

THE SENTINEL

AUTHENTIC. CREDIBLE. ALERT

INAUGURAL EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2026

Vigilance In a changing Marketplace

How technology, intelligence and partnerships are transforming the fight against counterfeiting

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KSh500,000 award against ACA overturned on appeal.

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Rooted in community

Farmer education and more than 900 seedlings in Kaimosi.

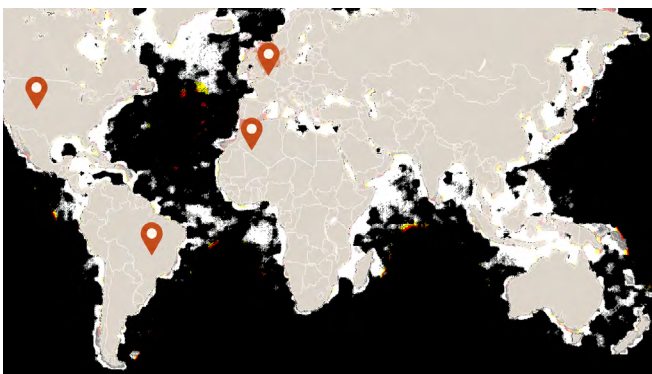
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AUTHENTICITY BEGINS WITH US

Our Mandate is clear!

Our purpose is shared!

Our impact depends on all of us!



Dr. Robi M. King'a, PhD
Executive Director, ACA

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural edition of The Sentinel, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority's premier publication.

Counterfeiting is not merely a commercial offence. It threatens consumer health and safety, undermines innovation, deprives legitimate businesses of income and weakens public confidence in the marketplace. Addressing it therefore requires an informed public, responsible businesses and strong partnerships across government and industry.

Through The Sentinel, we will share the stories behind our work—the operations, partnerships, technologies and

people contributing to the protection of consumers and legitimate trade. We will also provide practical information to help businesses protect their intellectual property and enable consumers to make safer, more informed choices.

The publication is anchored in ACA's values: Authenticity, Credibility and Alertness. We will strive to ensure that every edition is trustworthy, relevant and responsive to the changing nature of counterfeiting.

I invite you to read, engage and work with us as we build a marketplace in which innovation is protected, genuine businesses thrive and consumers can purchase with confidence.

Through The Sentinel, we will share the stories behind our work , the operations, partnerships, technologies and people contributing to the protection of consumers and legitimate trade. We will also provide practical information to help businesses protect their intellectual property and enable consumers to make safer, more informed choice.

A NEW SPACE FOR OUR STORY

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the sentinel.



Jacklyne Wabuko
Public communications

Every institution has a story beyond its reports, strategies and statistics. It lives in the people who carry the mandate, the decisions that shape our work and the moments that remind us why the work matters.

The Sentinel creates a space for those stories.

As we launch this publication, the Authority is moving beyond the quarterly newsletter format to a monthly publication that is more timely, engaging and responsive to the work taking place across ACA. Each edition will provide a regular platform for sharing issues, our achievements, lessons, ideas and the people behind the mandate.

In this inaugural edition, we highlight enforcement activities, legal developments, partnerships and public awareness initiatives that advance the Anti Counterfeit Authority's mandate. We also recognise the people whose expertise, commitment and teamwork keep the Authority moving forward.

Beyond Kenya, we examine developments in intellectual property, where changing markets, emerging technologies and increasingly sophisticated forms of infringement continue to reshape the fight against counterfeiting.

This publication belongs to all of us. It is a platform through which we can recognise progress, share knowledge, celebrate our people and connect our individual responsibilities to ACA's collective purpose.

We welcome contributions from across the Authority, including stories from the field, departmental achievements, staff experiences, professional insights and ideas that can strengthen how we work.

I hope each monthly edition of The Sentinel will inform, challenge and inspire us to continue protecting consumers, supporting legitimate trade and safeguarding intellectual property rights.

Welcome to The Sentinel, a new monthly space for our people, our work and our story.

SENTINEL IN BRIEF

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

BORDER WATCH

CHAIRMAN VISITS MOMBASA AND LUNGA LUNGA OFFICES

The Chairman of the Anti Counterfeit Authority, Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie, CBS, visited ACA's Mombasa and Lunga Lunga offices as part of the Board's engagement with staff and regional operations.

The visit provided an opportunity for the Chairman to interact with employees, receive updates on activities within the Coast Region and appreciate the contribution of regional and border offices to the Authority's mandate.

The Mombasa and Lunga Lunga offices play an important role in monitoring trade routes, supporting enforcement activities and engaging stakeholders within the coastal and border areas. ACA also supports enforcement and border management at other key entry



Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie and CEO Dr Robi King'a PhD with officers from ACA Lunga Lunga

points, including the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Namanga, Busia and Malaba. The Authority is represented in Joint Operations Committees and Border Management Committees, where it works with other government agencies to share intelligence, coordinate operations and strengthen the monitoring of goods entering and moving through the country. This collaboration supports efforts to prevent the

movement of suspected counterfeit goods and respond to emerging border threats.

