THE SENTINEL
AUTHENTIC. CREDIBLE. ALERT
NOVEMBER 2026



ACA Wins Continental Honours for Enforcement and leadership

The Authority and its Executive Director take home two continental honours at the 7th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards in Accra.

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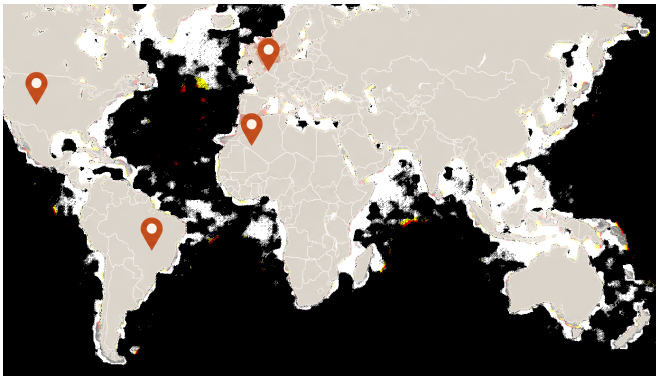

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MITI
MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE & INDUSTRY

ACA
anti counterfeit authority
Upholding Authenticity



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2026

16TH-19TH NOVEMBER 2026

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FOREWORD



ROBI M. KING'A, PHD
Executive Director, ACA

Recognition is an important measure of progress, but its true value lies in the impact of the work behind it. The recent accolades received by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) reflect the dedication of our staff, enforcement partners and stakeholders whose collective efforts continue to strengthen consumer protection, safeguard intellectual property rights and promote legitimate trade. These achievements are both a source of pride and a reminder of the responsibility we carry to protect lives, livelihoods and the integrity of our markets.

This responsibility is particularly significant as we prepare to host the third International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement (ISIPPE-3) from 16th -18th November, bringing together stakeholders to confront one of the most pressing challenges facing consumers, industries and economies: the growing threat of counterfeit trade.

Counterfeiting is not merely a violation of intellectual property rights. Its consequences extend into our homes, farms, hospitals and workplaces. Counterfeit agricultural inputs undermine food security and farmers' livelihoods, falsified medicines and medical devices put patients at risk, while unsafe automotive parts, electrical products and energy equipment pose serious threats to public safety.

These realities demand a response that goes beyond enforcement alone. They call for stronger institutions, informed consumers, technological innovation and sustained collaboration among governments, industry players and enforcement agencies. ISIPPE-3 provides an opportunity to deepen these partnerships, exchange practical experiences and advance solutions that translate policy discussions into meaningful action.

The achievements highlighted in this edition of The Sentinel demonstrate what can be accomplished through commitment and collective effort. Yet, even as we celebrate these milestones, we recognise that counterfeiters continue to adapt their methods, exploit emerging technologies and take advantage of gaps in enforcement and consumer awareness. Our response must remain equally dynamic, proactive and firmly anchored in protecting the public interest.

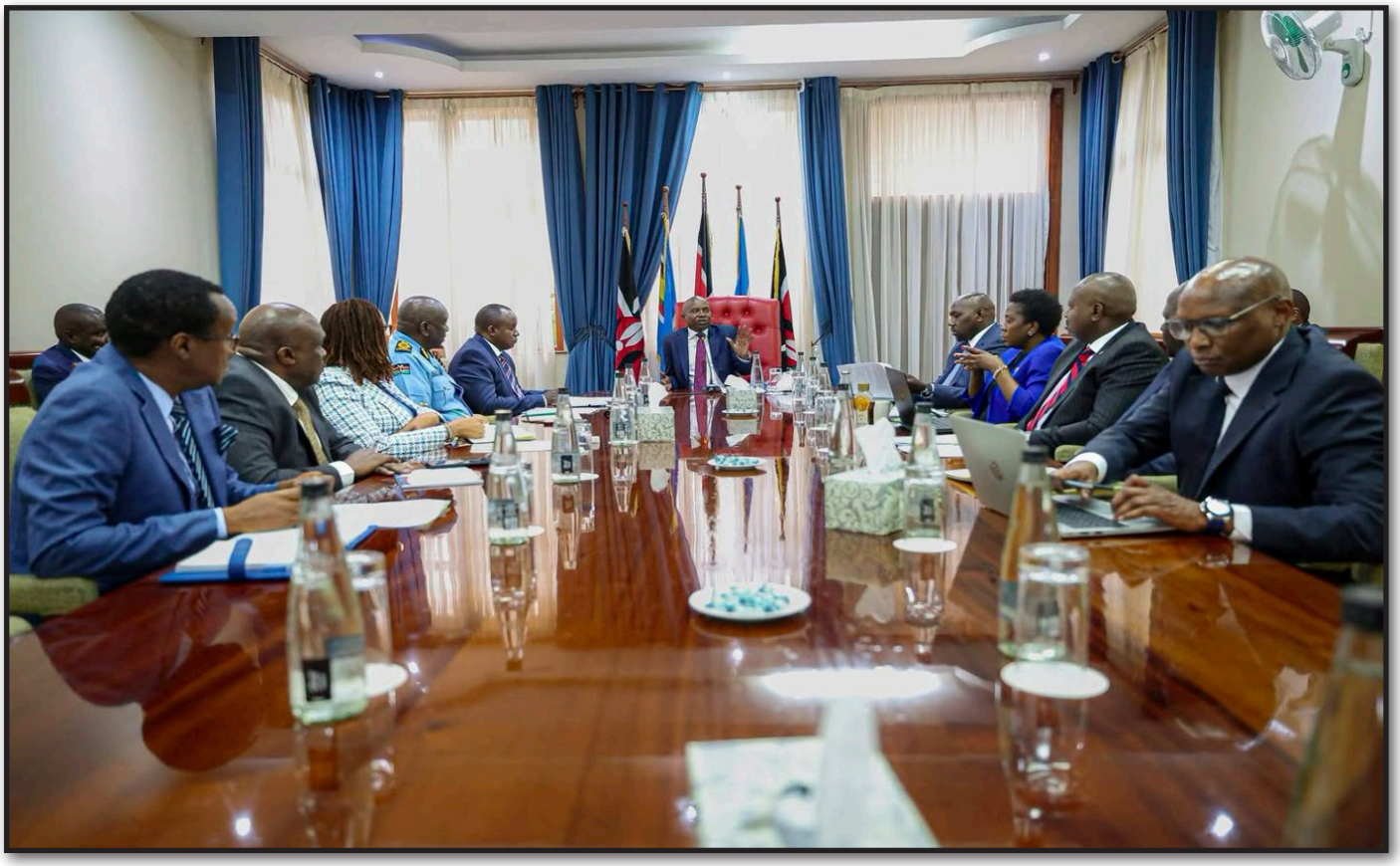
As you turn the pages of this edition, I encourage you to reflect not only on the progress made but also on the work that lies ahead. Every successful enforcement intervention, informed consumer and strengthened partnership brings us closer to a marketplace where authenticity is valued, innovation thrives and public safety is never compromised.

