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OYEBODE

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# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NEWSLETTER

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FIRST ISSUE 2019

## PUBLICATION OF PRE-IPAS APPLICATIONS AND THE ONGOING RENOVATION OF THE TRADEMARKS REGISTRY

The trademarks registry has embarked on the publication of some outstanding pre - IPAS applications. This is in spite of the ongoing renovations at the registry.

## NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION HOLDS ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS THE RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISIONS ON LOCUS STANDI OF COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Osiri Ndukwe, Aluko & Oyebode's associate attended a Roundtable organized by the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), the Intellectual Property Law Association of Nigeria (IPLAN) and the Intellectual Property Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL).

In attendance were various stakeholders, legal practitioners and regulators who came together to discuss the recent Supreme Court judgements on the right of action of Collective Management Organizations under the Nigerian Copyright Act. The new Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) stated that the purpose of the event was to create an avenue for the creation of copyright jurisprudence in Nigeria.

The event also focused on creating a strong synergy among the stakeholders, giving room for the Nigerian Bar Association to contribute more to policy formulations in respect of copyright and ultimately to reconnect the right holders.

It was agreed that further discussions would be held in this regard to increase legislation in this area.

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTS JOHN ASEIN AS THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

A renowned copyright lawyer and the former director of the Nigerian Copyright Institute, John Asein has been appointed as the Director-General of the Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC). He has been an active member of the commission since its inception and has revealed his commitment to completely restructuring and reposition the commission.

## NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT (MUHAMMADU BUHARI) SIGNS THE FEDERAL COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL INTO LAW

The president, on the 6th of February 2019 signed the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill into Law. The Act is aimed at developing and promoting fair, efficient and competitive markets in the Nigerian economy with a view to eliminating anti-competitive practices, facilitating access by Nigerian citizens to safe products, as well as securing the rights of consumers in Nigeria.

Amongst other changes, the Act has repealed the Consumer Protection Council Act, established a Federal Competition and Customer Protection Commission and a Competition and Consumer Protection Tribunal, which would hear and determine competition and consumer protection related matters.

The Act also confers powers on the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection to seal up premises containing, harboring or are being used to produce or disseminate goods or services that are fake, substandard, hazardous or inimical to consumers' welfare in collaboration with relevant sector regulators such as the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) and The Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON).

## THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND PROMOTION (NOTAP) TO PATENT INVENTIONS FOR FREE TO FACILITATE TECHNOLOGICAL GROWTH

The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) has announced that it shall patent inventions for free. This is in order to facilitate an increase in investment, economic growth and innovation.

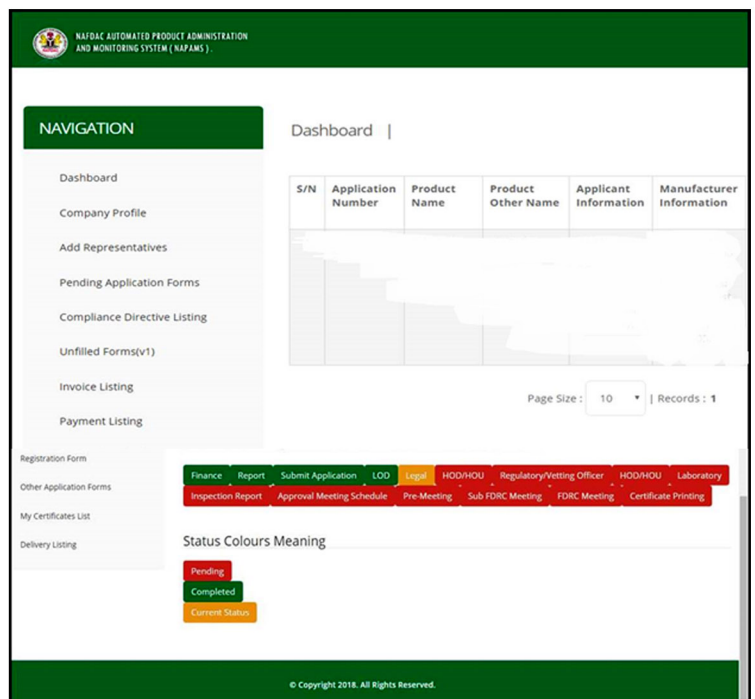
The Director General of NOTAP, Dr. DanAzumi Mohammed Ibrahim revealed that Nigeria's weak intellectual property culture has led to our overdependence on foreign. He urged Nigerian inventors to submit their claims to NOTAP and stated that patenting creates an avenue for commercialization and investment.

## THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK ASSOCIATION (INTA) HOLDS ROUNDTABLE ON THE ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISPUTES

Ayokunle Adetula, Aluko & Oyebode's associate attended a roundtable held by The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee of The International Trademark Association. It was held on the 26th of February 2019 and focused on the special nature of intellectual property disputes and the potential for resolving them through arbitration and mediation.

## THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC) HAS INTRODUCED NAFDAC AUTOMATED PRODUCT ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING SYSTEM (NAPAMS)

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) now runs a new online product monitoring system for imported food products. This platform enables applicants to monitor their product's registration processes online, as the application moves from one unit to the other. The system is called NAFDAC AUTOMATED PRODUCT ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING SYSTEM (NAPAMS). After an application to register a product has been filed online, unlike the old system which is just to purchase NAFDAC forms and to submit application online, the applicant can go back to the page on the new platform for progress reports on the product. The platform will show the current unit that is working on the application. This system also enables the applicant to make payment for import permit simultaneously as fresh application to register a product is filed. Below is a snapshot of the platform.



FIRM NEWS



10 lawyers were ranked across various practice areas MORE THAN ANY LAW FIRM IN NIGERIA

Aluko & Oyebode is delighted to have received the highest number of Band 1 rankings in Nigeria in Chambers Global 2019 rankings in four (4) practice areas in this year's edition of the Chambers Global. The practice areas include Banking and Finance (Band 1); Corporate/Commercial (Band 1); Dispute Resolution (Band 1); Intellectual Property, and Projects and Energy (Band 1).



Aluko & Oyebode has received 10 individual rankings across 5 main practice areas that are researched and evaluated by Chambers Global for Nigeria. These practice areas include: Intellectual Property, Finance , Banking, Dispute Resolution and Energy.

Aluko & Oyebode hosted an interactive training session on Crisis Management for our in-house lawyers and business team. This training was facilitated by Nigel Boardman (Partner, Slaughter & May).

# ELEVATE

Entry Level Associate Training Exercise

Aluko & Oyebode was proud to be a part of the 2019 Entry Level Associate Training Exercise (ELEVATE). The intensive two week training held at Aluko & Oyebode was designed, sponsored and facilitated by 6 Nigerian law firms; this includes Aluko & Oyebode.

The training focused on improving the quality of work output by entry level associates. It aimed at equipping them with various sectorial knowledge, commercial awareness and an opportunity to enhance their soft skills.



Aluko & Oyebode is set to participate in the annual Bankole Olumide Aluko (**BOA**) Football Tournament for lawyers in Nigeria. This will be the 17th edition of the tournament held annually in memory of Mr Bankole Aluko (SAN). To kick off the tournament, Aluko & Oyebode's **AO PANTHERS** have played friendly matches with Olaniwun Ajayi , Banwo & Ighodalo and Lagos State Ministry of Justice.



Further information about the firm, its practice areas, client briefing notes and details of seminars/events are available at [www.aluko-oyebode.com](http://www.aluko-oyebode.com). This is a publication of Aluko & Oyebode and is for general information only. It should not be construed as legal advice under any circumstances. For further information, please contact us at [ao@aluko-oyebode.com](mailto:ao@aluko-oyebode.com).