The Chairman acknowledged the commitment of staff and emphasised the importance of teamwork, professionalism and effective coordination in protecting consumers, legitimate trade and intellectual property rights.

PARLIAMENT

ACA PRESENTS SUBMISSIONS ON THE KIPA BILL



The Executive Director of the Anti Counterfeit Authority, together with senior directors, accompanied Principal Secretary Dr. Juma Mukhwana, CBS, before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to present submissions on the Kenya Intellectual Property Authority Bill.

Senior officials from ACA, the Kenya Industrial Property Institute and the Kenya Copyright Board participated in the parliamentary engagement.

The proposed legislation seeks to harmonise and strengthen the administration and regulation of

Kenya's intellectual property sector through the establishment of the Kenya Intellectual Property Authority.

During the session, the agencies provided their views on the proposed institutional framework, implementation considerations and the importance of maintaining effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.



The parliamentary process provides an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of a coordinated and responsive national intellectual property system.

PARTNERSHIPS

ACA AND US PARTNERS REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO IP PROTECTION

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority held an engagement meeting with key United States partners on 18 August 2026 to strengthen cooperation in the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Led by ACA Executive Director Dr. Robi M. King'a, the meeting brought together representatives from US Customs and Border Protection, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the US Embassy in Kenya's Economics Office.

The parties reviewed ACA's mandate, current operations, progress from previous engagements and key



USPTO representative Ms. Holly Lance, Dr Robi King'a PhD, and Ms. Faith Ngaii.

institutional milestones. They also identified practical opportunities for expanding collaboration in enforcement, capacity building and information sharing.

ACA appreciated the contributions of USPTO representative Ms. Holly

Lance and Ms. Faith Ngaii of the US Embassy.

The engagement reaffirmed the shared commitment to combating counterfeit goods, protecting intellectual property, supporting innovation and promoting legitimate trade.

GOVERNANCE

ACA BOARD AND MANAGEMENT HOLD FY 2026/27 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS



Chairman Hon. Nelson Gaichuhie and CEO Dr Robi King'a PhD with ACA Board Members

The Anti Counterfeit Authority Board and Management held performance contract negotiations for the Financial Year 2026/27, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to effective service delivery, accountability and measurable institutional results.

The negotiations provided an

opportunity to review the Authority's proposed priorities, performance indicators, targets and expected outputs for the financial year. They also ensured that ACA's commitments were aligned with its mandate, strategic objectives, broader government priorities and the Bottom Up Economic Transformation

Agenda.

Through the BETA agenda, the Government seeks to promote inclusive economic growth, job creation, enterprise development, food security and stronger value chains. ACA's work contributes to these priorities by protecting consumers, supporting legitimate businesses, safeguarding innovators and helping to create a fairer marketplace for genuine products.

The engagement emphasised the shared responsibility of the Board, Management, departments and individual employees in translating institutional plans into measurable outcomes. Once finalised, the performance contract will provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the Authority's progress throughout FY 2026/27.

COURT OF APPEAL • 24 JULY 2026

E007

THE COURT SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

KSh500,000 award against the Anti-Counterfeit Authority overturned on appeal

The Court of Appeal sitting in Nyeri has overturned a High Court judgment that found the Anti-Counterfeit Authority liable for violating the constitutional rights of a flour distributor following an enforcement operation conducted in Embu County. In a judgment delivered on 24 July 2026, Justices M’Inoti, Kantai and Mumbi-Ngugi allowed the Authority’s appeal, set aside the KSh500,000 damages awarded to John Kariuki, trading as Khifam Limited, and dismissed his constitutional petition in its entirety. The court also awarded the Anti-Counterfeit Authority the costs of both the appeal and the proceedings before the High Court.

The dispute arose from a commercial relationship between Kariuki and Uzuri Foods Limited, trading as Golden Harvest Mills. Uzuri Foods manufactured and owned the registered trademark for GOLDEN ALL-PURPOSE HOME BAKING FLOUR. Kariuki distributed the company’s flour to retailers in Embu and was supplied with surplus packaging for use when original packets were damaged.

Kariuki later established his own flour-manufacturing business under the RIDHIKA NGANO POA brand and applied to register its intellectual property. His application was approved

for advertisement on 23 January 2019. At the time, he retained some packaging materials and stocks obtained through his earlier commercial arrangement with Uzuri Foods.

According to the evidence presented in court, Uzuri Foods began receiving consumer complaints about the quality of flour bearing its trademark while its sales in the Mt Kenya region declined. Investigations by the company allegedly established that lower-quality flour was being repackaged in packaging bearing the GOLDEN trademark. The company also alleged that its logo was being used on the NGANO POA brand.

Uzuri Foods lodged a formal trademark-infringement complaint with the Anti-Counterfeit Authority on 15 March 2019. Acting on the complaint, ACA inspectors Ibrahim Bulle and Glory Kinyua, accompanied by police officers and a representative of Uzuri Foods, conducted an enforcement operation at Kariuki’s premises at Rukiriri Centre in Runyenjes on 21 March 2019.

