

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Opson is an INTERPOL-EUROPOL operation centered on fighting counterfeit food and beverages. OPSON VI Operations took place simultaneously in Abuja and Lagos on 17th March, 2017 and 21st December, 2017 coordinated by INTERPOL and Federal Task Force. The value of the products seized during the operation was One Hundred Million Naira (₦100,000,000.00) about USD266, 666.67. Recently, OPSON VIII operation also took place simultaneous in Abuja and Lagos on 27th to 28th March, 2019 coordinated by Interpol and Federal Task Force. The street value of the products seized and evacuated for destruction was Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand Naira (₦3,700,000.00) about USD10, 277.77

Operation HEERA

This is an initiative against pharmaceutical crimes in Western Africa. A desk office/officer is established with the purpose of sharing information in real time. Yearly, each country is expected to coordinate an operation in a given/particular/specific month to raid offenders of pharmaceutical crimes depending on country's means.

The Federal Task Force participated in Operation Heera 1 and Operation Heera 2 on the 27th May, 2017 and 22nd and 23rd May, 2018 respectively.

The street value of the Substandard and Falsified Medical Products seized and evacuated was Seven Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira (₦720,000.00) about USD 2,000.00

Operation Mirage

Operation Mirage is a program of the World Customs Organisation carried out simultaneously in about fourteen countries and designed to collaborate with the Customs in the war against Substandard and Falsified medicines. The target however is on fake, adulterated medicine and other contrabands. The World Customs Organization, INTERPOL, Nigeria Customs Service and NAFDAC represented by Investigation and Enforcement and Port Inspection Directorate participated in the exercise held in Lagos on 21st September, 2018.

The street value of the Substandard and Falsified Medical Products seized was Six Hundred and Eighty Four Million Naira (₦684,000,000.00) about USD1,900,000.00

MAJOR INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

1. On the 9th January, 2019 Investigation & Enforcement officers intercepted a trailer transporting assorted Pharmaceutical products to an unknown destination. The importer, Mr. Luke Mbah, was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos for smuggling Three Hundred and Eleven Million Seven Thousand Naira (N311,007,000.00) about USD863,908.33 of Barcadin with Codeine (cough syrup) – 588cartons and other Pharmaceuticals including Afrodic (Diclofenac Potassium) tablets, Feed-Fine (cyprohenptadine) tablets (50mg each) and De Really Extra (Diclofenac Sodium tablets).
2. One Mr. Madubuike Chukwunonye who allegedly sold a controlled drug (Emzolyn with Codeine Cough Syrup) to a BBC undercover agent in April, 2018 was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos. The suspect was on the run after a video clip of the alleged transaction was aired by BBC, but was later arrested by the Nigeria Police at Idiroko borders while trying to flee to Benin Republic. He was subsequently handed over to the Agency for prosecution.
3. The Agency seized and destroyed consignments worth over one hundred million naira of smuggled, adulterated and misbranded sugar. Of particular interest is a businesswoman one Mrs Esther Akinsanya and her company in a popular market in Lagos who specialized in REBAGGING of the smuggled substandard Brazilian sugar in the name of a popular brand. During the raid, the business woman's agents were caught in the act in a warehouse she had converted to a factory. On the 30th of April, 2018, she was convicted by the Federal High Court Lagos and fined the sum of One Million Three Hundred Thousand Naira (₦1,300,000.00) about USD 3,611.00. The Court ordered the cost of destruction be borne by the defendant.
4. Further investigation into sale and distribution of banned and re-bagged sugar led operatives of the FTF NAFDAC to Katsina State where three suspects namely; Usman Lawal Turare, Salisu Abdullahi and Muhammadu Musa were arrested for sale and distribution of banned and re-bagged sugar. On the 5th December, 2018, the suspects were convicted by the Federal High Court, Katsina, Katsina State and fined the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (100,050.00) each about USD 277,91.00. The Court also ordered that the products be forfeited to NAFDAC for destruction and the cost to be borne by the convicts.
5. The Agency received an intelligence report which led to the arrest of a notorious importer and distributor of counterfeit international brands of pharmaceutical products Mr. Kenneth Okereke (aka AGAMA) and one other in August, 2015. Products seized include Zinnat tablets 250mg (Cefuroxime axetil), Proviron tablets (Meserolone 25mg), Augmentin 625mg (Amoxicillin + Clavulanate), Clomid tablets (Clomiphene citrate), Glucophage 500mg tablets (Metformin), Casodex 50mg (Bicalutamide), Cytotec 200mcg (Misoprostol), Cataflam 50 (Diclofenackal), Tegretol 200mg (Carbamazepine) amongst others. The street value of the products at the time of arrest stood at Eleven Billion Naira (11,000,000,000.00) about USD55M (fifty-five million US Dollars). The Counterfeiters have been charged to the Federal High Court, Lagos.