Together, we must continue translating recognition into responsibility and responsibility into lasting impact.

SENTINEL IN BRIEF

Key developments, partnerships and milestones advancing the fight against counterfeiting.

GOVERNMENT STEPS UP THE WAR ON ILLICIT ALCOHOL



The high-level engagement on illicit alcohol in Karen, Nairobi, chaired by H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, and attended by ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority has reaffirmed its commitment to working with Government agencies and other stakeholders to intensify the fight against illicit alcohol, following a high-level engagement in Karen, Nairobi. The meeting was attended by H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya; the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen; the Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja; ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD; and the heads of regulatory and enforcement agencies.

The Government underscored the importance of intelligence-led multi-agency operations in dismantling illegal networks, disrupting supply chains and taking action against unlicensed and non-compliant manufacturers. Of the 34 manufacturers of second-generation alcohol whose licences were suspended in 2024 for non-compliance with public health, environmental, security and quality regulations, eight have had their licences cancelled, while the 26 that subsequently complied are to be re-inspected afresh with immediate effect.

The meeting established a Multi-Sectoral High Level Team, to be chaired by the Deputy President every two weeks, to moni-



The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen addressing the meeting.

tor enforcement, identify criminal cartels and support the rehabilitation of victims of illicit alcohol and drugs. New legislative measures are to be recommended within a month to regulate the importation of ethanol and to deter the adulteration of alcohol and the diversion of industrial ethanol. The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration is further expected, within 14 days and in consultation with the Council of Governors, to convene a sector forum on the licensing and control of the alcohol trade.

The meeting also emphasised the need for stronger coordination among security, enforcement and regulatory agencies, alongside better resourcing and equipping of the institutions at the front line of the fight against illicit alcohol and drug abuse.

As part of the Government's multi-agency enforcement framework, the Authority will continue to leverage intelligence, inspections, investigations and strategic partnerships to identify and disrupt the networks behind counterfeit and illicit alcohol. The engagement builds on the Authority's recent submissions to the Senate on digital traceability and on its September operations in Nairobi and Makindu, which together removed thousands of suspected counterfeit bottles from the market.

Source: Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration statement, March 2024.

> *"Government underscores the importance of intelligence-led multi-agency operations in dismantling illegal networks, disrupting supply chains and taking action against unlicensed and non-compliant manufacturers."*

ACA BOARD APPROVES NEW POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE

The 108th Full Board Meeting approves a comprehensive set of institutional policies and revised Board and Committee Charters.



Board Chairperson Hon. Nelson Ributhi Gaichuhie, CBS, and Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, sign the Authority's new institutional policies following the 108th Full Board Meeting.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has adopted 24 new institutional policies and revised its Board and Committee Charters in a move aimed at strengthening corporate governance, accountability and operational efficiency.

The policies, approved during the Authority's 108th Full Board Meeting held on 22 October 2026, were formally signed by Board Chairperson Hon. Nelson Ributhi Gaichuhie, CBS, and Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD.

Their adoption follows a comprehensive review of ACA's governance framework undertaken in 2026 to align institutional operations with the Constitution of Kenya, the Anti-Counterfeit Act, the Public Finance Management Act and the Mwongozo Code of Governance for State Corporations.

The new framework establishes clearer guidelines for institutional decision-making, financial management, service delivery and stakeholder engagement, while reinforcing the principles of transparency, integrity and accountability.

For staff, the policies provide a structured approach to day-to-day operations, defining responsibilities and strengthening consistency in how institutional processes are managed. For consumers, businesses and other stakeholders, they reinforce the Authority's commitment to responsible governance in delivering its mandate.



Hon. Nelson Ributhi Gaichuhie, CBS, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, with the APSCA 2026 award presented to the Board at its 108th Full Board Meeting.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to celebrate ACA's international recognition at the Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards (APSCA) 2026, held in Accra, Ghana.

During the meeting, the Board Chairperson received the Anti-Counterfeit Enforcement and Consumer Protection Provider of the Year award won by the Authority, recognising its contribution to combating counterfeit trade and safeguarding consumers.

The adoption of the new policies marks another step in strengthening ACA's internal governance structures as it continues to protect intellectual property rights, support legitimate businesses and uphold authenticity in Kenya's marketplace.



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD , Hon. Neddy Jeruto Kiptoo - Independent Board Member, Hon. Nelson Ributhi Gaichuhie, CBS, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and Ms. Gladys Cherono - Representative, PS State Department of Industry

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ACA AND FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION OF KENYA TO JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT FARMERS

As counterfeiters exploit gaps in distribution and product authentication, a growing partnership between regulators and the fertilizer industry is bringing new attention to the vulnerabilities that threaten farmers and legitimate businesses.

A bag of fertilizer may look genuine, carry a familiar brand name and appear perfectly sealed. Yet what lies inside may tell a different story. For farmers who invest their savings in agricultural inputs, discovering that a product is counterfeit can come too late, often when crops fail to respond as expected.

It is this uncertainty, and the increasingly sophisticated practices behind it, that brought the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and the Fertilizer Association of Kenya (FAK) together on 21 October 2026.

During the meeting, a delegation led by FAK Chief Executive Officer Lilian Wanjiru Mbuthia, PhD, held discussions with ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, on the vulnerabilities affecting Kenya's fertilizer market and the practical measures needed to address them.

The concerns extend beyond counterfeit fertilizer itself. Genuine packaging materials are being misused, products are diverted from intended distribution channels, and fertilizer is sometimes repackaged in ways that disguise its origin. Cross-border movement into neighbouring countries adds another layer of complexity to an already challenging enforcement environment.

What makes these practices particularly difficult to detect is their ability to blur the distinction between legitimate and illicit trade. A genuine bag does not necessarily guarantee genuine contents, while a product moving through an established distribution network may already have been compromised.

For enforcement agencies, understanding these complexities requires more than identifying suspicious products. It requires detailed knowledge of how the fertilizer industry operates, from manufacturing and packaging to distribution and retail.

That understanding formed a central part of the conversation.

King'a pointed to the importance of industry intelligence in detecting emerging threats and supporting investigations. Manufacturers and distributors, he observed, possess valuable knowledge of their products, established supply routes and the warning signs that may indicate illegal activity.