During the operation, officers seized several items, including 20 bags of 50-kilogram Ridhika flour, 50 bales of Ngano Poa flour, 3,500 pieces of outer Ridhika packaging and approximately 30,000 pieces of inner packaging bearing the Golden All-Purpose

Baking Flour brand. The seized goods were documented in Inventory of Seized Goods Serial No. 003992, which Kariuki signed at the scene.

Kariuki was subsequently arrested and booked at Runyenjes Police Station. He was released on the same day on a KSh50,000 cash bail. The cash-bail receipt indicated that the contemplated charge related to possession of counterfeit goods. After completing its investigations, ACA charged him before the Runyenjes Magistrate's Court on 11 June 2019.

Before the criminal case was determined, Kariuki filed Constitutional Petition No. 5 of 2019 at the High Court in Embu. He alleged that the seizure of his goods, his arrest and the delay in charging him had violated his constitutional rights. The High Court found that ACA had infringed his rights under Articles 29(a) and 49(1)(a)(i) of the Constitution and awarded him KSh500,000 in damages together with the costs of the petition. ACA challenged the decision before the Court of Appeal.

In its judgment, the Court of Appeal identified a fundamental contradiction in the High Court's findings concerning Article 29(a), which protects individuals against arbitrary deprivation of freedom. The appellate judges observed that the High Court had initially found that no violation of the rights protected under Article 29 had been established. However, the same court later awarded damages for an alleged violation of Article 29(a).

The Court of Appeal found that this unresolved contradiction undermined the High Court's conclusion because a court could not award compensation for a constitutional violation that it had already determined had not occurred. The appellate court also found that Kariuki had not pleaded specific facts demonstrating that he had been arbitrarily arrested or unlawfully deprived of his liberty. Article 29 had only been referred to generally in the prayers contained in the petition.

Relying on the principles established in *Anarita Karimi Njeru v Republic and Mumo Matemu*, the judges reiterated that a person alleging a constitutional violation must identify the affected right with precision and demonstrate the specific manner in which it was violated. The court emphasized that constitutional remedies could not be granted on the basis of matters that had not been properly pleaded.

The Court of Appeal also rejected the High Court's finding that Kariuki had not been informed of the reason for his arrest, as required under Article 49(1)(a)(i) of the Constitution. The judges pointed to the inventory of seized goods and the cash-bail receipt, both of which indicated that the enforcement action concerned suspected counterfeit goods. Kariuki had signed the inventory, confirming that he was aware of the nature of the goods seized and the circumstances surrounding the operation.

The court found no evidence suggesting that Kariuki was illiterate or unable to understand the English language used in the documents. It also concluded that the High Court had made a significant factual error by finding that Inspector Bulle had not participated in the seizure. The inventory expressly identified Bulle as the seizing officer, and he was also the inspector who swore the replying affidavit on behalf of ACA. The Court of Appeal therefore found that the High Court had misread the evidence placed before it.

Having considered the evidence and the applicable constitutional principles, the Court of Appeal concluded that ACA's appeal was meritorious and allowed it in its entirety. It set aside the High Court judgment delivered on 17 November 2020, dismissed Kariuki's constitutional petition and awarded ACA the costs of the proceedings in both courts.

The judgment highlights the importance of accurate and contemporaneous documentation during enforcement operations. In this

case, the signed inventory and detailed cash-bail receipt provided evidence that Kariuki had been informed of the nature of the seizure and the reason for his arrest. It also demonstrates the importance of having the officers who lead enforcement operations, sign inventory forms and interact with suspects provide affidavits in subsequent court proceedings.

ACA completed its investigations and charged Kariuki within three months of the seizure, in compliance with the statutory period provided under Section 28(1) of the Anti-Counterfeit Act. This helped address allegations of unreasonable delay and unlawful detention of the seized goods.

For enforcement officers, the decision reinforces a clear operational lesson: constitutional compliance must be supported by consistent procedures, properly completed documents and a reliable chain of evidence from the scene of an operation to the courtroom. The judgment confirms that proper documentation, timely investigations and accurate presentation of evidence remain essential in protecting the integrity of enforcement actions.

CASE AT A GLANCE

Case: *Civil Appeal No. E007 of 2021*

Court: *Court of Appeal at Nyeri*
Judgment: *24 July 2026*

Justices: *M'Inoti, Kantai and Mumbi-Ngugi.*

Appellant: *Anti-Counterfeit Authority*

Respondents: *John Kariuki T/A Khifam Limited; Uzuri Foods Limited T/A Golden Harvest Mills; and the Officer Commanding Runyenjes Police Station*

Outcome: *Appeal allowed and High Court petition dismissed*
Costs: *Awarded to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority*

VIGILANCE⁷ IN A CHANGING MARKETPLACE

How technology, intelligence and partnerships are transforming the fight against counterfeiting

Counterfeiting is evolving from a physical trade centred on shops, warehouses and border points into a flexible network operating through digital platforms, courier services and complex supply chains. This article examines how technology, intelligence, recordation, authentication and partnerships are helping enforcement agencies identify threats earlier, coordinate action and protect consumers and legitimate businesses.



