WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION BENCHMARKS THE FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY GHANA.

As part of its process to monitor and strengthen the regulatory system of National Regulatory Authorities to promote equitable access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products, the World Health Organization (WHO) paid a working visit to the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) Ghana from the 25th to 30th of March, 2019.

The 5 days visit to the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), was aimed at verifying the capacity of the FDA in the registration, market surveillance, inspection, licensing, vigilance, clinical trial oversight and laboratory testing functions of the authority.

This is part of the, WHO's mandate to provide guidance and support for efficient National Medicines Regulatory Authorities to ensure that available medicines are of good quality, and to fight against counterfeited medicines.

The assessment of the capacity of National Regulatory Authority using the Global Benchmarking Tool of the WHO is meant to bring out the existing competences and identify gaps that need to be addressed if a National Medicine Regulatory Authority is to be effective in its regulatory functions.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regulatory System Strengthening (RSS) team which is under the access to medicines, vaccines and pharmaceuticals (MVP) clusters, did the assessment of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA).

The rigorous benchmarking process came to an end on the 29th of March, 2019.

The World Health Organization commended the FDA for many strengths identified and agreed on the institutional development plan (IDP) to build upon identified gaps for regulatory system improvement.

The assessors praised the FDA for the systems in place to ensure the protection of public health and safety and advised that the recommendation made be implemented to make the FDA a WHO listed reference Agency in Africa within 2019.