

Opening Remarks by the Senior Pastor of Covenant Christian Centre – Pastor 'Poju Oyemade at the NAFDAC Product Outreach for SMEs (NaPRO) held at The Covenant Place, Iganmu, Lagos.

Thursday, 12 March 2015.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the representative of the Director-General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) – Dr. Paul Orhii, other Directors and officials of the Agency, and all participants present to this Product Registration Outreach in collaboration with Covenant Capital, the Small Business Advisory Unit of Covenant Christian Centre.

The war against counterfeit products may be universal but in Nigeria, it is personal.

It is a personal war for the health of a nation sustained by over 17 million small and medium scale businesses in various sectors of the economy.

Between 2012 and 2014, NAFDAC is reported to have destroyed over **N2 billion** worth of counterfeit products – foods, drugs, and so on.

This data can be interpreted in 2 ways:

We can celebrate it, and rightly so, as the continuous success of the Agency in clamping down on counterfeit and harmful products across the country.

But we can also flip the coin; by considering the socio-economic value and multiplier effect on businesses, if those were N2 billion worth of NAFDAC certified products.

As a church involved in growing small businesses, we believe the difference between the two interpretations above is:

Factual knowledge about product regulation and the ease of access to the registration process.

The most deficient, in this regard, are the small and medium scale enterprises, which

coincidentally form the mainstay of the Nigerian economy.

Covenant Christian Centre, through its SME Advisory Unit – Covenant Capital, is therefore collaborating with NAFDAC for the sole purpose of bridging the knowledge gap among SMEs regarding the proper registration and regulation of food and drug related products in Nigeria.

We believe this is a major step to reducing the economic wastage that comes from counterfeit and harmful products; thereby unlocking greater wealth in the nation.

This event will give specific highlights to Food Registration, Drug Registration, and the Advertisement of Regulated Products.

An interactive panel of NAFDAC Officials will also be convened to answer questions that you may have regarding product registration.

The Registration Bazaar is for participants who indicated willingness to initiate the

registration process for their products with NAFDAC officials on-site, after the seminar.

It is my hope that this outreach will heighten the awareness of participants and enhance the access of SMEs to registration of food and drug-related products in the country.

Once again it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this NAFDAC Product Registration Outreach.

Thank you and God bless.