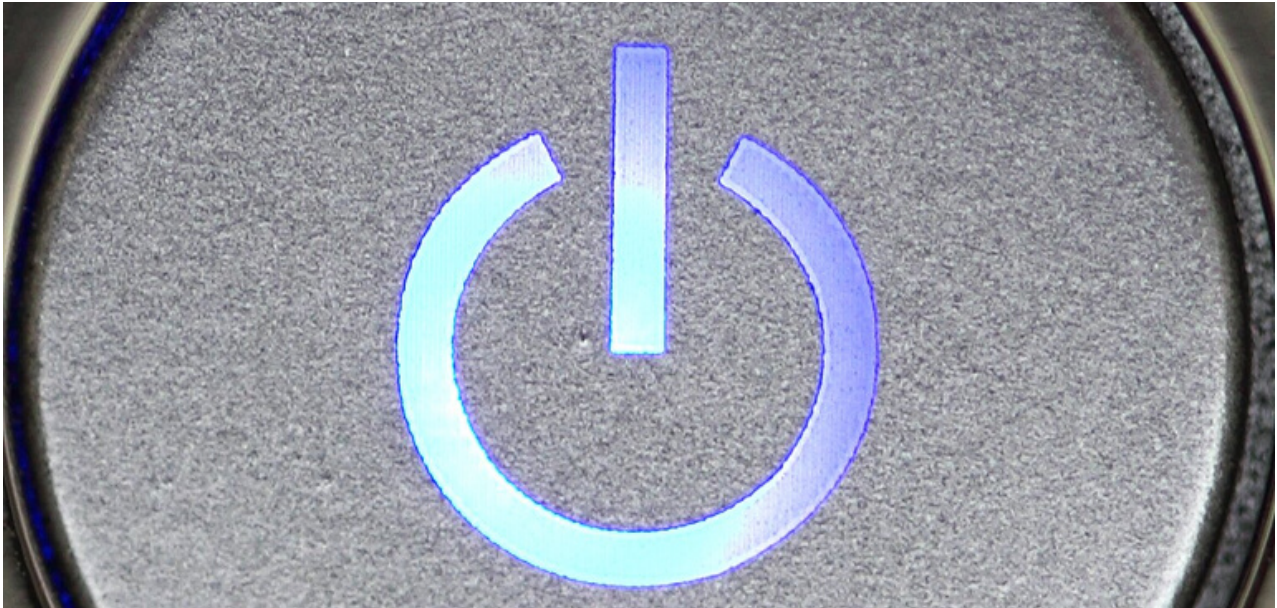


NAFDAC LAUNCHES SPECIAL PALLIATIVES FOR MSMEs



MAY 2020

On the 15th of May 2020, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control ('NAFDAC') announced special palliative measures put in place by the agency to support MSMEs.

The new palliative measures are as follows:

1.Reduction in Registration Fees

- NAFDAC will grant free registration for the first 200 MSMEs that indicated interest to register their products on or before the Launch date (May 15, 2020).
- An eighty per cent (80%) reduction in registration fee for MSMEs that register their products within a period of three 90 days from the launch date. It is important to note that by the NAFDAC Guidelines, Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises are not permitted to register more than a total of 9 products, except the business is scaled up to a Medium or Large Enterprise.

2. Waiver of Administrative Charges for Late Renewal of Expired Marketing Authorizations

NAFDAC is granting a waiver of administrative charges for late renewal of registration for a period of 3 months commencing from May 15, 2020 to MSMEs involved in production of regulated products. The agency charges the sum of ₦156,250.00 as administrative charge for late renewal of expired registration.

In order to take advantage of these palliatives, it is important to understand the eligibility threshold for qualifying MSMEs. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria in its National Policy on MSMEs classified MSMEs as follows:

S/N	Size Category	Employment	Assets (₦ Million) (excluding land and buildings)
1.	Micro Enterprises	Less than 10	Less than ₦5 million
2.	Small Enterprises	10 – 49	₦5 million – less than ₦50 million
3.	Medium Enterprises	50 – 199	₦50 million – less than ₦500 million

Other recent reforms carried out by NAFDAC to enhance an enabling environment for MSMEs include:

1. Creation of Small Business Support Desk (SBSD) to facilitate registration processes for MSMEs.
2. Review of guidelines for registration of products.
3. Reduction of registration requirement for food and cosmetics products for Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises. Bureaucratic challenges associated with the submission of evidence of trademark and company registration are being addressed.
4. Expedited laboratory analysis of product samples.
5. The inspection process such as submission of documents and video recording of processing can be initiated online to reduce processing timeline.
6. Allowing micro companies with similar products to share production facility.
7. Registration of micro enterprises products at the zonal offices nationwide.
8. Prompt treatment of complaints/enquiries from companies.

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