

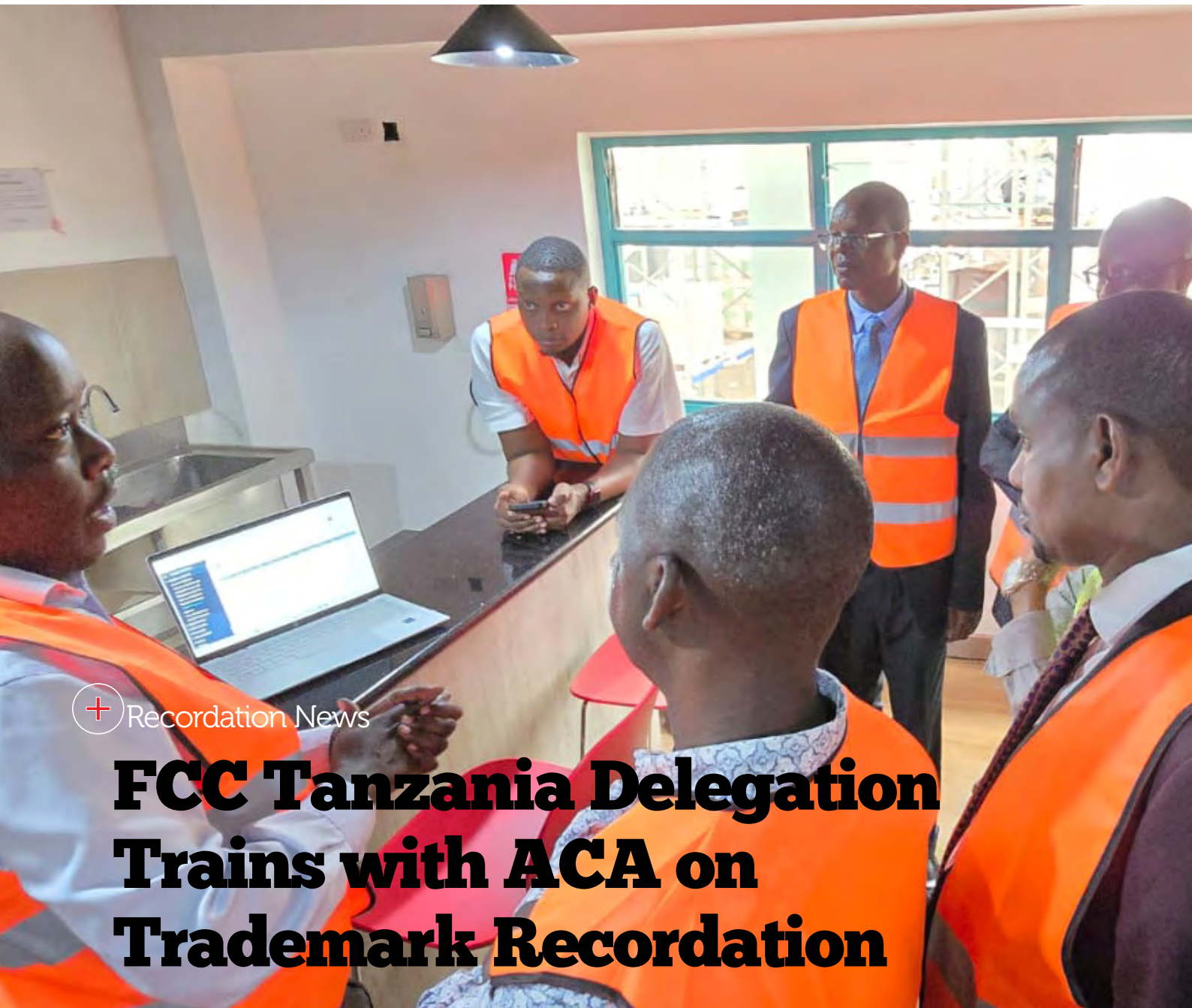


**anti
counterfeit
authority**

Upholding Authenticity

ANTI-COUNTERFEIT NEWSLETTER

20TH EDITION
JANUARY-MARCH 2026



 Recordation News

FCC Tanzania Delegation Trains with ACA on Trademark Recordation

Enforcement

Suspected Nike-Branded Sneakers Seized
in Eldoret

Public Awareness

ACA Hosts BAHLITA Roundtable to Tackle
Counterfeit and Illicit Trade

Corporate News

ACA Reaffirms Commitment to 2025/2026
Performance Targets

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	04
A word from Robi M. King’a, PhD Executive Director	
EDITORIAL COMMENT	05
A word from Jacklyne Wabuko, Editor	
CORPORATE NEWS BRIEFS	
Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie Officially Welcomed as ACA Board Chairman	06
ACA Reaffirms Commitment to 2025/2026 Performance Targets	07
Government Reaffirms Commitment to Protect SMEs	08
Driving the BETA Agenda	10
BAT Kenya Pays Courtesy Visit to ACA	12
ENFORCEMENT	13
Suspected Nike-Branded Sneakers Seized in Eldoret	15
Aca Seizes 399 Suspected Counterfeit Motor Lubricants	16
Ksh 7.6 Million Counterfeit Liquor Haul Seized by ACA in Eldoret	17
Major Blow to Stationery Counterfeiters	18
ACA Inspectors Intercept Sh1.4M of Suspected Counterfeit Liquor	19
RECORDATION	
FCC Tanzania Delegation Trains with ACA on Trademark Recordation	20
PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Government Strengthens Multi-Agency Collaboration to Combat Counterfeiting in Nakuru County	22
Bungoma Stakeholders Unite to Combat Counterfeit and Illicit Trade	24

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACA Hosts BAHLITA Roundtable to Tackle Counterfeit and Illicit Trade	26
ACA Engages Kisumu Stakeholders on IP Protection and Market Integrity	28
Regional Administration, Security Agencies and ACA Strengthen Anti-Counterfeit Enforcement in Kakamega	30
ACA Participates in Kenyatta University Career Week	32

PROCUREMENT

Driving Accountability: ACA Invests in Digital Excellence with New e-GP Training Program	33
Building Confidence in Public Procurement: Suppliers Gather for ACA Sensitization Forum	34

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Journalists in Bungoma Sensitized on Counterfeit and Illicit Trade	36
--	----

Journalists in Nakuru Trained to Strengthen Reporting on Counterfeit and Illicit Trade	37
--	----

EAC Honours ACA's Abdi Abikar at International Customs Day 2026	38
---	----



*Your Voice Matters
Don't Stay Silent!*

**Connect with
Us to Resolve
Your Concerns
Today!**

We are committed to providing a high standard of service at all times. Unfortunately, sometimes things can go wrong and informing us when you are unhappy with our service, provides us with the opportunity to put matters right and ensure we improve our services to you and all our esteemed stakeholders.

By complaining, you provide us with valuable information about how we are treating our stakeholders.



Anti-Counterfeit Authority



Anti-Counterfeit Authority - Kenya



Aca_kenya



ACA_Kenya



Lodge your complaint via our website:
<https://www.aca.go.ke/downloads/public-complaints/>



Call Us
+254 717 430 640

Foreword

Robi M. King'a, PhD
Executive Director
Anti-Counterfeit Authority



The fight against counterfeit and illicit trade remains one of the most critical challenges facing our economy today. It is a challenge that cuts across sectors, affects livelihoods and, most importantly, poses serious risks to consumer safety.

Counterfeit goods are no longer limited to luxury items or non-essential products. They have found their way into everyday goods—food items, pharmaceuticals, electrical components, agricultural inputs and personal care products. This reality makes the fight against counterfeiting not only an economic priority, but also a public safety imperative.

At the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, we continue to strengthen our enforcement efforts through intelligence-led operations, enhanced surveillance and closer collaboration with partner agencies. However, it is increasingly clear that enforcement alone cannot address the scale and complexity of this challenge.

Counterfeit trade thrives in gaps—gaps in awareness, in coordination and in vigilance. Closing these gaps requires a collective effort.

This is why stakeholder engagement remains a central pillar of our strategy. By working closely with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, manufacturers, traders, academia and the private sector, we are building a more coordinated and informed response to counterfeit and illicit trade. These engagements provide a platform to share insights, strengthen compliance and align efforts towards a common goal—protecting Kenya's market.