For many years, the fight against counterfeit goods was largely a physical exercise. Officers followed leads to warehouses, shops, markets and storage facilities. Goods were seized, investigations were opened and suspects were taken to court.

That approach remains important. However, the counterfeit trade has changed significantly.

Today, counterfeiters can operate through social media pages, online marketplaces and messaging platforms. They can store goods in private homes, move them through courier services and reopen their businesses under new names when an account is closed or a consignment is seized.

This has created a new reality for

enforcement agencies. The question is no longer only where counterfeit goods are being sold. It is also where they are likely to appear, who is behind the supply chain, how the goods entered the market and which other agencies may hold information that can help stop them.

The fight against counterfeiting is therefore becoming more dependent on technology, intelligence and partnerships.

One of the most important changes in modern enforcement is the move from reacting to counterfeits after they reach the market to identifying and stopping them earlier in the supply chain.

In Kenya, the Anti Counterfeit Authority Integrated Management System plays an important role in

this effort. Through the system, rights holders record trademarks, copyrights, trade names and other protected rights relating to goods imported into the country.

This information is made available to inspectors and other law enforcement officers at points of entry. Goods bearing intellectual property rights that have not been recorded may be prevented from entering the country.

The system was designed to work alongside the KenTrade Single Window System and the pre import inspection process undertaken through the Kenya Bureau of Standards. Records are valid for twelve months.

The value of recordation is that it gives enforcement officers useful information before goods enter the



market. Instead of relying only on visual judgement, an officer can compare the information presented at the point of entry with the details submitted by the rights holder.

This makes inspection faster, more consistent and more effective.

It also gives rights holders a more active role in protecting their brands. By recording their rights and providing information about their products, they help enforcement officers understand what genuine goods should look like, where they are produced, how they are packaged and through which channels they are expected to enter the country.

Recordation is therefore more than an administrative process. It is an intelligence tool that supports intervention at an earlier stage.

Technology does not replace the work of an officer. It strengthens the officer's ability to make informed decisions.

A database can show whether a trademark has been recorded. An electronic system can reveal patterns in imports. A digital report can connect information from several locations. A verification tool can help

"One of the most important changes in modern enforcement is the move from reacting to counterfeits after they reach the market to identifying and stopping them earlier in the supply chain."

determine whether a product is genuine before it reaches a consumer.

Internationally, customs administrations and rights holders are increasingly using digital platforms to share information. The World Customs Organization's Interface Public Members platform, for example, allows rights holders to provide information to customs officers in a secure environment.

Such platforms can contain details about genuine products, packaging, distribution routes and known counterfeit goods. They may also connect with

authentication and traceability systems, allowing officers to access relevant information when examining a product.

This type of cooperation is important because rights holders often identify suspicious activity before an enforcement agency does. They know their products, packaging and distribution networks. They are also more likely to notice unusual routes, unauthorised sellers and product features that do not match genuine goods.

Consumers are another important source of information. A product that fails unusually quickly, causes harm or appears different from what a customer normally buys may point to counterfeiting.

Legitimate businesses also have a role to play. A trader who is offered stock through an unusual channel or at a price that appears too good to be true may be the first person to notice that something is wrong.

The responsibility of enforcement agencies is to make reporting easy, accessible and worthwhile. Reports must be received, assessed and acted upon. When people see that their



12

MONTHS

The period for which intellectual property records remain valid.



3

KEY ELEMENTS

Required by law. Unique identifier. Central database.



5

STAGES

Recordation. Intelligence. Point of entry. Inspection. Action.

information leads to action, they are more likely to continue sharing it.

Counterfeiting is not limited to one area of law or one government institution.

A single consignment may involve intellectual property violations, tax evasion, public health risks, breaches of product standards, environmental concerns and organised criminal activity.

Each matter may fall under a different agency. This makes cooperation essential.

When institutions work separately, counterfeiters take advantage of the gaps between them. Information held by one agency may not reach another. An investigation may stop at the point where another institution should take over. A suspicious consignment may move through several stages before the relevant agencies are able to respond.

Effective enforcement requires agencies to share information, coordinate operations and understand how their mandates connect.

The same principle applies beyond national borders. Counterfeit networks do not operate according to government boundaries. They use shared ports, transport routes, digital platforms and regional markets.

A consignment may be manufactured

in one country, moved through another, stored in a third and sold to consumers in several different markets.

This is why cooperation among neighbouring countries and international partners is increasingly important. Joint operations allow agencies to act at the same time, reducing the opportunity for suspects to move goods, destroy evidence or relocate their online operations.

Brazil's Operation 404, which focuses on digital piracy, demonstrates the value of coordinated action. The operation has involved several countries working together to block websites, disrupt digital networks and execute search and seizure warrants.