"Effective enforcement depends on timely and credible information. Industry players understand their products, distribution channels and the legitimate market, and this information is critical in help-



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, with Fertilizer Association of Kenya Chief Executive Officer Lilian Wanjiru Mbuthia, PhD, and members of the ACA and FAK teams at ACA Headquarters.

ing us identify emerging threats and intervene effectively," he said.

The discussions also explored how this knowledge could translate into stronger enforcement on the ground. FAK and its members are expected to support specialised product training for ACA's gazetted enforcement officers, focusing on product identification, packaging characteristics and authentication features.

Such training would help officers recognise inconsistencies that might otherwise go unnoticed, particularly where counterfeiters have copied original packaging or manipulated genuine materials to conceal illicit products.

Technology is also becoming an important part of the response. During the engagement, FAK outlined ongoing industry initiatives aimed at improving product traceability and authentication across the supply chain. Better visibility over how products move between manufacturers, distributors and retailers could make it easier to identify irregularities and trace suspected diversion.

For Mbuthia, sustained cooperation between industry players and enforcement institutions is essential to addressing these challenges.

"Protecting the fertilizer supply chain requires strong collaboration, information sharing and traceability," she said.

The two institutions agreed to pursue a more structured working relationship, with particular emphasis on intelligence sharing, technical training and coordinated interventions. Where necessary, other government agencies will be brought into the process to address challenges that cut across regulatory mandates.

The significance of these discussions lies in what happens beyond the meeting room. Counterfeit fertilizer does not simply undermine a brand or distort competition. It can affect farm productivity, erode confidence in agricultural inputs and expose farmers to financial losses they may struggle to recover from.

As Kenya works to strengthen agricultural productivity and food security, protecting the integrity of the inputs that farmers depend on remains an essential part of that effort.

For ACA and the fertilizer industry, the task ahead is to turn shared knowledge into practical safeguards that make the supply chain more transparent, illicit products harder to circulate and genuine fertilizer easier to trust.



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, with Fertilizer Association of Kenya Chief Executive Officer Lilian Wanjiru Mbuthia, PhD, and members of the ACA and FAK teams at ACA Headquarters.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ACA JOINS AFRICAN REGULATORS IN PUSH FOR SAFER MEDICINES

The fight against counterfeit medicines and the need for stronger pharmaceutical regulation took centre stage at the 6th PharmaReg AfriSummit, held at Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel in Nairobi.

The summit, themed "For a Healthier Africa," brought together regulators, policymakers and pharmaceutical industry players to examine ways of improving medicine safety, strengthening regulatory oversight and protecting patients from counterfeit and illicit health products.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) participated as an Awareness Partner, highlighting the importance of product authenticity and stronger safeguards across pharmaceutical supply chains.

Discussions focused on effective inspection systems, product traceability and the need for closer cooperation between regulators and manufacturers to ensure medicines remain safe and genuine from production to the point of sale.

The forum also explored how investment in research, innovation and local pharmaceutical manufacturing could improve access to quality, affordable healthcare across Africa.

For ACA, the engagement provided an opportunity to reinforce the link between intellectual property protection and public health. Counterfeit medicines not only undermine legitimate manufacturers but can also expose patients to ineffective or potentially harmful products, placing lives at risk.

The discussions come ahead of the third International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement (ISIPPE-3), where pharmaceuticals and medical devices will feature among the priority sectors.

The summit underscored the need for sustained collaboration among governments, enforcement agencies and industry players to strengthen regulatory systems, safeguard legitimate pharmaceutical trade and ensure patients can access medicines they can trust.



A panel session at the 6th PharmaReg AfriSummit, held at the Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, where ACA was an Awareness Partner.

KEEPING COUNTERFEITS OUT AS AFRICA OPENS UP TRADE

African countries have been urged to strengthen cooperation between customs authorities, regulators and enforcement agencies to prevent counterfeit goods from infiltrating regional markets as cross-border trade expands.

The call was made by Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, during the Ports, Customs, Export and Trade Forum at the 7th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards (APSCA 2026), held in Accra, Ghana, from 14 to 16 October 2026.

Speaking alongside representatives from the Ghana Revenue Authority's Customs Division and the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, King'a shared Kenya's experience in facilitating legitimate trade while strengthening intellectual property protection and border enforcement.

He highlighted the importance of coordinated government interventions, citing ACA's collaboration with the Kenya Revenue Authority in detecting suspected counterfeit imports at points of entry.

The Executive Director also outlined the role of the Authority's Intellectual Property Rights Recordation System, which enables rights holders to register their protected brands and products, providing enforcement officers with critical information to identify suspected counterfeit consignments.

He further highlighted ACA's integration with the KenTrade Single Window, which supports electronic processing of trade documentation, helping compliant importers clear goods efficiently while allowing enforcement agencies to focus attention on suspicious shipments.



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, speaks at the Ports, Customs, Export and Trade Forum during APSCA 2026 in Accra, Ghana.

With the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) creating new opportunities for businesses to access regional markets, King'a cautioned that expanding trade routes could also present opportunities for counterfeiters if enforcement systems are not adequately coordinated.

He called for stronger information sharing, joint capacity building and closer partnerships among African enforcement institutions, noting the importance of technical training and international cooperation, including support from the World Intellectual Property Organization.

The conference, held under the theme "Governance 2030: Transforming Public Service for Resilient Institutions and a Digital, Green and Secure Africa," brought together policymakers, public sector leaders and industry stakeholders to examine ways of strengthening governance and regional economic integration.

For Kenya, the discussions highlighted the importance of building a trading environment where legitimate businesses can access markets without unnecessary barriers while consumers remain protected from counterfeit products.

As Africa deepens economic integration, the challenge for enforcement agencies will be to ensure that easier movement of goods does not come at the expense of product authenticity, consumer safety and fair competition.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

CALL FOR STRONGER ENFORCEMENT ALONGSIDE TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT COUNTERFEITING



Dr John Akoten, Director, Research, Policy, Planning and Public Awareness, addressing participants

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has urged manufacturers and brand owners to combine digital product authentication with stronger enforcement measures to curb the growing threat of counterfeit trade in Kenya.

Speaking at a breakfast forum organised by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce for Eastern Africa (AHK Eastern Africa) and authentic network GmbH at Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Dr John Akoten, Director of Research, Policy, Planning and Public Awareness, warned that technology alone cannot stop counterfeiters.

Representing ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, Dr Akoten said Kenya loses an estimated KSh 800 billion annually to counterfeit trade, with nearly one in five products on the market potentially fake (Source: ACA Consumer-Level Survey Report 2025, launched 6 June 2025).

He highlighted the human cost of counterfeiting, warning that fake fertilisers and compromised seeds threaten farmers' livelihoods and food security, while counterfeit medicines and alcohol expose consumers to serious health risks.