Equally important is the role of public awareness. An informed consumer is one of the most effective defenses against counterfeit goods. Every purchase decision matters. When consumers choose genuine products, they

not only protect themselves and their families, but also support legitimate businesses and contribute to a stronger, more resilient economy.

We are also investing in strengthening systems that support enforcement. The Intellectual Property Rights Recordation Programme continues to play a key role in enhancing our ability to monitor imported goods and detect counterfeit products at points of entry. Increased uptake of this programme by rights holders is critical in improving enforcement outcomes and protecting brands.

At the same time, we are enhancing the technical capacity of our enforcement teams through product-specific training in collaboration with rights holders and manufacturers. These trainings equip our officers with the knowledge required to identify genuine products, detect counterfeit packaging and conduct more effective inspections.

As counterfeit networks become more sophisticated, our response must be equally dynamic. This requires not only stronger enforcement, but also deeper collaboration, better information sharing and sustained public engagement.

The responsibility to protect our market does not lie with one institution alone. It is shared. It lies with government, with industry, with traders and with every consumer.

Together, we can build a marketplace that is fair, safe and competitive.

Jacklyne Wabuko Public Communication officer



Counterfeit trade thrives where awareness is low, vigilance is weak and institutions are misunderstood. That is why communication is not a side function in the work of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority. It is part of the frontline.

This edition has made one thing unmistakably clear: the fight against counterfeit and illicit trade is not being waged only in warehouses, at border points or in courtrooms. It is also being fought in the public mind. It is fought in the stories people believe, in the products they choose to buy, and in whether citizens understand that counterfeit goods are not harmless shortcuts, but dangerous threats to health, safety, jobs and legitimate enterprise.

Too often, counterfeiting is reduced to a matter of fake labels and cheap imitations. That view is dangerously incomplete. Counterfeit trade destroys trust, rewards criminal networks, weakens lawful businesses and exposes consumers to products that can injure, deceive or even kill. It quietly steals from the farmer, the manufacturer, the trader and the taxpayer. It distorts markets while pretending to offer convenience.

That is why public communication must do more than inform. It must challenge complacency. It must shape attitudes. It must make it harder for counterfeiters to hide behind public ignorance and easier for citizens to recognize that every genuine purchase is also a vote for safety, fairness and accountability.

The Authority's engagements—from stakeholder forums and media sensitization sessions to public outreach platforms and strategic partnerships—have shown that awareness is not optional. It is enforcement by another means. A well-informed journalist, a vigilant consumer, a trained trader and an alert farmer all become part of the defence against illicit trade.

But this edition reminds us that reputation matters. In a

“Counterfeit trade destroys trust, rewards criminal networks, weakens lawful businesses and exposes consumers to products that can injure, deceive or even kill. It quietly steals from the farmer, the manufacturer, the trader and the taxpayer. It distorts markets while pretending to offer convenience”.

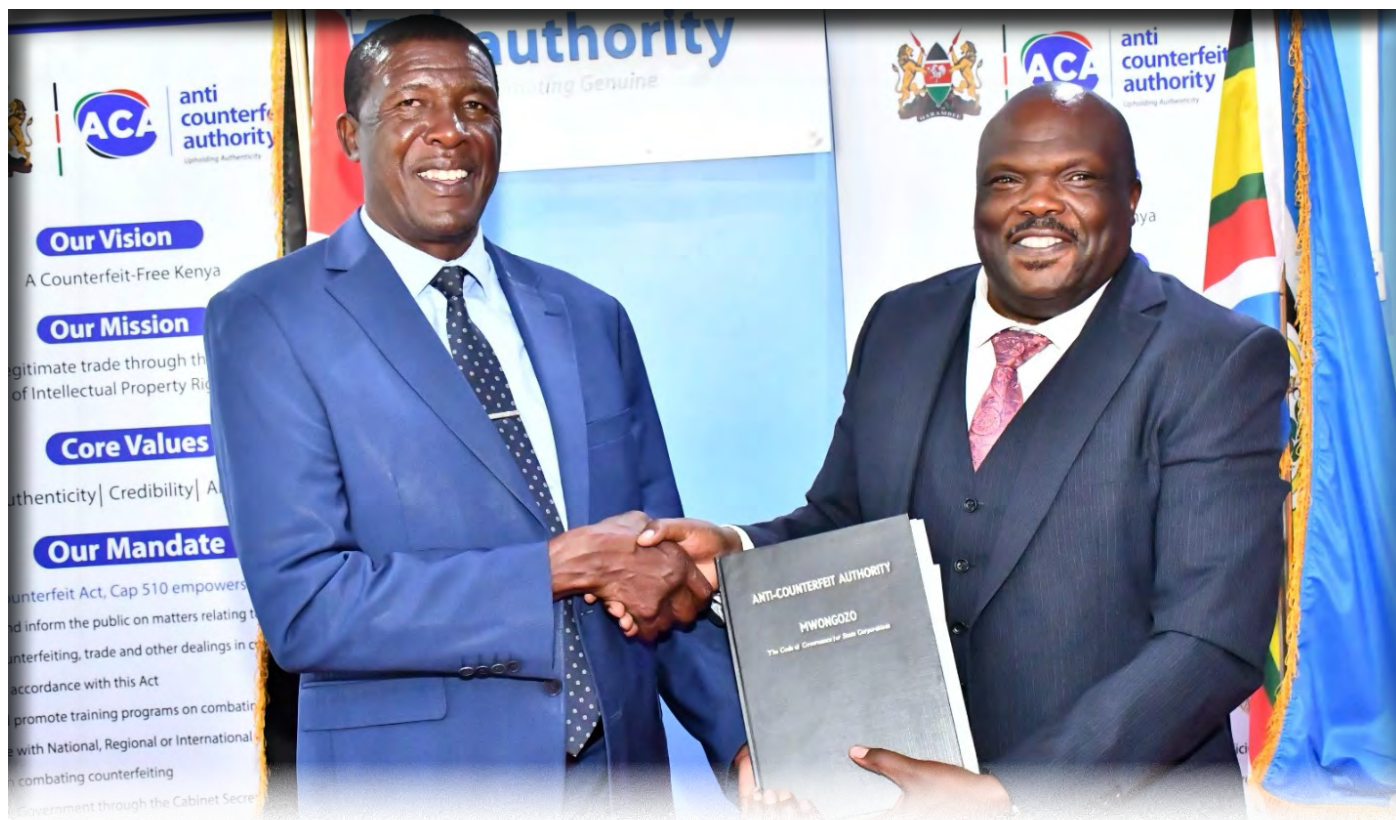
fast-moving information environment, perception can quickly compete with fact. Institutions that do not speak clearly risk being spoken for. That is why transparency, consistency and narrative discipline are no longer communications preferences; they are institutional necessities.

ACA's mandate is too important to be diluted by misinformation. Protecting consumers and legitimate trade demands an Authority that is not only visible in action, but also clear in voice, steady in message and confident in purpose.

The task ahead is therefore not simply to communicate more. It is to communicate with greater precision, urgency and resolve. Because in the end, counterfeiters depend on confusion. Public trust depends on clarity.

CORPORATE
NEWS

Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie Officially joins ACA as Board Chairman



From Left Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie and Executive Director Robi M. King'a PhD

Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie was officially welcomed to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority following his appointment as Board Chairman for a three-year term.

The welcome meeting, held at the Authority's headquarters, brought together Board Members and Management and provided an opportunity for introductory engagement and alignment on the Authority's strategic direction.

During the visit, Hon. Gaichuhie toured the ACA premises to familiarize himself with the Authority's operations and working environment. He also held discussions with Board Members at the Executive Director's Office on key governance and leadership matters before later engaging the Authority's top management on collaboration, institutional performance and shared priorities.

Welcoming the Chairman, the Executive Director underscored the importance of teamwork, leadership and continuity in advancing the Authority's mandate.

"We were delighted to officially welcome Hon. Nelson

Gaichuhie to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority. His appointment came at an important moment for the organization, and the Board, Management and staff looked forward to working closely with him as they continued to strengthen systems, enhance collaboration and deliver on the Authority's mandate," said the Executive Director.