The most important lesson is not only the scale of such operations. It is the timing. When agencies share intelligence and act simultaneously, they reduce the space in which counterfeiters can reorganise.

For East Africa, where trade moves through connected markets and shared transport corridors, regional cooperation is especially important.

Authentication technology has also changed the relationship between consumers and enforcement.

A consumer who can check a product before buying it has a better chance of avoiding a counterfeit. A

trader who can verify stock before placing it on shelves can protect both the business and its customers.

Kenya already uses product verification in certain sectors through the excise stamp system administered by the Kenya Revenue Authority. The system uses security features and unique encrypted codes linked to information about individual products.

Enforcement officers have verification tools, while members of the public can check certain products through the Soma Label application. These include alcoholic drinks, bottled water, juices, soft drinks, energy drinks, tobacco products and cosmetics.

Effective authentication systems usually have three important features. The marking is required by law, each product has a unique identifier and the identifier is connected to a central database.

However, authentication is not a permanent solution. Counterfeiters study the systems used to detect them. As printing becomes more advanced, packaging can be copied with increasing accuracy. Where verification depends on a code, counterfeiters may attempt to copy or reuse genuine codes.

This means that authentication systems must be monitored and improved continuously. Repeated scans of the same identifier, unusual locations and unusual purchasing patterns may help reveal suspicious activity.

Technology must therefore be treated as an evolving tool. It is effective when it is maintained, updated and supported by strong enforcement.

The greatest challenge facing enforcement today may not be a lack of tools. It may be the lack of connection between the tools that already exist.

An agency may have an intelligence platform, a rights recordation system, a reporting mechanism and an experienced



535

DOMAINS BLOCKED



44

SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANTS



3

INSTITUTIONS

enforcement team. However, if these elements operate separately, valuable information may be lost.

Information collected during an online investigation should help officers identify physical shipments. Information from a seizure should inform future targeting. Reports from rights holders should strengthen inspections at points of entry. Court outcomes should also provide useful guidance for future investigations.

The European Union has taken steps to address this challenge by bringing several enforcement systems together in one platform. The aim is to allow rights holders, enforcement authorities, the European Commission and international partners to access and share information more effectively.

The lesson for Kenya is important. Institutions may have different mandates and responsibilities, but the information used to protect intellectual property should connect across the enforcement chain.

The proposed Kenya Intellectual Property Authority Bill seeks to bring together the country's intellectual property functions under one institution. As this process continues, attention must also be given to the systems, databases and procedures that support enforcement.

Institutional coordination will deliver the greatest benefit when it is supported by coordinated information.

Technology can identify a suspicious

consignment, but it cannot open a warehouse door. Intelligence can point to a location, but officers must still conduct the operation. A digital report can begin an investigation, but evidence must still be collected, analysed and presented through the justice system.

The officer remains central to the fight against counterfeiting.

Technology improves the quality and timing of information available to officers. Partnerships expand the sources of intelligence. Cooperation allows agencies to combine their strengths.

Together, these tools increase the likelihood that officers will reach the right place, at the right time and with a clearer understanding of what they are looking for.

The counterfeit trade will continue to evolve. New technologies, online platforms, delivery systems and payment methods will create new opportunities for counterfeiters.

Enforcement must evolve with it.

Vigilance is not simply watching the marketplace. It is the willingness to continually examine whether existing methods still reflect the way counterfeiters operate.

It means asking whether information collected by one part of the system reaches the rest of the system quickly enough. It means using technology to support sound judgement, working

with rights holders and consumers, and strengthening cooperation among agencies and countries.

For consumers, vigilance means checking products before purchase and reporting suspicious goods.

For businesses, it means protecting supply chains and ensuring that products come from legitimate sources.

For rights holders, it means recording their intellectual property rights and sharing useful information with enforcement agencies.

For government agencies, it means coordinating action and using intelligence to intervene before counterfeit goods cause harm.

The fight against counterfeiting is no longer confined to markets, warehouses and border points. It extends across digital platforms, databases, transport corridors and international partnerships.

The tools may continue to change, but the objective remains constant: protecting consumers, supporting legitimate businesses and building a marketplace where genuine products can thrive.

“The fight against counterfeiting is no longer about simply finding counterfeit goods. It is about using intelligence, technology and partnerships to stop them before they reach the consumer.”

KAIMOSI OUTREACH

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

ACA combines farmer education, agricultural innovation and environmental action during its Kaimosi Outreach.



Ms Fridah Kendi (Right) education and public awareness officer explaining to farmers how to identify and verify authentic seeds

EXPO HIGHLIGHTS	
	100 DAIRY FARMERS — Graduated after specialised agricultural training
	NEW CURRICULUM — Agroecology competency-based curriculum launched
	FARMER EDUCATION — Product verification and counterfeit awareness
	PARTNERSHIPS — Training, knowledge transfer and value addition

Public awareness is most effective when it meets communities where they live, learn and work. In Kaimosi, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority combined farmer sensitisation, stakeholder engagement and environmental conservation to demonstrate how informed choices contribute to safer communities, sustainable livelihoods and national food security.