Although digital product passports, QR codes and mobile authentication systems offer promising ways of verifying genuine products, Dr Akoten cautioned that their effectiveness depends on consistent enforcement, supportive legislation and informed consumers.

He urged manufacturers, importers and brand owners to record their intellectual property rights with ACA through its Intellectual Property Rights Recordation System, describing early recordation as an important safeguard against infringement. Recordation with ACA does not replace registering the underlying right, such as a trademark or patent, with the relevant intellectual property office.

The forum also highlighted improvements in trade facilitation, including online permit applications through the KenTrade Single Window and faster clearance for compliant importers under the joint recognition framework between ACA and the Kenya Revenue Authority.

The engagement, attended by AHK Eastern Africa General Manager Christian Engels and other industry representatives, reinforced the need for closer cooperation between government and the private sector in protecting consumers, safeguarding legitimate businesses and strengthening confidence in the Kenyan market.

BRAZILIAN EMBASSY SEEKS STRONGER PROTECTION FOR BRAZILIAN BRANDS IN KENYA

As products move across borders, so do the challenges of protecting their authenticity. For international brands entering the Kenyan market, counterfeiting remains a concern, particularly where imitation products closely resemble genuine goods.

This challenge formed the basis of discussions between the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and a delegation from the Embassy of Brazil in Kenya, aimed at strengthening cooperation in protecting Brazilian brands from counterfeit trade.

Led by Second Secretary Guilherme Agustini, the delegation included brand owner Renan Luz and Embassy official Nelson Omwato. ACA was represented by Director of Enforcement Yussuf Osman Ahmed, Deputy Director of Education and Public Awareness Agnes W. Karingu, and Deputy Director of Research and Policy Henry O. Maina.

At the centre of the discussions were Brazilian trademarks including Tramontina, Lorenzetti, Enerbrás and Fame, whose protection requires effective enforcement and closer engagement with rights holders.

The meeting explored opportunities for intelligence sharing and specialised training to equip enforcement officers with the technical knowledge needed to distinguish genuine products from counterfeits.



ACA officials with the delegation from the Embassy of Brazil in Kenya, led by Second Secretary Guilherme Agustini, at ACA Headquarters.

> *"Behind every counterfeit product is a consumer whose trust is betrayed, a legitimate business whose reputation is threatened, and a market where authenticity can no longer be taken for granted."*

Attention also turned to ACA's Intellectual Property Rights Recordation System, which allows rights holders to register information about their protected brands and products. The system provides enforcement officers with valuable reference information when identifying suspected counterfeit goods, particularly at major entry points such as the Port of Mombasa.

For Brazilian businesses, greater awareness and use of the system could strengthen the protection of their trademarks in Kenya while supporting more effective enforcement interventions.

The engagement also reflected the importance of international partnerships in addressing counterfeit trade, which often extends beyond national jurisdictions. By connecting brand owners, diplomatic missions and enforcement agencies, such cooperation can improve access to product intelligence and strengthen the response to emerging threats.

As trade links between Kenya and Brazil continue to develop, the discussions reinforced a shared interest in protecting consumers, preserving brand integrity and ensuring that legitimate businesses can compete in a fair and trustworthy marketplace.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ACA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALLS FOR CREDIBLE COMMUNICATION IN THE AGE OF AI

The growing influence of artificial intelligence and the rapid spread of misinformation are placing increasing pressure on public institutions to rethink how they communicate, manage crises and maintain public trust.

This was the message delivered by Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, during the Grand Strategy Fellowship Forum 2026, organised by the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) at Nairobi Serena Hotel on 29 October 2026.

Addressing policymakers, diplomats, scholars and strategic leaders, King'a emphasised that effective communication has become an essential leadership responsibility, particularly in an information environment where public perceptions can shift rapidly and misleading narratives can spread before institutions have an opportunity to respond.

He noted that emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, have introduced new challenges to the authenticity and reliability of information. The ability to manipulate images, voices and digital content has made it increasingly difficult for the public to distinguish genuine communication from fabricated material.

While acknowledging the opportunities presented by technological advancement, King'a cautioned that institutions must strengthen their verification processes and invest in public awareness to address the risks associated with digital deception.



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, speaks at the Grand Strategy Fellowship Forum 2026 at the Nairobi Serena Hotel.

He observed that institutional credibility is built through consistent, accurate and transparent communication, rather than responses issued only when a crisis emerges.

The discussions also examined the importance of strategic communication in shaping public understanding, managing institutional reputation and maintaining confidence during periods of uncertainty.

For public institutions, this requires more than communicating decisions or responding to media enquiries. It involves anticipating emerging issues, addressing misinformation promptly and ensuring that information shared with the public is reliable and accessible.

Speaking under the forum's theme, "Nurturing Impactful Geopolitical Footprints for Peace and Prosperity in Africa," King'a urged African leaders to take greater re-



Participants at the Grand Strategy Fellowship Forum 2026 at the Nairobi Serena Hotel.

> *Institutional credibility is built through consistent, accurate and transparent communication, not merely through responses issued when a crisis emerges.*

sponsibility for shaping the continent's narrative.

He challenged participants to communicate Africa's achievements, opportunities and challenges with accuracy, integrity and confidence, noting the importance of credible narratives in influencing how the continent is understood both locally and internationally.

The conversation also resonated with ACA's mandate of protecting intellectual property rights and safeguarding consumers. Just as counterfeit products undermine confidence in legitimate brands, manipulated information can erode trust in institutions and weaken public confidence.

The forum provided an opportunity for leaders and strategic thinkers to reflect on how communication practices must evolve alongside technological change.

As artificial intelligence becomes more deeply integrated into everyday communication, King'a's message underscored the need for institutions to balance innovation with accountability, ensuring that technological progress does not come at the expense of credibility.

For public sector leaders, the challenge is no longer simply how quickly information reaches the public, but whether that information can be trusted.