In his remarks, Hon. Gaichuhie expressed appreciation for the warm reception and emphasized the importance of collective leadership.

"I am grateful for the warm welcome extended to me by the Board, Management and staff. I look forward to working together to provide strategic leadership, support the management team and strengthen the Authority as an institution in line with its mandate and national priorities," he said.

The Board and Management reaffirmed their commitment to working collaboratively under the Chairman's leadership to enhance governance, institutional effectiveness and service delivery.

CORPORATE
NEWS

ACA Reaffirms Commitment to 2025/2026 Performance Targets

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has signed its Performance Contract for the 2025/2026 financial year in a ceremony presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, at the Ministry's offices.

The signing forms part of the Government's broader performance management framework aimed at enhancing accountability, transparency, and service delivery across public institutions.

ACA was represented at the ceremony by Board Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, CBS, and Board Member Hon. Neddy Kiptoo, accompanied by the Executive Director, Dr. Robi M. King'a, PhD.

The Performance Contract outlines key targets and deliverables that the Authority is expected to achieve in the 2025/2026 financial year, aligned with its mandate of combating counterfeit trade, protecting intellectual property rights, and safeguarding consumers from sub-standard and illicit goods.

Through the signing, the Authority has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening enforcement, enhancing stakeholder collaboration, and leveraging data-driven and technology-enabled approaches in addressing the evolving threat of counterfeiting.

The Executive Director noted that the Performance Contract provides a structured framework for measuring results and ensuring that the Authority continues to deliver on its mandate effectively.

The ceremony underscores ACA's continued focus on improving operational efficiency, strengthening compliance mechanisms, and promoting a fair and competitive marketplace that supports legitimate businesses and protects consumers.

The Authority remains committed to implementing its strategic priorities and delivering on its targets in the 2025/2026 financial year in line with national development goals.



From Left Robi King'a Phd, Executive director ACA, Hon. Neddy Kiptoo, Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade., Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie Board Chair ACA, Hon Lee Kinyanjui Cabinet Secretary Ministry of investment, trade and industry.

CORPORATE
NEWS

Government Reaffirms Commitment to Protect SMEs, Traders and Consumers from Counterfeits



Principal Secretary, State Department of Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, CBS

A broad cross-section of stakeholders convened in Nairobi for an interactive forum aimed at strengthening collaboration in the fight against counterfeiting and illicit trade.

Held at Weston Hotel, the forum was organized by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and brought together

representatives from the State Department for Industry, partner agencies, law enforcement, manufacturers, the jua kali sector, universities and the private sector. The engagement provided a platform for dialogue on the growing threat posed by counterfeit and illicit goods and the need for stronger coordination in protecting consumers, supporting legitimate enterprise and safeguarding Kenya's economy.

Presiding over the forum, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, PhD, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to protecting legitimate businesses, consumers and the economy from the harmful effects of counterfeit and illicit trade.

In his remarks, Dr. Mukhwana noted that counterfeiting continued to undermine industrial development, distort fair competition and weaken job creation efforts. He



ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD

urged stakeholders to support local production and take advantage of existing government frameworks aimed at growing Kenya's manufacturing sector, emphasizing that increased local production remained critical to job creation and economic resilience.

Speaking during the forum, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, highlighted the Authority's mandate to protect consumers, safeguard intellectual property rights and support legitimate trade. He underscored Nairobi's strategic role as a major entry, commercial

and distribution hub, noting that what happens in the city has a significant impact on market integrity across the country.

Also addressing participants, Dr. Werre Simiyu, County Commissioner, Nairobi North East, emphasized the importance of coordinated enforcement and public awareness in protecting communities and businesses from counterfeit goods. He noted that counterfeit trade posed serious risks to consumers while also undermining law-abiding traders, importers and manufacturers

The forum discussions focused on strengthening enforcement coordination, enhancing compliance, promoting public awareness, supporting SMEs and the jua kali sector, and fostering stronger collaboration between



government, academia, industry and the private sector.

The engagement reaffirmed the importance of sustained multi-stakeholder cooperation in addressing counterfeit and illicit trade, and in promoting a safer, fairer and more competitive marketplace.



Dr. Werre Simiyu, County Commissioner, Nairobi North East

CORPORATE
NEWS

Driving the BETA Agenda: CS Lee Kinyanjui Convenes MITI Leadership for Strategic Alignment in Naivasha



Cabinet Secretary for MITI, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui

A high-level forum brought together Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry (MITI) leadership, State Departments, and State Corporations to advance results-driven delivery of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The Cabinet Secretary for MITI, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, officially opened the Strategic Workshop for State Corporations and Departmental Leadership, which was held at Sawela Lodge.

The high-level workshop brought together MITI, its State Departments, and State Corporations to strengthen strategic alignment, enhance accountability, and advance coordinated implementation of national priorities under BETA, with a focus on investments, trade expansion, and industrial development.

In his opening remarks, the Cabinet Secretary emphasized the importance of disciplined execution across the Ministry, noting that “our responsibility as leaders was to ensure that policy was translated into tangible outcomes that drive inclusive growth, job creation, and real economic impact for Kenyans.”

As part of the workshop programme, the Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), Robi King’a, made a presentation outlining the Authority’s mandate and strategic role in supporting BETA. He highlighted ACA’s role in protecting market integrity, safeguarding consumers, supporting MSMEs and local manufacturers, and promoting fair competition by preventing the trade in counterfeit goods across both physical and digital marketplaces. The presentation un-

derscored the importance of effective anti-counterfeiting interventions in strengthening legitimate trade, protecting investments, and enabling sustainable industrial growth.

The workshop convened leadership from the State Department of Industry, alongside other State Departments under the Ministry and their respective State Corporations, to align institutional strategies, budgets, and performance targets with the Ministry's mandate and the BETA Agenda.

In attendance were the Principal Secretary for Industry, Juma Mukhwana, Principal Secretary for Trade, Regina Ombam, and Principal Secretary for Investment Promotions, Abubakar Hassan, alongside Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations, Directors, Heads of Departments, and senior government officials.

Speaking during the workshop, Dr. Juma Mukhwana underscored the role of State Agencies in economic transformation, stating that "State Agencies were the bridge between policy and production, and their performance determined how effectively the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda was delivered on the ground."

Principal Secretary Regina Ombam emphasized governance and accountability, noting that "as custodians of public trust, we had to uphold the rule of law, strengthen integrity, and ensure transparency in the delivery of public service."

Also in attendance were Nelson Gaichuhie, Board Chairman of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, and Board Member, Neddy Kiptoo.



ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD

The strategic workshop focused on strengthening coordination, accountability, and results-driven leadership across the Ministry, its State Departments, and State Corporations, while ensuring that government institutions were fully aligned in supporting industrialization, trade expansion, and the delivery of tangible benefits to Kenyans under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.



CORPORATE
NEWS

BAT Kenya Pays Courtesy Visit to ACA to Strengthen Fight Against Illicit Tobacco Trade

A courtesy visit by British American Tobacco (BAT) Kenya to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) opened a fresh conversation on the need for closer collaboration in tackling illicit tobacco trade and protecting legitimate businesses in Kenya's market.

The engagement brought together BAT Kenya's leadership, led by Managing Director Crispin Achola, and the ACA team led by Executive Director Dr. Robi M. King'a at the Authority's headquarters in Nairobi. Also present were Ms. Tashanya Okola, Head of External Affairs, and Mr. Billy Tsuma from BAT Kenya.

At the centre of the discussions was the growing concern over illicit tobacco products and their impact on legitimate trade, government revenue and consumer protection. During the meeting, the BAT delegation shared insights on the changing nature of illicit tobacco trade and took the ACA team through the distinguishing features of genuine BAT cigarette products and illicit ones circulating in the market.

The presentation provided technical insights intended to support enforcement officers in identifying non-compliant tobacco products and strengthening product authentication during operations.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Crispin Achola noted that illicit tobacco products continued to undermine legitimate manufacturers, deprive governments of critical revenue and expose consumers to unregulated products.