The outreach formed part of ACA's participation in the 2026 Kaimosi Agricultural Expo, held under the theme, "Adopting Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture Through Value Addition." The expo brought together farmers, government institutions, researchers, development partners, agricultural organisations and private-sector stakeholders to explore practical approaches to improving agricultural productivity and sustain-

ability.

Throughout the expo, participants were encouraged to embrace modern technologies, value addition and climate-smart agricultural practices. The discussions also highlighted the importance of equipping farmers with relevant knowledge and practical skills to build resilient food systems.

ACA used the platform to sensitise farmers about the threat posed by counterfeit agricultural products. Farmers were encouraged to remain vigilant, verify the authenticity of the inputs they purchase and report products suspected to be counterfeit.

Agricultural inputs such as fertiliser, seeds, pesticides and veterinary products have a direct effect on farm productivity and household income. When farmers unknowingly purchase

counterfeit or substandard products, they may experience reduced yields, financial losses and damage to crops, livestock and the environment.

Protecting farmers from counterfeit products is therefore not only an enforcement responsibility. It also requires continuous public education, collaboration with agricultural institutions and the participation of farmers, traders, manufacturers and local communities.

The expo featured several milestones aimed at strengthening agricultural training and farmer empowerment. These included the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Kaimosi Agricultural Training Centre and agricultural partners to support farmer capacity-building and knowledge transfer.

One hundred dairy farmers also graduated after completing specialised agricultural training. The graduation reflected the growing investment in equipping farmers with the skills required to improve productivity and adopt sustainable farming practices.

Another significant development was the launch of the Agroecology Competency-Based Curriculum, developed through a partnership between

"Protecting farmers requires knowledge, vigilance, genuine agricultural inputs and strong community partnerships."

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Kaimosi Agricultural Training Centre. The curriculum is expected to support climate-smart agriculture and strengthen sustainable farming practices.

As part of the wider Kaimosi outreach, ACA collaborated with the State Department for Industry and the Kenya Industrial Training Institute to conduct a tree-planting exercise at ACK Kipsugur Primary School.

More than 900 seedlings, comprising

fruit and indigenous trees, were planted across the school compound. The activity reinforced the institutions' shared commitment to environmental conservation and the development of sustainable communities.

The planted trees will contribute to the restoration of green spaces while providing shade, improving the school environment and supporting long-term ecological health. Fruit trees also present future opportunities for nutrition and practical environmental learning within the school community.

The exercise brought together institutional representatives, members of the community and the school community around a shared environmental responsibility. By connecting tree planting with public education, the outreach demonstrated that protecting authenticity and protecting the environment both begin with responsible choices.

ACA's participation in the Kaimosi Agricultural Expo and the tree-planting exercise provided complementary platforms for engaging farmers and communities. While the expo focused on innovation, agricultural knowledge and protection from counterfeit inputs, the school activity demonstrated the importance of environmental stewardship and collective action.

The Authority remains committed to working with government institutions, development partners, industry stakeholders and farming communities to ensure that farmers have access to genuine, quality agricultural products that support productivity, livelihoods and food security.

Through education and public awareness, communities are empowered to identify suspicious products, make informed purchasing decisions and participate in the fight against counterfeiting.

Genuine choices, informed communities and sustainable futures are all rooted in shared responsibility.



UASIN GISHU COUNTY

SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT FERTILISER WORTH KSh12 MILLION SEIZED

Multi-agency operations in Kabenès and Ziwa Koshin recover 2,357 bags of fertiliser suspected to have been illegally repackaged or counterfeited



Repackages bags of suspected fertilisers confiscated and stored at ACA godown undergoing investigation

A multi-agency enforcement team has seized 2,357 bags of fertiliser with an estimated market value of KSh12.96 million following coordinated operations conducted at two residential premises in Uasin Gishu County.

The operations were undertaken by officers from the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards, National Police Service and National

Government Administration Officers. The inspections targeted premises in Kabenès and Ziwa Koshin following information concerning the suspected illegal repackaging and distribution of fertiliser.

The larger seizure was made at a residential property in Kabenès associated with the suspect. During the inspection, the multi-agency

team found assorted expired fertiliser bearing the MEA and TURBO SSP brands, which was allegedly being repackaged into packaging bags.

The officers documented and seized a total of 2,290 bags, each weighing 50 kilograms. The consignment had an estimated value of KSh12M. The goods were recorded under Inventory of Seized Goods before being transported to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority depot in Eldoret for secure storage and further investigations.

In a separate operation conducted at a residential

2,357
50KG BAGS RECOVERED



Executive Director ACA (left) and Regional manager Eldoret inspecting the seized fertilizer

property in Ziwa Koshin, officers recovered 67 bags of fertiliser, each weighing 50 kilograms with an estimated value of KSh368,500.