6. The Directorate investigated a case of forgery of NAFDAC documents, impersonation and international fraud by Mr. Ndukwe Darlington Ukonu, Mr. Nwabugo Okoro, Miss Ohanaokwu Chinonyen, Eze Okoronkwo, Okechukwu Ariguzo and one Mr. Smart in Aba, Abia State. The matter was transferred to EFCC on 3rd March, 2017 and the commission has filed the matter at Lagos High Court, Lagos.
7. On 6th of March, 2018, sequel to a tip off from a concerned citizen, the Directorate intercepted 820 cartons of suspected fake and unregistered Really Extra (Paracetamol + Diclofenac Sodium) worth Twelve Million, Three Hundred Naira only (N12,300,000.00) about USD34,166.66 in Lagos. The consignment was imported through the Apapa port, Lagos in a 1x40ft container (no.: CAXU 9174244) and trans-loaded into a trailer with Reg Number KTG 32-XA. The clearing agent/transporter has been interrogated and the Directorate operatives are tracking the importer of the consignment.
8. Sequel to a tip off by a concerned citizen in April, 2018, the Directorate uncovered and evacuated 331 cartons of various brands of Tramadol (225mg) worth about Fifty-Six Million (N56,000,000.00) about USD155,555.55 from a residential building in FESTAC Town, Lagos. The consignment has been destroyed by the Agency.
9. The Directorate discovered and evacuated 3,512ctns of fake and prohibited GR Golden Roc Black Mosquito repellent incense Worth Twenty-One Million Naira (N21,000,000.00) about USD58,333.33 from a warehouse in Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos. The item has been destroyed by the Agency.
10. On 16th April, 2019 **Mr. Henry Duru** was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Kano for revalidating expired Lonart DS (antimalarial) and Sterizine (Cetirazine tab BP 10mg).
11. One, **Mr. Okike William Patrick** was arrested on 15th February, 2019 for importing Pethidine injection from Kenya through the NAHCO Cargo section of the Murtala Mohammed Airport. The suspect was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos on 5th April, 2019.
12. **Mr. Innocent Oparah** was investigated by the Directorate and arraigned at the Federal High Court, Kano on 3rd April, 2019 for labelling AusdolParacetamolas Quinine Sulphateand NivaquineChloroquine 100mg in a manner that is false.
13. The Directorate investigated and found one, **Musbahu Idris Muhammed** - a major distributor for Promasidor, counterfeiting and distributing Onga Seasoning brands in Kano. He was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Kano on 6th March, 2019.
14. One **Odiaka Gloria Ngozi** was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos on 29th November, 2019 for selling and distributing unwholesome G&J Glucose D.
15. **Monday Okorie** was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos in April, 2018 for sale and distribution of counterfeit medicines including banned Tramadol and other prescription medicines.
16. On 8th March, 2018 **Olayemi Lateef**, was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos for manufacture, sale and advertisement of unregistered aphrodisiacs.
17. **Emmanuel David Ukwoka** was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos Lagos on 13th February, 2018 for possession of fake drugs to wit: Super Royal 200mg (Tramadol 200mg) and XT Power 150mg.

18. **Okey Joseph Okeke** was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Akwa on 29th April, 2018 for sale of unwholesome processed food including Olivia Vegetable Cooking Oil, Goya Extra Virgin Cooking Oil, King Brajol Deluxe Whisky, Loko Bitters Alcoholic Whisky and White Mischief Ultra-Pure Vodka.
19. The Directorate investigated a case of counterfeiting of Archillin with Codeine cough syrup by **Mrs. Chika Nnaemeka Nwoye** and **Mr. Ojeani Nelson Ebuka**. They were initially arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos before the matter was transferred to Federal High Court, Awka, Anambra State on 1^{5th} May, 2018.
20. The Directorate investigated **Celestina Oba** for the sale and distribution of imported Counterfeit and banned Eva Complexion soap. She was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Awka, Anambra State on 13th December, 2017.
21. **Elijah Chika Mighty** was investigated for illegal importation, sale and distribution of counterfeit and banned Eva Soap. He was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Umuahia, Abia State on 21st February, 2018.
22. The Directorate investigated **Nwadike Kingsley** for the sale and distribution of imported Counterfeit and banned Eva Complexion soap. He was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Awka, Anambra State on 21st February, 2018.
23. The Directorate investigated **Obumneme Okpala** (aka Okanu) for the illegal importation, warehousing, sale and distribution of Counterfeit brands of various insecticides. The Counterfeiter was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos on 30th October, 2017.
24. **Daniel Ezekwelu** of Ojoto Village, Nnewi Anambra State was investigated for his involvement in illegal production of Water for Injection. The violator was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Awka in August, 2017.
25. An informant reported a case of production and sale of fake Peak milk, Milo, Bournvita and other beverages in Aba, Abia state. Prior to the arrival, of the Directorate Operatives information leaked and most of the suspects escaped. However, officers opened the place and removed some samples but couldn't evacuate all the items because of the volatile atmosphere and one of the suspects **Prince Chinedu Okereke** was arrested and arraigned at the Federal High Court, Umuahia on 13th December, 2016.
26. **Nkiru Kalu Okoro** of Ezedams Enterprises Nig. Ltd. was investigated for illegal production of counterfeit alcoholic beverages and obstruction of NAFDAC officers in the course of their operation. She was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos on 27th June, 2019.
27. On 22nd June, 2018, Mr. Ezeanwu Ifeanyi was convicted for being in possession of 1x40ft container of fake drugs including Tramadol Hydrochloride tab 225mg, Royal Tramadol 225mg tab, Ibamol 50mg, Heegra 150mg and Diarrhea capsule. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of Three Hundred Thousand Naira (₦300,000.00) about USD833.33. The court ordered that the exhibits be destroyed. The exhibits have been destroyed.
28. On the 13th February, 2019, a businessman, Mr. Ebenezer Arimiwem, was convicted and sentenced to fifteen months in prison without an option of fine by Federal High Court, Lagos. He was charged with manufacture, distribution, packaging, labeling and processing of different counterfeit cosmetic products.

29. In 2016, Alh. Yakubu Kabiru was intercepted with a 40ft container (containing 1,800 bags worth Seventy-Two Million Naira (N72,000,000.00) about USD200,000.00 of Green Arrow Fiber mosquito coil smuggled into the country through the Seme Border and was subsequently arraigned at the Federal High Court, Lagos. On 16th January, 2019, he was convicted and fined the sum of One Million and Fifty Thousand Naira (N1,050,000.00) about USD2,916.66 and the court also ordered that the products be forfeited to the Agency for destruction. The consignment has been destroyed.