He emphasized the importance of closer collaboration between industry and enforcement agencies, and affirmed BAT Kenya's commitment to supporting joint efforts aimed at protecting legitimate trade and safeguarding consumers.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of coordinated action among enforcement agencies, industry players and the public in addressing illicit trade.

Ms. Agnes Karingu, Deputy Director of Education and Public Awareness at ACA, underscored the role of public awareness in reinforcing enforcement efforts, noting that stronger consumer education and better recognition of legitimate products were essential in helping the public distinguish genuine goods from illicit ones.

Also speaking during the meeting, Mr. Yusuf Osman, Director of Enforcement at ACA, emphasized the need for sustained collaboration between regulators and



BAT Kenya's Managing Director Crispin Achola

rights holders to disrupt increasingly sophisticated illicit trade networks.

He noted that intelligence sharing and stronger product identification mechanisms remained critical in enhancing enforcement operations and cutting off the supply chains that allowed illicit tobacco products to enter the Kenyan market.

In his remarks, Dr. Robi M. King'a reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to working closely with industry stakeholders to safeguard Kenya's market from counterfeit and illicit products.

He emphasized that the fight against illicit trade could not be won by enforcement agencies alone, but required strong partnerships with rights holders, industry players and the public.

The Executive Director also urged BAT Kenya to take advantage of the Authority's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Recordation system, which enables rights holders to formally register their trademarks and product details with ACA. He noted that the framework strengthens the Authority's ability to detect and intercept counterfeit and illicit goods both at points of entry and within the domestic market.

He further recommended regular technical and product-marking sessions between ACA and BAT teams to support knowledge sharing, strengthen product authentication and enhance intelligence exchange in support of enforcement operations.

The Executive Director was joined by members of the ACA leadership team, including Mr. Yusuf Osman, Director of Enforcement; Mr. Lindsey Kipkemai, Deputy Director of Enforcement; Mr. Caspar Ouluch, Head of Recordation; Ms. Agnes Karingu, Deputy Director of Education and Public Awareness; and Ms.



BAT Kenya's Managing Director Crispin Achola and Executive Director Robi King'a PhD

Jully Omollo, Ag. Deputy Director of Legal Services.

The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration in strengthening enforcement, promoting public awareness and protecting consumers and legitimate businesses from the threat of illicit trade.





**PROCEDURE DURING INSPECTIONS, SEARCH AND SEIZURE
BY INSPECTORS APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 22(1)
OF THE ANTI-COUNTERFEIT ACT 2008**

BASIC ROLES OF INSPECTOR

Expected Actions		Brief Description
1.	Identification & Introduction	• The investigating officer(I.O) and other ACA inspector(s) will identify themselves to the owner of the premises or their representatives using their Certificates of Authority. A proper introduction of the rest of the team accompanying ACA inspectors is also done • The I.O will then inform the person responsible the reason for their visit. • The owner or representative will also be requested to properly themselves
2.	Inspection/search	• The team will be guided by the I.O to; Inspect/search the premises for suspected counterfeit goods or any acts of counterfeiting • Take necessary steps to terminate the manufacturer, production, making or dealing in counterfeit goods to prevent its future recurrence.
3.	Seizure of suspected counterfeit goods	• The I.O prepares an inventory of any goods, tools and equipment suspected to facilitate the trade in counterfeit goods which is witnessed by the owner or his representative among other persons by the I.O. • The goods, tools and equipment are then either declared seized in situ or removed for storage at a counterfeit depot as shall be determined by the I.O to allow further investigations.
4.	Arrest of suspect(s)	• Where any person is to be arrested, they are informed the reasons for their arrest and their rights observed.
5.	Action after seizure	Further investigations which include; • Sampling and testing of seized products as applicable • Registration of case in court or initiation of ADR within 90days or, • Return of goods to owner if found not to be counterfeit

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BUSINESS OWNER / REPRESENTATIVE

Expected Actions		Brief Description
1.	Identification	• Properly identify themselves using their national Ids or passport upon request by the I.O and avail copies of the same to the I.O
2.	Compliance with any requirement properly made to him by an inspector;	Further investigations which include: • Providing access to all areas required to be inspected • Availing books, documents or objects which may be relevant to the investigations • Rendering assistance and giving accurate information relevant to investigations • Recording a statement in relation to the investigation • Signing the inventory and any other document as required

Contact us: Toll line - 0800 211237, Tel Nos; 020 228 000/ 0717 430 640 / 0733 951 375
Email: info@aca.go.ke / Website: www.aca.go.ke / Facebook: ACAKenya / Twitter: ACAKenya

ACA-Combating counterfeiting for the health, safety and prosperity of Kenyans!

ENFORCEMENT

Suspected Nike-Branded Sneakers Seized in Eldoret



An inspection carried out in Eldoret led to the seizure of a consignment of suspected counterfeit Nike-branded sneakers as part of ongoing efforts to curb the trade in counterfeit goods across the country.

The inspection, led by the Eldoret Regional Manager, Peter Wanjala, resulted in the seizure of several pairs of sneakers suspected to be counterfeit.

The goods were seized from a retail outlet operating under the name Shoez Collection, with the inspection and inventory process conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Counterfeit Act, 2008. An inventory of the seized goods was prepared on site and witnessed to ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with established inspection and seizure procedures.

Commenting on the operation, Mr. Peter Wanjala cautioned traders and members of the public against engaging in the trade of counterfeit products.

“Counterfeit products posed serious risks to consumers and undermined legitimate businesses. We urged traders to ensure that all products offered for sale were genuine and sourced from legitimate channels, as enforcement operations within the region would continue,” said Mr. Wanjala.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority reiterated its commitment to safeguarding consumers and supporting legitimate trade, and warned that dealing in counterfeit goods, whether knowingly or unknowingly, exposed individuals and businesses to serious legal, financial and reputational consequences.

A counterfeit product is a good that is manufactured, imported, distributed or sold without the authorization of the rightful owner of a trademark, brand or other intellectual property rights. Such products often imitate genuine goods in appearance, name or branding with the intention of misleading consumers. The manufacture, importation, distribution or sale of counterfeit goods is an offence under the Anti-Counterfeit Act, 2008.



ENFORCEMENT

Aca Seizes 399 Suspected Counterfeit Motor Lubricants In Mumias And Chavakali

Officers from the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) based in Kisumu seized 399 pieces of suspected counterfeit 1-litre “Motorol” lubricants following an enforcement operation targeting Mumias and Chavakali towns in Western Kenya.

Acting on intelligence, the officers inspected motor spare shops, seized the 399 pieces of counterfeit lubricants, and took them to the Kisumu depot for processing in accordance with the Anti-Counterfeit Act.

The operation formed part of ACA’s sustained crackdown on counterfeit automotive products circulating in the country. Counterfeit lubricants posed significant risks to motorists, including engine damage, increased maintenance costs, and compromised road safety.

Speaking on the operation, Tom Muteti, Regional

Manager for the Kisumu Region, stated, “The circulation of counterfeit automotive products was a serious economic and safety concern. We remained steadfast in protecting consumers and legitimate businesses from the harmful effects of illicit trade.” He added, “Our enforcement presence across the region would continue to intensify. Traders dealing in counterfeit goods should take note.”

The Authority urged members of the public to remain vigilant and report suspected counterfeit products to the Authority.



ENFORCEMENT

Ksh 7.6 Million Counterfeit Liquor Haul Seized by ACA in Eldoret

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) seized suspected counterfeit alcoholic beverages valued at KSh 7.6 million following an intelligence-led multi-agency operation in Eldoret.

The operation, carried out by ACA enforcement officers in collaboration with other agencies, targeted a residential premises in Pioneer Estate. During the raid, officers recovered 1,103 cartons of Best Gin and 422 cartons of Best Brandy, each carton containing 20 bottles of 250ml. In total, 1,525 cartons of suspected counterfeit alcohol were seized.

The recovered products were documented through an official inventory and transported to the ACA Eldoret depot for safe custody pending further investigations. A suspect linked to the consignment was arrested and later released on police cash bail as investigations continued.

Speaking after the operation, ACA Director of Enforcement Yusuf Osman said the seizure underscored the Authority's continued efforts to protect the public from illicit alcohol and counterfeit trade.