The ACA delegation celebrates with the Anti-Counterfeit Enforcement and Consumer Protection Provider of the Year award at APSCA 2026 in Accra, Ghana. The award was presented by H.E. Shem Amadi, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Ghana (Right)

ACA WINS CONTINENTAL HONOURS FOR ENFORCEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

The Authority and its Executive Director take home two continental honours at the 7th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards in Accra

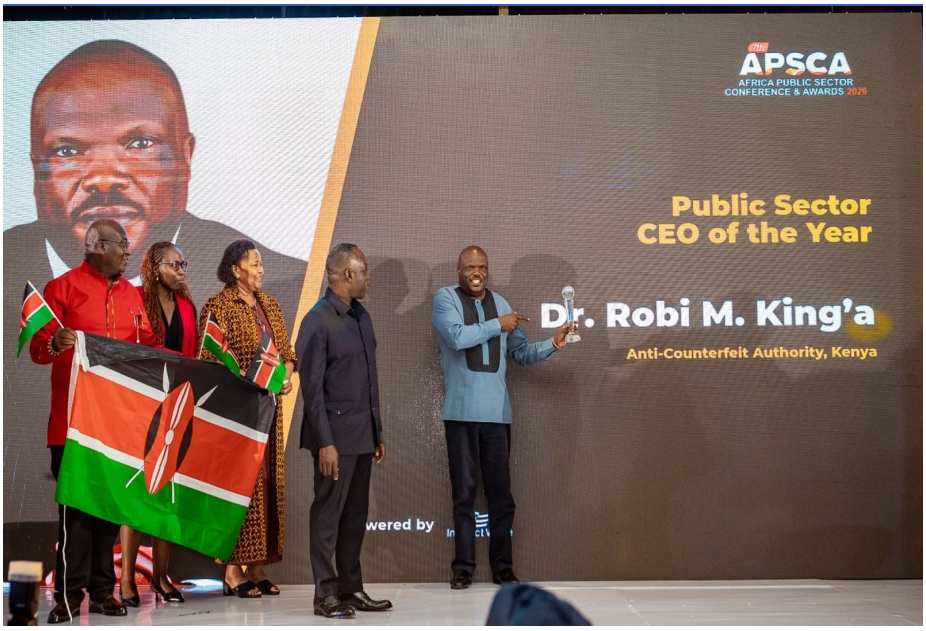
Kenya's growing reputation for excellence in public service received continental recognition after the country secured 23 awards at the 7th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards (APSCA 2026), held in Accra, Ghana, from 14 to 16 October 2026.

Among the institutions celebrated was the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), which secured two prestigious honours for its contribution to consumer protection, intellectual property enforcement and public sector leadership.

The Authority was named Anti-Counterfeit Enforcement and Consumer Protection Provider of the Year, while its Executive Director, Robi King'a, PhD, received the Public Sector CEO of the Year award in recognition of his leadership in strengthening enforcement, institutional performance and strategic partnerships.

The achievements were part of a wider celebration of Kenya's public sector, with the country's 23 awards highlighting progress in governance, service delivery, innovation and institutional transformation.

President William Ruto was among the recipients, receiving the APSCA 2026 Continental Leadership Award for Visionary Governance and Human Capital Transformation. The award was received on his behalf by Deputy Head of the Public Service Amos Gathecha,



Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, is named Public Sector CEO of the Year at the 7th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards (APSCA 2026) in Accra, Ghana. The CEO award was presented by Dr. Evans Aggrey-Darkoh, Head of Civil Service in Ghana (Fourth Left)

who led the Kenyan delegation and was also recognised with the Public Service and Smart Governance Leader of the Year Award.

For ACA, the recognition carried particular significance, placing the country's efforts to combat counterfeit trade alongside some of Africa's notable achievements in public sector governance and service delivery.

The institutional award was presented by H.E. Shem Amadi, Kenya's High Commissioner to Ghana, while the Executive Director's award was presented by Dr Evans Aggrey-Darkoh, Head of the Civil Service of Ghana.

The awards recognised ACA's sustained interventions against counterfeit trade, a challenge that continues to expose consumers to potentially harmful products, undermine legitimate businesses, threaten intellectual property rights and deprive governments of revenue.

Through intelligence-led investigations, market surveillance, border enforcement, prosecutions and sustained public education, the Authority has continued to strengthen Kenya's response to counterfeiting. Its work is supported by collaboration with enforcement agencies, intellectual property rights holders, industry associations and international partners.

Receiving the awards, the Executive Director attributed the achievement to the collective dedication of the Authority's staff and the support of its partners, observing that combating counterfeit trade requires sustained cooperation across institutions, industries and national borders.

He further emphasised that the recognition was not merely a celebration of past achievements but a reminder of the responsibility to strengthen enforcement, protect consumers and build greater confidence in the marketplace.

The continental recognition also highlighted the importance of institutional leadership in confronting increasingly sophisticated counterfeit networks, particularly as illicit trade continues to evolve alongside changes in technology, manufacturing and cross-border commerce.

Following his return to Kenya, the Executive Director formally presented the institutional award to the Chairperson of ACA's Board of Directors, Hon. Nelson Ributhi Gaichuhie, CBS, during the Authority's 108th Full Board Meeting.

The presentation underscored the collective contribution of the Board, management and staff to the Authority's achievements, as well as the support of the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.

For ACA, the awards represent more than continental recognition. They affirm the importance of protecting consumers, defending legitimate enterprise and strengthening intellectual property enforcement as part of Kenya's broader economic development agenda.

They also reinforce the Authority's responsibility to translate institutional recognition into tangible results through stronger enforcement, deeper partnerships and sustained consumer awareness.

As Kenya celebrates its 23 continental honours, ACA's double victory offers a reminder that effective public institutions are measured not only by the recognition they receive but also by the difference their work makes in people's lives.

For the Authority, that responsibility remains firmly anchored in its vision of a counterfeit-free Kenya and its commitment to Upholding Authenticity.

FARMERS AT RISK AS ACA UNCOVERS FERTILISER REPACKAGING SCHEME IN KAKAMEGA

Officers seize bags of suspected illegally repackaged fertiliser, two lorries and packaging equipment in an operation targeting the diversion of Government-subsidised agricultural inputs.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has uncovered a suspected illegal fertiliser repackaging operation in Matungu, Kakamega County, exposing a scheme believed to have diverted Government-subsidised fertiliser into the commercial market.

During the operation on 16 October 2026, enforcement officers seized 323 bags of fertiliser valued at more than KSh 1.6 million, two loaded lorries and industrial packaging equipment suspected to have been used in the illicit activity.

Preliminary investigations indicate that fertiliser intended for the Government subsidy programme was being repackaged into counterfeit Falcon-branded bags and prepared for sale to unsuspecting farmers at prevailing market prices.

Two lorry drivers were arrested and are assisting police with investigations as authorities pursue other individuals suspected of involvement in the scheme.

The discovery raises concerns over the exploitation of a subsidy programme designed to make agricultural inputs more affordable and accessible to farmers. By diverting subsidised fertiliser into commercial distribution channels, unscrupulous traders risk denying farmers access to affordable inputs while profiting from public resources.



ACA officers and police inspect bags of suspected illegally repackaged fertiliser seized in Matungu, Kakamega County.

ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, warned that the practice threatens agricultural productivity, fair competition and national food security.

"The illegal diversion and repackaging of subsidised fertiliser undermines Government efforts to make agricultural inputs affordable and accessible to farmers," he said.