Combined, the two operations resulted in the seizure of approximately 117.85 tonnes of fertiliser suspected to have been counterfeited, illegally repackaged or handled in contravention of applicable laws and standards.

The inspections demonstrate the importance of cooperation among government agencies in addressing illicit trade involving agricultural inputs. Counterfeit, expired or improperly repackaged fertilisers may expose farmers to products whose quality, composition and performance cannot be guaranteed. Their circulation can lead to poor crop yields, financial losses and reduced confidence in legitimate agricultural brands and distribution channels.

Proper packaging and labelling provide farmers with important

information about a fertiliser's manufacturer, composition, application instructions, batch number and quality certification. When expired or substandard products are transferred into packaging associated with another brand, farmers may be misled about the product's origin, quality and suitability for use.

During both operations, the enforcement officers prepared formal inventories detailing the goods recovered, their quantities and the locations from which they were seized. Notices of seizure were also issued in accordance with the Anti-Counterfeit Act.

The seized consignments remain secured at the ACA depot in Eldoret pending verification and the completion of investigations. The individuals named in the inspection records remain entitled to the presumption of innocence, and the goods remain classified as suspected counterfeit products unless and until their status is

determined through the applicable investigative and legal processes.

The operations form part of continuing multi-agency efforts to protect farmers, legitimate manufacturers and the wider agricultural sector from counterfeit and substandard inputs. They also highlight the role of intelligence sharing and coordinated field action in identifying suspected illegal repackaging activities, securing evidence and preventing questionable products from reaching the market.

Members of the public, farmers and agricultural-input dealers are encouraged to purchase fertiliser from authorised outlets, examine packaging carefully and report products whose branding, labelling, pricing or quality appears suspicious.

"Counterfeit or improperly repackaged fertiliser can cost farmers their harvest, income and trust."

THE LAST TERM

Why counterfeits matter most in the term that counts



The third term is not like the others. For candidates sitting the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), it is the term in which several years of work is finally tested. It is also the term in which parents make a last round of purchases under real financial strain. Revision guides, past paper collections, a replacement calculator, a geometry set that still measures accurately, one more set of exercise books. These are bought quickly, often late, and frequently from whoever has stock.

That combination is precisely what the counterfeit trade waits for.

Revision materials are the immediate risk. Pirated revision

guides and past paper compilations circulate heavily in the final term, and their defects are not cosmetic. A pirated guide is copied from whatever edition the counterfeiter obtained, which may predate a syllabus revision entirely. Pages are dropped, transposed or reproduced so faintly that diagrams become unreadable. A candidate revising from a compilation with a missing section has no way of knowing the section is missing until an examination question arrives from it. Marking schemes reproduced without care are worse than useless, because a candidate who learns a wrong answer thoroughly will reproduce it confidently.

The safeguard here is straightforward and underused.

Buy from a bookshop with a fixed address rather than from a stall that has appeared for the season, ask the seller to confirm that the title is a current edition aligned to the syllabus, and be especially wary of the photocopied compilation offered at a fraction of the price of the real thing. In the final term, the cheapest revision guide in the market is very often the one that will cost the most.

Calculators deserve their own paragraph. A candidate is permitted a specific type of scientific calculator in the examination room, and a counterfeit unit fails in two distinct ways. It may simply stop working, which is recoverable only if a spare exists. Or it may compute incorrectly, a fault that will not announce itself,

and that a candidate under time pressure has no reason to suspect. Buy the calculator from an authorised dealer, buy it early rather than the week before, and test it against known results before the examination. Where the model is specified by the school, buy the model specified.

Geometry sets are the same problem in miniature. A compass that will not hold its setting and a ruler that is not true to its own markings will cost marks in a mathematics paper from a candidate who has done the work correctly. Test the instruments before the term begins, not on the morning of the paper.

For candidates in boarding school, the final term also means a term's worth of personal supplies bought in one purchase. Counterfeit sanitary products, soaps, lotions and over-the-counter medicines carry a direct health risk, and a candidate who falls ill in the weeks before the examination loses preparation time that cannot be recovered. Buy these from pharmacies and

established retailers, check for the manufacturer's name, address, batch number and expiry date, and treat the absence of any of them as reason enough to put the item down.

None of this requires expertise. It requires buying from sellers with a fixed address, keeping receipts, examining what you have bought before the term begins rather than during it, and refusing to be persuaded by a price that no legitimate supplier could offer.