He noted that suspected counterfeit alcohol posed a



serious risk to public health and safety, as such products were often manufactured and distributed outside approved regulatory and quality assurance frameworks, making them unsafe for consumption. He added that the operation formed part of ongoing enforcement efforts aimed at intercepting such products before they reached consumers.

Osman also emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration in dismantling counterfeiting networks, noting that coordinated action and intelligence sharing remained critical in addressing the menace effectively.

In a separate statement, ACA Regional Manager for Eldoret Peter Wanjala said the seizure formed part of a wider national crackdown on illicit alcohol and drug abuse.

He noted that enforcement efforts had been intensified across the region to protect communities and disrupt illegal storage and distribution networks. He also urged members of the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities, emphasizing that community cooperation was vital in safeguarding public health and supporting legitimate trade.

The Authority reiterated its commitment to enforcing the Anti-Counterfeit Act, 2008, and to working closely with stakeholders to curb counterfeiting, illicit alcohol trade and drug abuse across the country.



ENFORCEMENT

Major Blow to Stationery Counterfeiters as ACA Nets 6,000 Fake Casio Units



A consignment of approximately 6,000 suspected counterfeit Casio-branded calculators was seized in Embakasi during a lawful inspection targeting the circulation of counterfeit goods in the market.

The inspection, led by the Nairobi Regional Manager, resulted in the recovery of 50 boxes containing calculators branded as Casio model FX-82MS-2-W, which were suspected to be counterfeit.

The goods were seized from Zhu Xuwei SC Limited, with the inspection and inventory process conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Counterfeit Act, 2008. An inventory of the seized goods was prepared on site and witnessed by a business representative to ensure transparency and procedural compliance.

Commenting on the operation, ACA Director of Enforcement Yusuf Osman said the seizure underscored the Authority's firm and sustained enforcement stance.

"The Anti-Counterfeit Authority had intensified enforcement across the country to dismantle counterfeit supply chains and deny illegal traders access to the market. This operation sent a clear warning to counterfeiters that enforcement would be consistent, decisive and firmly grounded in the law. We would continue to protect consumers, legitimate businesses

and the integrity of Kenya's economy," said Mr. Osman.

Following the seizure, the suspected goods were secured at an ACA-designated depot pending further investigations. These included verification, sampling and testing to determine the authenticity of the products, with subsequent action guided by applicable legal and judicial processes.

ACA Nairobi Regional Manager Abikar Abdi noted that enforcement operations within Nairobi had been scaled up, particularly around key distribution points.

"Nairobi was a major commercial hub, and ACA had strengthened inspections to ensure counterfeit goods did not find their way into the market. Traders and importers were reminded that due diligence was critical. Counterfeit goods harmed consumers, undermined legitimate businesses and weakened the economy. We called upon traders and the public to remain vigilant, verify the authenticity of products and refrain from engaging in the trade of suspected counterfeits as ACA continued to enforce the law," said Mr. Abikar.

The Authority reiterated its commitment to safeguarding consumers from counterfeit goods and urged traders and importers to exercise due diligence when sourcing products, including those acquired through online platforms. Dealing in counterfeit goods, whether knowingly or unknowingly, posed serious legal and commercial risks.



ENFORCEMENT

Safeguarding Public Health: ACA Inspectors Intercept Sh1.4M of Suspected Counterfeit Liquor in Ngara Raid



In an unwavering commitment to protect Kenyan consumers from the hidden dangers of illicit trade, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority conducted a dawn enforcement operation in the Ngara neighborhood, seizing a significant haul of suspected counterfeit alcoholic spirits. The operation, led by a dedicated team of ACA inspectors, resulted in the recovery of 277 boxes containing various popular alcoholic brands, with a total street value estimated at Sh1.4 million.

While the figures were significant, the heart of the operation lay in the prevention of a potential public health crisis. Counterfeit alcohol often bypassed the stringent safety standards set by the government, frequently containing harmful chemical substitutes that posed a direct threat to the lives of unsuspecting citizens. The raid was the culmination of meticulous surveillance and intelligence gathering. By moving swiftly, inspectors intercepted the goods before they could reach the shelves of local bars and retail outlets.

“Every bottle we removed from the shelf was a potential life saved,” noted Abikar Abdi, the Lead Inspector during the inventory process. “Our team was not just enforcing the law; we were standing as a shield between unscrupulous traders and the health of Kenyans.”

The seized consignment was secured for further testing and was expected to serve as vital evidence in the ongoing investigation to dismantle the supply chain.



RECORDATION

FCC Tanzania Delegation Trains with ACA on Trademark Recordation



Front row from left Cyriacus Katunzi, Ms Hildagalda Kataraiya, Dr. John Akoten. Mr Salvator Gaspar Chuwa, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, Emanuel Ndyeta, Samson Sima, Desmond Emily, Josephat Mkizungo.

Regional collaboration in the fight against counterfeit trade continues to gain momentum, with the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) hosting a delegation from the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) of Tanzania for a week-long training programme on trademark recordation.

The delegation, led by Mr. Salvator Chuwa, Acting Director of Anti-Counterfeit at the FCC, comprises senior officials from key departments including enforcement, surveillance and internal audit. The visit is aimed at strengthening institutional collaboration and providing practical insights into Kenya's implementation of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Recordation Programme.

Welcoming the delegation, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a, PhD, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing counterfeit trade and protecting legitimate markets. He noted that engagements between enforcement institutions in the region

play a critical role in strengthening collective efforts and enhancing coordinated responses to cross-border illicit trade.

Dr. King'a highlighted that ACA has been implementing the IPR Recordation Programme since 2022 as part of efforts to enhance monitoring of imported goods and strengthen enforcement against counterfeit products entering the Kenyan market. He noted that the recordation of intellectual property rights has become an important enforcement tool, enabling the Authority to monitor trademarks associated with imported goods and strengthen coordination with customs authorities at points of entry.

He further observed that the programme has continued to gain traction among rights holders, contributing to improved enforcement outcomes and increased compliance.



During the engagement, Mr. Salvator Chuwa shared insights into Tanzania's progress in implementing its trademark recording system, noting that the FCC established an Electronic Recorded Trademark Register in 2025 to support enforcement and compliance monitoring.

He explained that the system enables inspectors to verify the authenticity of trademarks, confirm the country of origin of products and identify authorized manufacturers before goods are allowed into the market. Products suspected to be counterfeit are detained and subjected to enforcement action in accordance with the law.

Mr. Chuwa also highlighted key compliance requirements, noting that trademark owners are required to submit applications together with relevant documentation for review before approval and entry into the official register.

He pointed out potential challenges in implementation, including limited awareness among some importers and small-scale traders, reliance on digital systems and the

continued use of informal border routes by illicit traders.

Despite these challenges, he emphasized the broader benefits of the system, including enhanced consumer protection, strengthened fair competition, increased government revenue, reduced tax evasion and improved investor confidence.

Throughout the week, technical officers from ACA are taking the FCC delegation through Kenya's legal framework, operational procedures and practical implementation of the trademark recordation programme, including coordination with customs authorities and enforcement mechanisms used to monitor imports.

The engagement reflects the growing importance of regional knowledge exchange and collaboration in strengthening enforcement systems, protecting intellectual property rights and safeguarding legitimate trade across borders.

PUBLIC
AWARENESS

Government Strengthens Multi-Agency Collaboration to Combat Counterfeiting in Nakuru County



Left Nakuru CC Dr. Loyford Kibaara, Middle Chairman ACA Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, Board Member ACA Ms Neddy Kiptoo

A multi-agency stakeholders forum held in Nakuru brought together government officials, enforcement agencies, private sector representatives and business associations to strengthen coordinated action against counterfeiting and illicit trade.

The forum, convened by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), was presided over by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, PhD, CBS, and drew participation from national and county leadership, private sector representatives and National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs).

In his remarks, Dr. Mukhwana underscored the direct link between industry protection, job creation and economic growth.

“Counterfeiting and illicit trade posed a serious threat to our industrialization agenda. They undermined legitimate manufacturers, eroded government revenue, distorted fair competition, and ultimately destroyed jobs. Protecting our industries was therefore not merely an enforcement function; it was an economic imperative tied to employment creation and national growth,” he said.