"Beyond infringing intellectual property rights, such practices distort fair competition, expose farmers to potentially substandard products and threaten agricultural productivity and national food security."

For farmers preparing their land and investing in the next planting season, the consequences can be significant. Fertiliser purchased in counterfeit packaging may raise questions about its source, quality and suitability, putting both household incomes and expected



A lorry loaded with suspected illegally repackaged fertiliser, one of two seized during the operation in Matungu.

harvests at risk.

Western and Nyanza Regional Manager Tom Muteti reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to strengthening surveillance, intelligence sharing and coordinated enforcement operations across the region to disrupt illegal trade in agricultural inputs.

The seized fertiliser, vehicles and packaging equipment have been secured as exhibits as investigations continue.

ACA has urged farmers and agro-dealers to purchase agricultural inputs from authorised distributors and report suspected counterfeiting, illegal repackaging or diversion of subsidised fertiliser.

The operation highlights the wider impact of counterfeit trade on agriculture, where the consequences extend beyond brand infringement to the livelihoods of farmers who depend on genuine, affordable inputs to sustain their production.

ACA anti counterfeit authority
Upholding Authenticity

BEFORE YOU BUY:
A QUICK CHECKLIST

Simple steps to help consumers make safer purchasing decisions.

Buy from trusted and authorised sellers.

Check the packaging: look for spelling mistakes, poor printing, damaged seals and missing or inconsistent batch and expiry details.

Be cautious of prices far below the usual market price; a low price alone does not prove a product is fake, but it is a reason to look more closely.

Keep your receipt; it helps trace the seller if a problem arises.

Report suspicious products to ACA:
0717 430 640 | info@aca.go.ke | intelligence@aca.go.ke

TWO CONVICTED IN MOLO COUNTERFEIT GOODS CASE AS ACA STEPS UP LEGAL ACTION

Two individuals have been sentenced to 18 months in prison or an alternative fine of KSh 80,000 each after being convicted in a counterfeiting case in Molo, Nakuru County, marking another successful prosecution in the fight against illicit trade.

The case, Republic vs Alice Maina Mwihaki & Another (Molo MCCR/E1085/2026), resulted in the forfeiture of counterfeit goods valued at approximately KSh 1.3 million to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) for destruction.

What makes the conviction particularly significant is the speed at which justice was delivered. The case was registered, prosecuted and concluded within the first quarter of the 2026/2027 financial year, demonstrating how timely investigations and effective prosecution can translate into tangible enforcement outcomes.

The court's decision not only holds the convicted individuals accountable but also ensures that the seized counterfeit goods are removed from the market. Their planned destruction will prevent the products from finding their way back into circulation.

The conviction comes as ACA intensifies legal action against counterfeit trade across the country. The Authority currently has eight active criminal cases before the courts, reflecting continued efforts to pursue offenders through the justice system.

Beyond the financial losses suffered by legitimate businesses, counterfeiting presents wider risks to consumer safety, fair competition and intellectual property rights. Successful prosecutions therefore serve a dual purpose: punishing offenders while discouraging others from engaging in the illegal trade.

The Molo conviction sends a strong message that counterfeit trade carries serious legal consequences. With eight criminal cases still before the courts, the Authority continues to pursue accountability while reinforcing the importance of protecting consumers, safeguarding legitimate businesses and ensuring that counterfeit products have no place in Kenya's marketplace.

ACA TAKES FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITS TO THARAKA NITHI RESIDENTS

Residents of Tharaka Nithi County were urged to remain vigilant against counterfeit products during the Huduma Mashinani Citizen Engagement Forum held at Kathwana Secondary School on 16 October 2026.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) joined other government agencies at the forum, bringing consumer protection information and public awareness services closer to the community.

At the ACA exhibition stand, officers engaged residents on the dangers of counterfeit goods, how to identify suspicious products and the importance of reporting suspected cases.

Tharaka Nithi is a highly agricultural county, thus the engagement was timely in addressing counterfeit agro-inputs within the planting season. It also addressed concerns previously raised with the Authority on proliferation of counterfeit alcoholic drinks.

Officers also explained the Authority's mandate in protecting intellectual property rights and safeguarding legitimate trade, while encouraging residents to play an active role in combating counterfeiting.

The forum provided an opportunity for residents to interact directly with enforcement officers, ask questions and gain practical knowledge to make informed purchasing decisions.

Through such community engagements, ACA continues to extend awareness beyond major urban centres, recognising that informed consumers are essential partners in protecting the marketplace from counterfeit goods.



Images courtesy of ACA taken during the forum

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

anti counterfeit authority

Upholding Authenticity

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAUNCH OF THE UPGRADED ANTI-COUNTERFEIT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AIMS) RECORDATION MODULE

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), established under Section 3 of the Anti-Counterfeit Act, No. 13 of 2008, wishes to notify the public and relevant stakeholders of the launch of the upgraded Anti-Counterfeit Integrated Management System (AIMS) Recordation Module, scheduled for **20th November 2026.**

In accordance with Section 34B of the Anti-Counterfeit Act, and as part of the Authority's ongoing Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) and Digitalisation Agenda, the upgraded module will replace the existing AIMS system.
The new platform is designed to improve service delivery through a modern, mobile-responsive self-service portal that will simplify application processes, facilitate direct access to services and enable real-time tracking of applications.
Key features and changes under the new system include:

- **Faster Service Delivery:** The new system will reduce the recordation turnaround time by nearly 50% (from 20 days to 11 days).
- **Integration with Government Systems:** The platform will integrate with eCitizen to provide a unified and secure login experience. Integration with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) will also streamline information sharing and reduce the need for applicants to physically submit documents between government offices.
- **Improved Agent Onboarding:** To strengthen accountability, intellectual property rights (IPR) owners will initiate the agent onboarding process. Agents will be required to create accounts and submit applications for formal admission through the system.
- **Automated Tiered Fee Structure:** The upgraded system will introduce an automated fee structure based on the type of intellectual property right, filing category and applicant status to promote transparency and consistency in the application of fees.
- **Streamlined Post-Recordation and Import Permit Services:** The platform will simplify processes relating to changes of name, changes of ownership, renewals, discontinuations and revocations. It will also support the processing of post-import permit applications, enhancing the efficiency of Intellectual property rights management.

All intellectual property rights owners and agents are encouraged to prepare for the transition to the upgraded system.
Ahead of the launch, the Authority will conduct virtual stakeholder engagement and training sessions to familiarise users with the new platform and its functionalities. Details of the training schedule and any necessary preparatory steps will be communicated through a subsequent public notice.

