

## **FDA HOLDS STAKEHOLDER MEETING WITH IMPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS OF COSMETIC PRODUCTS**

The FDA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, held a stakeholder meeting with Importers, manufacturers and retailers of Cosmetic products to update them on activities that have been undertaken by the FDA on the ban on Hydroquinone in Cosmetic products.

Opening the meeting, the CEO, Mrs Delese Darko indicated that extensive consultations have been held with Industry, Academia, Professional groups and other stakeholders on the implementation of the ban in line with protecting public health and safety, which is the core mandate of the FDA. She added that, the FDA wanted to have a more dynamic approach through effective collaboration with stakeholders to further enhance the regulation of Cosmetic Products.

The CEO further explained that the ban on hydroquinone is only limited to cosmetic products but will be allowed in other creams, which the FDA would register as prescription only medicines (POM) for the treatment of specific skin conditions as over the counter medicines (OTC's) which would be prescribed by qualified medical practitioners.

The Stakeholders in turn indicated their readiness to abide by the ban and also to collaborate with the FDA to rid the Market of Cosmetic Products containing Hydroquinone. The meeting agreed to help step up public education on the ban and the undesirable effects of excessive skin bleaching.