He called for sustained collaboration between national government institutions, county governments and the private sector to support a fair and predictable business environment for compliant enterprises.



Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, PhD, CBS,



Dr. Loyford Kibaara, Nakuru County Commissioner,



ACA Board Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie

ACA Board Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie emphasized the importance of governance and market discipline in sustaining investor confidence.

“Market integrity was fundamental to economic stability and investor trust. When counterfeit goods infiltrated our markets, they penalized compliant businesses and discouraged investment. As a Board, we were committed to strengthening oversight and governance frameworks that enhanced enforcement while ensuring that legitimate trade was protected and facilitated,” he said.

ACA Executive Director Robi M. King’a, PhD highlighted the scale of the counterfeit threat and its impact on public safety, jobs and key sectors of the economy.

“Our role was not only to disrupt illicit trade networks, but also to protect and facilitate legitimate trade. Every counterfeit product removed from the market created space for compliant businesses to expand and create jobs. This fight could not be won in isolation and strong collaboration at the county level was essential,” he said.

Also speaking during the forum, Dr. Loyford Kibaara, Nakuru County Commissioner, reaffirmed the commitment of National Government Administration Officers to support coordinated enforcement efforts at the grassroots.

He noted that strengthened multi-agency coordination remained essential in safeguarding legitimate businesses and ensuring that illicit trade did not undermine economic activity within the county.

The Chairman of the Media Council of Kenya, Maina Muiruri, underscored the role of the media in promoting public awareness and responsible consumer behaviour.

He noted that counterfeit trade often thrived where there was limited public awareness and misinformation, adding that responsible reporting played an important role in educating consumers, exposing illicit networks and supporting institutions working to protect legitimate enterprise.

The forum concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen intelligence sharing, enhance enforcement coordination, expand public awareness initiatives and deepen collaboration between national and county governments.

The engagement reaffirmed the importance of sustained multi-sector collaboration in safeguarding Kenya’s industries, protecting jobs and promoting a fair and competitive marketplace.

PUBLIC
AWARENESS

Bungoma Stakeholders Unite to Combat Counterfeit and Illicit Trade



Mrs Agnes Karingu Deputy Director Education & Public Awareness giving her opening remarks at the Seminar

Bungoma brought together government officials, enforcement agencies and private sector players for a high-level conversation on a growing threat that continues to undermine trade, endanger consumers and weaken legitimate enterprise: counterfeit and illicit goods.

At the centre of the engagement was a shared concern over the increasing circulation of fake products through regional markets and trade routes, and the urgent need for stronger collaboration to protect supply chains, businesses and the public.

The stakeholders' forum on intellectual property protection and enforcement drew participation from National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs), county officials and business representatives, all united by a common goal of strengthening vigilance and coordinated action against illicit trade.

Opening the forum, Bungoma County Commissioner Thomas Sankei said counterfeit trade was not a distant or abstract issue, but one with direct consequences for traders, consumers and local businesses.

He emphasized that protecting markets required vigilance at every level and closer collaboration between enforcement agencies, administrators and other stakeholders to prevent counterfeit goods from taking root in the region.

The scale of the challenge was further highlighted by Agnes Karingu, Deputy Director, Education and Public Awareness at the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), who pointed to the circulation of counterfeit electrical components, printer consumables, security hardware, illicit alcohol and substandard agricultural inputs in the Western region.

She noted that the dangers posed by such products extended well beyond financial losses. Counterfeit electrical products and illicit alcohol, she said, posed serious safety and public health risks, while fake seeds and fertilizers threatened agricultural productivity, food security and the livelihoods of farmers who depended on quality inputs.



Participants of the Bungoma stakeholders engagement held at Hunters Lodge, Bungoma

The forum also underscored Bungoma's importance as a strategic trade corridor, making it a critical point in efforts to keep counterfeit and illicit goods out of legitimate supply chains. Participants stressed that protecting the region's economic stability required collective action and stronger safeguards across distribution networks.

By the close of the engagement, stakeholders had renewed their commitment to deeper intelligence

sharing, stronger supply chain compliance and closer collaboration in the fight against counterfeit and illicit trade.

The message from the forum was clear: protecting consumers and legitimate businesses requires more than enforcement alone. It demands sustained partnership, public vigilance and a shared resolve to keep markets safe, fair and credible.



Joyce Mueni from ABAK & Joseph Wairiuko KAM

PUBLIC
AWARENESS

ACA Hosts BAHLITA Roundtable to Tackle Counterfeit and Illicit Trade

Efforts to protect Kenya's hospitality industry from counterfeit and illicit alcohol received a boost following a high-level roundtable between the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Board and Management and the leadership of the Bar, Hotel and Liquor Traders Association (BAHLITA) in Nakuru.

Held at Merica Hotel, the meeting brought together key stakeholders to discuss practical measures aimed at safeguarding legitimate businesses while addressing public health, consumer safety and the growing threat of illicit trade.

Nakuru was strategically selected for the engagement due to its position as a major commercial and transit hub along the Northern Corridor. Its role as a key trade and distribution centre made it particularly significant in efforts to prevent the movement of counterfeit and illicit goods into the market.



Mrs Agnes Karingu Deputy Director Education & public Awareness



BAHLITA Secretary General Boniface Gachoka

BAHLITA, which represents about 54,000 members nationwide and supports over one million livelihoods across the hospitality sector, highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration in protecting the industry from the effects of illicit trade.

Speaking during the roundtable, ACA Board Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie said illicit trade posed a serious threat to jobs, consumer trust and the stability of the hospitality sector.

“The scale of illicit trade was a direct assault on the over one million jobs this sector supported. Counterfeit liquor eroded the consumer trust that the hospitality industry was built upon. Our presence here was to ensure that the legitimate trader was protected and the criminal element dismantled,” he said.

ACA Executive Director Robi M. King’a, PhD noted that criminal networks had become increasingly sophisticated, often imitating trusted brands to mislead both traders and consumers.

“In a commercial hub like Nakuru, our enforcement strategy was intelligence-led. We targeted the source



of these illicit products before they reached compliant bars and hotels. Protecting the hospitality sector meant protecting public health and consumer confidence,” he said.

BAHLITA Secretary General Boniface Gachoka affirmed the association’s commitment to supporting efforts to combat counterfeit and illicit trade.

“Our members were ready to support ACA, not just by raising concerns but by acting as the frontline of defence. We shared intelligence, partnered in training staff to detect counterfeit products, and launched public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on the dangers of illicit brews and the value of buying genuine

products,” he said.

The discussions also addressed concerns around refilled bottles and the harassment of businesses by impostor inspectors. Participants underscored the need for stronger reporting mechanisms, enhanced monitoring of supply chains and coordinated awareness campaigns to protect both consumers and legitimate traders.

The roundtable reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration between enforcement agencies and industry players in safeguarding the hospitality sector and preserving confidence in the market.



ACA Engages Kisumu Stakeholders on IP Protection and Market Integrity

vigilance essential in ensuring that trade routes are not exploited by those dealing in counterfeit and illicit products.

Officially opening the forum, Flora Mworira, Regional Commissioner for Kisumu Region, emphasized the responsibility that comes with the region's strategic importance.

She noted that goods entering through ports, border points and transit routes must meet national standards and comply with the law, adding that counterfeit trade undermined investor confidence, threatened public safety and weakened legitimate enterprise.

The Regional Commissioner was accompanied by the County Commissioner and representatives of regional security agencies, reflecting the administration's commitment to coordinated enforcement and intelligence-led operations.



Kisumu's position as a key gateway for trade in the Lake Region placed it at the centre of an important conversation on intellectual property protection, market integrity and the fight against counterfeit goods.

It was against this backdrop that the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) convened a Stakeholder Capacity Building Forum on Intellectual Property Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting Enforcement at Le Savanna Hotel as part of its ongoing Western Circuit.

The forum brought together regional leadership, security agencies, enforcement bodies and private sector representatives in a shared effort to strengthen coordination against counterfeit trade in the region.