ABDI ABIKAR DECLARED A NATIONAL HERO

The Nairobi Regional Enforcement Manager is honoured in the category of Scholarship, Professionalism and Research for protecting learners from counterfeit educational products.



Mr Abdi Abikar, Regional Enforcement Manager, Nairobi (left), receiving his award

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority's (ACA) Nairobi Regional Enforcement Manager, Abdi Abikar, has been declared a National Hero 2026 in the category of Scholarship, Professionalism and Research, in recognition of his contribution to protecting educational standards and safeguarding learners from counterfeit products.

The recognition, announced during the 2026 Mashujaa Day celebrations, acknowledges his efforts to raise awareness of counterfeit educational materials, including fake scientific calculators, which can compromise learning and examination outcomes.

Through public awareness and enforcement initiatives, Abikar has helped draw attention to the risks posed by counterfeit learning materials, encouraging parents, teachers, students and retailers to prioritise genuine products.

His recognition comes amid intensified enforcement operations in Nairobi, where his team has been involved in the seizure of suspected counterfeit personal care products along River Road and luxury-branded goods in Eastleigh.

The honour also coincides with ACA's nationwide efforts to curb the distribution of pirated textbooks, revision materials and counterfeit calculators during the national examination period.

For Abikar, the recognition reflects the wider importance of enforcement work that goes beyond protecting brands to safeguarding consumers and supporting the quality of education.

The ACA Board, Management and Staff congratulated him on the national honour, recognising his dedication to protecting the public and upholding professional standards in the fight against counterfeiting.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE: ACA CELEBRATES CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

Staff mark the week under the theme "The Extra Mile," with a renewed commitment to excellence in every interaction.



ACA staff at the close of Customer Service Week 2026 at ACA Headquarters, Nairobi.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority joined institutions around the world in marking Customer Service Week from 5 to 9 October 2026, under the theme "The Extra Mile," a theme that captures the Authority's commitment to doing more for the people it serves by responding to enquiries, providing guidance, supporting complaints, raising awareness and working with partners to protect consumers.

For an institution whose effectiveness depends on public trust, every interaction matters. A consumer lodging a complaint about a suspicious product, a rights holder seeking to record a trademark or a member of the public sharing a tip-off that leads to a seizure: each encounter shapes how the Authority is perceived and how willing citizens are to partner with it.

Closing the week, the Executive Director, Robi M. King'a, PhD, encouraged staff to embrace teamwork and to remain committed to delivering quality services to customers and stakeholders. "Every interaction is an opportunity to make a difference," he said. "By going the extra mile, we build trust, strengthen relationships, and ensure that every customer receives the quality service they deserve." Staff marked the occasion with a cake bearing the message "The Heart of ACA: Serving with Excellence Every Day."

During the week the Authority also shared its Customer Service Charter and complaints procedure with the public, setting out its functions, service standards, costs and expected delivery timelines.



As the week drew to a close, ACA reaffirmed its commitment to responsive, high-quality service and to excellence in every interaction. Going the Extra Mile: Building Trust, Delivering Excellence.

A GOOD IDEA IS ONLY THE BEGINNING: INNOVATORS URGED TO PROTECT THEIR WORK

At the 5th KCA Innovation Week and Industry Summit, ACA encouraged students and entrepreneurs to register and commercialise their ideas.



Dr John Akoten addresses participants at the 5th KCA Innovation Week and Industry Summit at KCA University, Nairobi.

At the 5th KCA Innovation Week and Industry Summit, students and entrepreneurs were challenged to look beyond developing ideas and consider how intellectual property protection can help turn innovation into commercial success.

Students and emerging entrepreneurs have been urged to protect their innovations through intellectual property registration and pursue opportunities to transform their ideas into commercially viable businesses.

The call was made by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority's (ACA) Director of Research, Policy, Planning and Public Awareness, Dr John Akoten, during the 5th KCA Innovation Week and Industry Summit held at KCA University in Nairobi.

Addressing participants, Dr. Akoten emphasised that while universities and young entrepreneurs continue to develop innovative solutions, insufficient attention to intellectual property protection can leave promising ideas vulnerable to imitation and exploitation.

He challenged innovators to think beyond the excitement of developing new products and consider the legal and commercial steps necessary to secure ownership of their



Dr John Akoten addresses participants at the 5th KCA Innovation Week and Industry Summit at KCA University, Nairobi.

creations.

"Protect your innovation, register your intellectual property and commercialise your ideas," he urged.

His message highlighted a challenge facing many emerging innovators: turning research and creativity into sustainable businesses while ensuring that the people behind original ideas benefit from their work.

During discussions with KCA University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Strategy, Finance and Operations, Akoten explored the relationship between intellectual property protection, entrepreneurship and economic growth. He emphasised the need to equip students with practical knowledge of intellectual property rights as they prepare to introduce their innovations into competitive markets.

Intellectual property protection provides innovators with legal mechanisms to safeguard eligible inventions, creative works and brand identities. Understanding these protections early can help entrepreneurs make informed decisions about licensing, partnerships, investment and commercialisation.

The discussions also examined the threat posed by counterfeiting to Kenya's innovation ecosystem. Beyond the financial losses suffered by legitimate businesses, counterfeit trade can discourage investment in research and product development, undermine consumer confidence and expose the public to potentially unsafe goods.

Dr. Akoten noted that the consequences extend to employment opportunities, government revenue and the ability of legitimate enterprises to compete fairly.

For students developing products and solutions within universities, the challenge is particularly significant. An innovation may demonstrate strong commercial potential, but moving it from a research project to a marketable product requires an understanding of ownership, product development, financing and market entry.

The summit therefore highlighted the importance of closer collaboration between universities, industry and public institutions in supporting innovators beyond the research stage.

Such partnerships can help connect emerging entrepreneurs with technical expertise, intellectual property guidance and commercial opportunities, while encouraging the development of solutions that respond to real market needs.

The engagement also brought attention to the role of intellectual property awareness in building a culture that values originality and rewards creativity. As more young people pursue entrepreneurship, understanding how to protect innovations is becoming an important part of preparing businesses for growth.

For ACA, participation in the summit formed part of its broader public awareness efforts to promote respect for intellectual property rights and highlight the effects of counterfeiting on legitimate trade.

The discussions reinforced the need for young innovators to regard intellectual property protection not as an afterthought, but as part of the process of transforming an idea into a viable enterprise.

With universities increasingly serving as centres of research, creativity and entrepreneurship, the ability to protect and commercialise original work could play an important role in determining how successfully new ideas contribute to Kenya's economic development.

GROWING A GREENER KENYA: ACA MARKS MAZINGIRA DAY AND PLANTS 500 SEEDLINGS IN NANDI

From Mt Elgon Forest to AIC Kimong Primary School, ACA staff took part in the national tree-growing campaign this month.