As a port city and strategic transit corridor linking Kenya to neighbouring markets, Kisumu plays a critical role in the movement of goods. That position also makes



*Job Nyangoto Enforcement Officer, Kisumu region
showcasing counterfeited shoe polish*

Beyond enforcement, the forum also focused on strengthening awareness among stakeholders and the public. Participants were sensitized on the legal framework governing intellectual property protection, procedures for inspection and seizure of counterfeit goods, methods of identifying suspicious products, and reporting channels available to consumers and businesses.

By bringing together enforcement and education, the engagement sought to build a stronger first line of defence against counterfeit trade within the region.

Discussions also highlighted the broader impact of counterfeit goods, from unsafe electrical components and illicit alcohol to substandard products entering legitimate supply chains. Such goods not only pose serious risks to consumers, but also erode trust in the formal economy and disadvantage compliant businesses.

Through forums such as this, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority continues to strengthen partnerships with security agencies, standards bodies, customs officials and the private sector in order to protect consumers, safeguard intellectual property rights and support Kenya's wider industrial growth agenda.



Flora Mworira, Regional Commissioner for Kisumu Region,



Annie Obiero from the Education and public Awareness department



PUBLIC
AWARENESS

Regional Administration, Security Agencies and ACA Strengthen Anti-Counterfeit Enforcement in Kakamega



Irungu Macharia, Regional Commissioner Kakamega

ongoing engagements across the Western region aimed at strengthening coordination and sharpening the response to illicit trade.

At the centre of the discussions was the growing concern over the impact of counterfeit goods on public safety, lawful enterprise and the region's economic stability.

Officially opening the forum, Irungu Macharia, Regional Commissioner for Kakamega Region, underscored the seriousness of the threat posed by counterfeit trade and called for heightened vigilance to protect farmers, traders and consumers.

He noted that Kakamega's strong agricultural and commercial base made the region particularly vulnerable to the circulation of fake agricultural inputs, illicit alcohol and substandard electrical products, all of which posed serious risks to livelihoods, safety and confidence in the market.

The Regional Commissioner further emphasized that illicit trade networks often took advantage of

Kakamega brought together regional administration, security agencies, enforcement bodies and private sector stakeholders for a focused engagement on intellectual property protection and the fight against counterfeit trade in Western Kenya.

The Stakeholder Capacity Building Forum on Intellectual Property Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting Enforcement, convened by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), formed part of the Authority's



enforcement gaps, and called for stronger intelligence sharing, coordinated inspections and sustained inter-agency collaboration to prevent counterfeit goods from finding their way into local markets.

He was accompanied by Onesmus Kyatha, County Commissioner for Kakamega, as well as representatives of regional security agencies, reflecting the Government's commitment to safeguarding lawful trade and strengthening enforcement at the local level.

During the forum, officials from the Anti-Counterfeit Authority highlighted enforcement trends within the Western region and sensitized participants on the legal framework governing intellectual property protection,

procedures for inspection and seizure, and the available mechanisms for reporting suspected counterfeit activities.

Discussions also underscored the importance of combining enforcement with public awareness in order to build a stronger first line of defence against counterfeit and illicit trade.

The engagement reaffirmed the value of continued collaboration between national and county structures, enforcement agencies, security teams and the private sector in protecting consumers, supporting legitimate business and strengthening market integrity across the Western region.

PUBLIC
AWARENESS

ACA Participates in Kenyatta University Career Week

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) took part in Career Week at Kenyatta University, where it engaged students, faculty and members of the public on the dangers of counterfeit goods and the importance of protecting intellectual property.

The engagement provided an opportunity for the Authority to raise awareness on counterfeiting and encourage responsible consumer choices within the university community.

Through the activity, ACA also highlighted the importance of intellectual property protection in supporting innovation, safeguarding consumers and promoting fair trade.



Farmers Sensitized on Genuine and Counterfeit Products at Kilimo Biashara Expo at KALRO

Members of the public attending the Kilimo Biashara Expo at KALRO received sensitization on how to identify genuine and counterfeit products, with a particular focus on agricultural inputs.

The engagement by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) highlighted the growing risks posed by counterfeit goods in the agriculture sector, including fake seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals and veterinary products, which continue to affect productivity, livelihoods and food security.

Through the awareness sessions, participants received practical information on how to distinguish genuine products from counterfeit ones and were encouraged to remain vigilant when purchasing agricultural inputs.

The sessions received positive feedback from participants, many of whom reported being better informed and more confident in their ability to identify counterfeit products.



PROCUREMENT

Driving Accountability: ACA Invests in Digital Excellence with New e-GP Training Program



Strategic Plan as they strengthened institutional systems, enhanced staff capacity, and supported the delivery of efficient, transparent, and accountable services,” said Dr. King’a.

The training formed part of the implementation of the Authority’s Strategic Plan, which prioritized institutional strengthening, good governance, and efficient utilization of public resources. By investing in modern procurement systems and continuous staff capacity building, the Authority enhanced operational effectiveness and reinforced public confidence in its processes.

The e-GP training reflected the Authority’s long-term focus on building resilient systems that supported transparency, accountability, and sustainable institutional growth.



The Anti-Counterfeit Authority strengthened its institutional systems through a specialized training programme on the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system, aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and internal capacity in public procurement.

The training brought together officers from various departments who underwent hands-on instruction on key e-GP modules that supported end-to-end electronic procurement processes. These included electronic requisitioning, tender submission and evaluation, contract management, and invoice processing, in line with ongoing public procurement reforms.

The Executive Director of the Authority, Robi King’a, joined officers during the training, reaffirming the Authority’s commitment to embedding strong, transparent systems as part of broader institutional reforms.

Speaking during the engagement, Dr. King’a noted that the e-GP system was a critical governance tool designed to standardize procurement processes, reduce manual intervention, and strengthen accountability across the procurement cycle.

“Such trainings were critical to achieving the Authority’s

PROCUREMENT

Building Confidence in Public Procurement: Suppliers Gather for ACA Sensitization Forum



Beatrice Onyango Principal Procurement Officer in charge Procurement Department

For many suppliers, doing business with government had often felt complex, competitive, and difficult to navigate. Questions around registration, tender requirements, digital systems, and compliance had stood between small businesses and real opportunity.

It was this gap that the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), in collaboration with the National Treasury, sought to bridge during the Suppliers Sensitization Forum held at Panari Hotel, Nairobi.

The forum brought together suppliers from different sectors and backgrounds for a practical engagement aimed at helping them better understand public procurement processes, access government opportunities, and strengthen their readiness to

participate in an increasingly digital procurement environment.

The session opened with welcoming remarks by Beatrice Onyango, Head of Procurement at ACA, who set the tone for the day by encouraging suppliers to take full advantage of the forum as a learning opportunity.

Delivering the Executive Director's opening remarks, Director of Enforcement Yusuf Osman reminded participants that public procurement was not just about business opportunities, but also about responsibility. He urged suppliers to uphold integrity by supplying only genuine, authentic, and compliant goods and services to public institutions.

His remarks struck at the heart of the Authority's message: that the quality and authenticity of what was supplied to government mattered. He emphasized that suppliers were important partners in protecting public

trust and ensuring that counterfeit, substandard, and misrepresented goods did not find their way into public supply chains.

Participants also heard from Henry Maina, Deputy Director of Research at ACA, who took them through the mandate of the Authority and explained how its work benefited suppliers. By combating counterfeit goods and supporting legitimate trade, ACA helped create a fairer business environment where genuine suppliers were protected from unfair competition.

His session also helped suppliers understand how to identify and source genuine products by verifying trademarks, checking packaging and labeling details, confirming product origin, and working only with authorized manufacturers, distributors, and accredited suppliers.

Another key highlight of the forum was a presentation by Jane Mbugua, Collins Kipkoech, and Albert Langat from the National Treasury, who guided participants on the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme and the process of registering on the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system.

For many attendees, this was one of the most practical parts of the engagement. The presenters explained that the AGPO programme reserved at least 30 percent of public procurement opportunities for enterprises owned by women, youth, and persons with disabilities, opening doors for groups that had historically faced barriers in accessing government business.

They also took participants through the steps of registering on the e-GP platform, helping demystify a process that had become central to public procurement in Kenya.

Beyond the presentations, the forum created space for dialogue, clarification, and confidence-building. Suppliers were not just passive listeners; they were given an opportunity to ask questions, seek guidance, and better understand what was expected of them when engaging with government institutions.

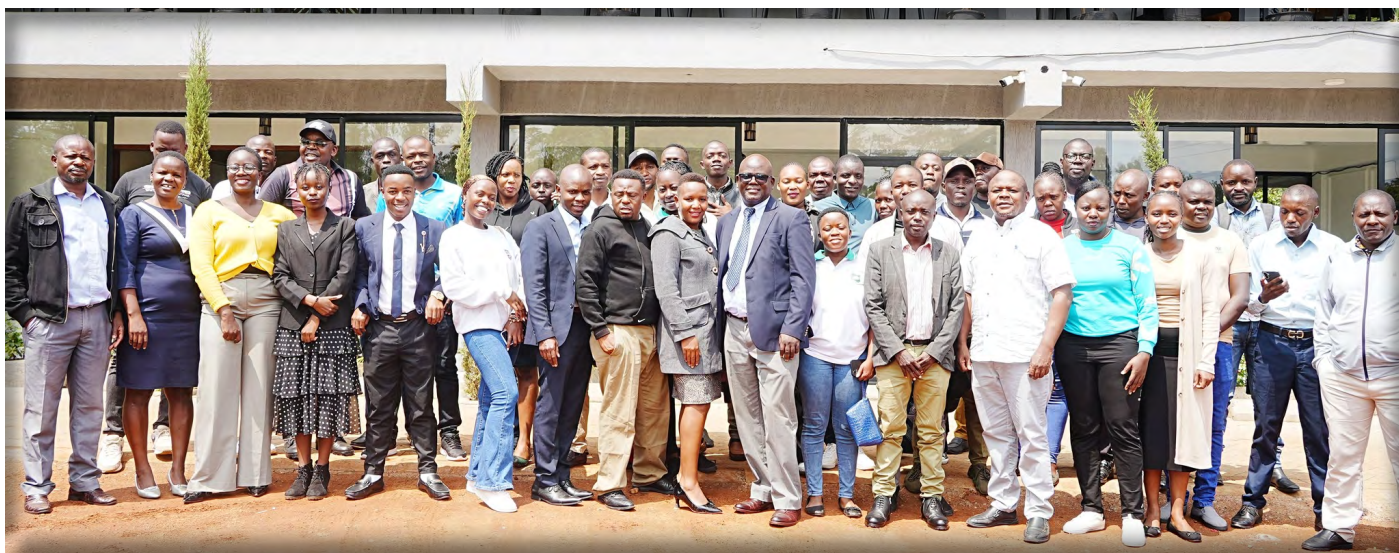
In many ways, the event was about more than procurement. It was about access, inclusion, trust, and creating a fairer system where suppliers were empowered with knowledge and where public institutions could rely on quality, compliant, and authentic goods and services.

By convening the forum, ACA reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, accountability, and supplier empowerment, while also strengthening the message that genuine trade and ethical procurement went hand in hand.



PUBLIC
COMMUNICATION

Journalists in Bungoma Sensitized on Counterfeit and Illicit Trade



A media sensitization session held in Bungoma brought together about 50 journalists and media practitioners to strengthen public awareness on counterfeit and illicit trade.

The engagement, organized by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) in partnership with the Media Council of Kenya, formed part of a series of outreach forums aimed at enhancing understanding of the dangers posed by counterfeit goods and the role of the media in shaping informed public discourse.

The session was facilitated by Tom Muteti, ACA Regional Manager – Kisumu, and Henry Maina Omusundi, OGW, Deputy Director – Research at ACA. Participants were taken through the Authority's mandate and key operational processes, including intellectual property protection, inspection and seizure procedures, investigation processes and the importance of inter-agency collaboration.

The training also highlighted the wider effects of illicit trade on businesses, consumers and the economy. Participants explored how counterfeit goods undermined legitimate enterprise, eroded government revenue, destroyed jobs and exposed the public to serious health and safety risks.

Speaking during the session, Evans Teddy, Regional

Coordinator – Kisumu Region at the Media Council of Kenya, underscored the important role of the media in shaping public understanding of complex issues.

He noted that accurate and responsible reporting was essential in informing the public, promoting accountability and strengthening consumer protection.

A key focus of the training was on responsible communication around counterfeiting and illicit trade. Journalists were guided on the importance of factual accuracy, distinguishing allegations from confirmed findings, providing legal context and avoiding sensationalism that could mislead the public or compromise ongoing investigations.

The session also underscored the broader role of the media in awareness creation, agenda setting and influencing consumer behaviour, particularly in helping to shift public attitudes away from the normalization of counterfeit trade.

The Bungoma engagement reflected the Authority's continued commitment to collaboration and public education as part of a broader approach to addressing counterfeit and illicit trade. It also reaffirmed the important role of the media in supporting a more informed, vigilant and responsible marketplace.

PUBLIC
COMMUNICATION

Journalists in Nakuru Trained to Strengthen Reporting on Counterfeit and Illicit Trade

Efforts to strengthen public awareness on counterfeit and illicit trade received a boost following a specialized media training for journalists in Nakuru.

The engagement brought together journalists from across the region for a targeted session aimed at promoting accurate and responsible reporting on counterfeit and illicit trade.

The session formed part of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority's ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with the media as a key stakeholder in the fight against counterfeiting. Nakuru's strategic position as a major commercial and distribution hub made the engagement particularly important in efforts to curb the circulation of counterfeit goods.

Counterfeit and illicit products continued to pose serious risks to consumers, legitimate businesses and the national economy. In addition to undermining fair competition, such goods exposed the public to health and safety hazards while denying the Government critical revenue. Addressing the challenge required not only

sustained enforcement, but also strong public awareness supported by factual and responsible reporting.

The training equipped journalists with deeper insights into the Authority's mandate, the legal framework guiding anti-counterfeit enforcement, and the wider economic and social effects of illicit trade. Strengthening understanding of these issues remained key to promoting accurate public discourse and informed citizen engagement.

The Authority appreciated the collaboration of the Media Council of Kenya and the active participation of members of the press, whose role remained central in shaping public awareness on the dangers of counterfeit and illicit trade.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, institutional partnership and proactive communication as part of a broader effort to protect consumers and safeguard the integrity of Kenya's marketplace.



ACKNOWLEDGE-
MENTS

EAC Honours ACA's Abdi Abikar at International Customs Day 2026



The award recognized his outstanding service, professionalism and commitment to advancing customs administration and trade facilitation within the East African region.

The recognition also reflected the important work being undertaken by enforcement and customs officers in safeguarding consumers, supporting legitimate trade and protecting the integrity of the market.

ACA noted that the achievement was not only a personal milestone for Mr. Abikar, but also a reflection of the dedication and teamwork behind ongoing efforts to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade.

The Authority extended its congratulations to Mr. Abikar on the well-deserved recognition and wished him continued success in his service.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) congratulated Abdi Abikar, Regional Manager, Nairobi, on receiving an award from the East African Community during International Customs Day 2026.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor:

Agnes Karingu

Deputy Director- Education & Public awareness

Graphic Designer/ editor:

Jacklyne Mwambingu

Contributors

Joyce Wachau



Anti-Counterfeit Authority



Anti-Counterfeit Authority - Kenya



Aca_kenya



ACA_Kenya

**This Newsletter is published Quarterly by
the Anti-Counterfeit Authority**

CONTACTS

HEADQUARTERS-NAIROBI

Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA)

National Water Plaza,
3rd Floor, Dunga Road Junction Industrial Area,
P.O. Box, 47771-00100 (GPO), Nairobi, Kenya.

Report corruption and public complaints against the Authority
through Email: **info@aca.go.ke**

Share any intelligence related information through:

intelligence@aca.go.ke

Mobile: **0717 430 640**
0733 951375

MOMBASA

Mombasa Trade Centre 5th Floor, Nkrumah Road

KISUMU

Alpha House, 4th Floor, Oginga Odinga Street

ELDORET

Kiptagich Building, 3rd Floor, Uganda Road