ACA officers sensitize learners of AIC Kimong Primary School, Mosop, Nandi County, as they gather for the tree-planting exercise.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) joined national environmental conservation efforts during Mazingira Day celebrations, with tree-planting activities in Bungoma and Nandi counties aimed at restoring forest cover and promoting environmental responsibility.

The activities, held in support of the Presidential directive on tree planting and Kenya's target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032, brought together government agencies, community members, teachers and learners.

On 10 October 2026, ACA Eldoret Regional Head Peter Wanyonyi joined stakeholders at Mt Elgon Forest in Bungoma County for a tree-planting exercise supporting the restoration of the country's forest cover.

The initiative extended to AIC Kimong Primary School in Mosop Constituency, Nandi County, where ACA staff, teachers, learners and community members planted 500 seedlings across the school compound.

The seedlings included indigenous species such as Elgon teak, podo and Olea africana, alongside macadamia and fruit trees, including loquats, guavas and custard apples.

While the indigenous species will contribute to restoring vegetation native to the Nandi highlands, the fruit and macadamia trees are expected to provide fresh produce and potentially generate income for the school once mature.

For the learners, the exercise offered more than an opportunity to plant trees. They participated in preparing planting holes, positioning seedlings







and covering their roots with soil, gaining practical experience in environmental conservation.

Each class was assigned a section of the school grounds to water and maintain, placing responsibility for the survival of the seedlings directly in the hands of the pupils.

The arrangement is intended to encourage a lasting culture of environmental stewardship, helping learners understand that successful conservation requires continuous care long after the planting exercise.

Beyond environmental restoration, the activities formed part of ACA's community engagement programme, which seeks to strengthen relationships with the public and raise awareness of issues affecting their livelihoods.

In agricultural regions such as Nandi, where farming supports many households, the Authority's engagement also provides an opportunity to educate communities about the dangers of counterfeit agricultural inputs, which can undermine productivity and threaten farmers' investments.

By involving young learners and local communities, the initiative connected environmental conservation with broader efforts to protect livelihoods and promote responsible citizenship.

As the newly planted seedlings take root, their survival will depend on the care they receive in the months and years ahead, turning a national environmental commitment into a responsibility shared by the school community.

ACA staff, teachers and community members plant seedlings at AIC Kimong Primary School, Nandi County.

A round-up of the month's most significant intellectual property and anti-counterfeiting developments from around the world and across the region.

KENYA CLIMBS GLOBAL INNOVATION RANKINGS AS AFRICA GAINS GROUND

Kenya has climbed five places to position 97 globally in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026, reflecting progress in entrepreneurship, technology development and the use of intellectual property to support innovation.

The latest report by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which assesses 139 economies, places Kenya second in East Africa and sixth in Sub-Saharan Africa, signalling growing momentum in the country's innovation ecosystem.

Kenya's improvement from position 102 in 2025 comes against a backdrop of increasing technology-driven entrepreneurship, expanding digital services and greater use of intellectual property protection mechanisms.

Among the country's strongest performances is its eighth-place global ranking in utility models, a form of intellectual property protection for certain technical innovations. Kenya also ranks 30th in venture capital received and information and communication technology services exports, pointing to the growing contribution of technology enterprises and digital services to the economy.

Other notable performances include low-carbon energy use, where Kenya ranks 11th globally, and high-tech imports, where it occupies position 29.



AI generated image

Across Africa, the findings reveal an increasingly diverse innovation landscape. Mauritius leads Sub-Saharan Africa at position 50, followed by South Africa at 63 and Botswana at 82. Rwanda, ranked 96th globally, recorded the region's largest improvement and emerged as the highest-ranked low-income economy.

Globally, Switzerland retained its position as the world's most innovative economy for the 16th consecutive year, followed by Sweden and the United States. China maintained tenth place, remaining the only middle-income economy among the world's top 30 innovation performers.

Despite Kenya's progress, the report identifies weaknesses in human capital, research investment and institutional capacity that could limit the country's ability to translate emerging ideas into commercially successful products.

The findings point to the importance of strengthening connections between universities, researchers, investors and businesses, while ensuring innovators have access to the financing, skills and intellectual property protection needed to bring their creations to market.

For Kenya, the challenge extends beyond generating new ideas. It lies in creating an environment where original innovations can be protected, developed and commercialised without being undermined by infringement and counterfeit trade.

The report reinforces the importance of intellectual property in economic development, particularly as African economies seek to expand knowledge-based industries, attract investment and improve their competitiveness.

Kenya's upward movement is an encouraging sign, but sustained progress will depend on how effectively the country transforms its growing innovative capacity into businesses, jobs and products that can compete in regional and global markets.

Source: https://www.wipo.int/web-publications-preview/global-innovation-index-2026/en/gii-2026-results.html



WHEN THE WHEEL WAS "INVENTED" AGAIN (AUSTRALIA)



In 2001 the Australian patent attorney John Keogh obtained an innovation patent for a "circular transportation facilitation device", which was simply the wheel. He did it to show that Australia's fast-track patent system granted protection without proper examination. For this, he and the Australian Patent Office shared the 2001 Ig Nobel Prize for Technology.

Source: https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/60FE1349B-58C50351039C6608447546A/9781009478120c10_171-199.pdf/reinventing-the-wheel.pdf

ETHIOPIA'S COFFEE TAKES ON A GLOBAL GIANT

From 2005 Ethiopia sought trademarks for its celebrated coffee names, Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe, so that farmers could earn more from their reputation. It filed in 34 countries and secured 28 registrations by mid-2007. After a high-profile standoff, Ethiopia and Starbucks announced an agreement in June 2007 under which Starbucks recognised Ethiopia's ownership of the names.



Source: https://www.wipo.int/en/web/wipo-magazine/articles/making-the-origin-count-two-coffees-35887



SEE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT?

REPORT IT. YOUR INFORMATION CAN PROTECT THOUSANDS OF CONSUMERS.

A single report can help stop counterfeit goods before they reach more homes, schools and businesses.

HOW TO REPORT

01

NOTICE

Look for unusual packaging, missing manufacturer details, suspicious prices, poor-quality printing or a product that performs differently from the genuine item.

02

KEEP THE DETAILS

Note the product, seller, location and date. Keep your receipt and take clear photographs where it is safe to do so.

03

CONTACT ACA

Share the information through the official contacts below. Intelligence may be submitted directly to the Authority.

04

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

ACA reviews the information, assesses the risk and, where appropriate, begins verification, surveillance or enforcement action.

REPORT & ENQUIRIES

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YOUR REPORT COULD BE THE ONE THAT STOPS THE REST.

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