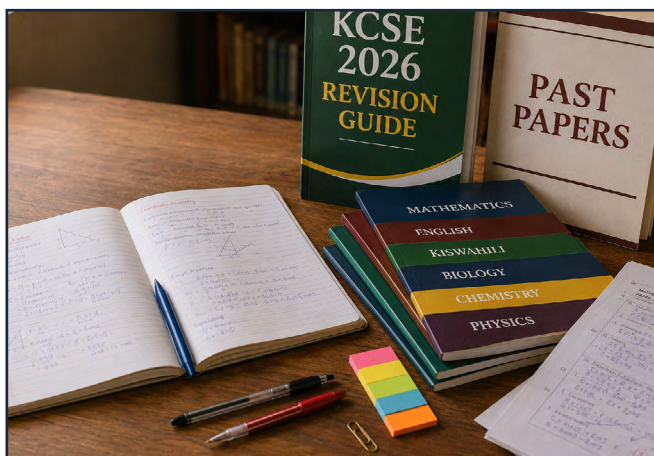
Where something appears wrong, report it to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA). Examination supplies move in enormous volume over a few weeks, and a single counterfeit line can reach thousands of candidates before the first complaint is made. One report, made early, is often what stops the rest.

A counterfeit shoe costs a parent the price of a second pair. A counterfeit revision guide, in this term, can cost a KCSE candidate the grade that decides the next four years of their life.



Test calculators and geometry instruments well before the examination to confirm that they work accurately.

Choose current, syllabus-aligned KCSE 2026 revision guides and past papers from established booksellers.



BEFORE THE TERM BEGINS



Buy from sellers with a fixed address



Confirm the current syllabus edition



Test calculators and instruments early



Check batch numbers and expiry dates



Keep your receipt

"The cheapest revision guide in the market is very often the one that will cost the most."



Sherry Omanyala, CHRP-K

PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

How Human Resources builds the capability, culture and resilience behind ACA's mandate



The fight against counterfeiting is fundamentally a fight to protect consumers, legitimate trade, intellectual property rights and the integrity of Kenya's marketplace. At the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), this responsibility is carried out by people—professionals whose expertise, commitment, integrity and teamwork translate the Authority's mandate into action.

This makes Human Resources an important strategic partner in the achievement of ACA's mandate. Human Resources is often associated with payroll administration, recruitment, employee welfare, training, performance management and administration, among other functions. However, within a specialised institution such as ACA, the HR function goes much further. It is about ensuring that the Authority has the right people, with

the right competencies, values and motivation, to effectively prevent, combat and eradicate counterfeiting.

Counterfeiting is a dynamic and increasingly sophisticated challenge. Counterfeiters continually adapt their methods, exploit new technologies, use complex distribution networks and take advantage of emerging markets, including online platforms. ACA therefore requires a workforce that is knowledgeable, adaptable, professional and equipped to respond to these changing threats.

HR contributes to this objective by supporting recruitment and selection processes that attract competent professionals, identifying skills gaps, coordinating capacity-building initiatives and promoting continuous professional development.

Training is particularly important because the effectiveness of ACA's work depends heavily on specialised knowledge. Employees involved in enforcement, legal services, education and public awareness, research, ICT and other functions must continually develop their skills to respond effectively to emerging challenges.

Every employee has a role in advancing ACA's mandate. An enforcement officer contributes through detection and enforcement activities. A legal professional supports the Authority in addressing legal matters. An education and public awareness officer helps educate the public

"Our people are not separate from the mandate, they are the means through which the mandate is achieved."

about the dangers of counterfeit goods. ICT professionals provide the technological infrastructure that supports operations, while finance, procurement, administration and HR ensure that the institution has the systems and resources necessary to function effectively.

The contribution of HR is to help create a performance culture in which employees understand not only what they do, but why their work matters. Performance management should therefore go beyond measuring individual outputs. It should help employees see the connection between their responsibilities and ACA's broader objectives.

When individual performance is aligned with institutional priorities, the result is a workforce working collectively towards one purpose: a counterfeit-free Kenya.

Authenticity, Credibility and Alertness are the core values of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority. These values guide how employees conduct themselves, make decisions, engage with stakeholders and execute the Authority's mandate.

Human Resources plays a critical

role in embedding these values through recruitment, induction, employee development, performance management and workplace culture. By fostering a culture grounded in authenticity, credibility and alertness, HR strengthens employee accountability, professionalism and ethical conduct. This ultimately enhances public confidence in the Authority and ensures that its mandate is exercised responsibly and effectively.

Delivering ACA's mandate can be demanding. Employees may operate in challenging environments, work under pressure, interact with different stakeholders and undertake responsibilities that require resilience and professionalism.

Employee wellness is therefore not merely an HR initiative. It is directly connected to organisational effectiveness. A healthy and supported workforce is better positioned to remain focused, productive, resilient and responsive. By promoting employee wellness, HR helps ensure that ACA's workforce can continue to perform its responsibilities effectively.

Counterfeiting cannot be effectively addressed by one department or one profession working alone. It requires collaboration. Within ACA, different departments bring different expertise to the fight against counterfeiting.

HR has a role in fostering an organisational culture that promotes teamwork, communication, inclusion and shared responsibility. The goal is to create One ACA, where employees understand that although their roles may differ, their destination is the same.

Whether an employee is directly involved in enforcement or provides an essential corporate service, every contribution supports the Authority's ability to achieve its mandate.

As the counterfeit landscape continues to evolve, ACA must evolve with it. New technologies, changing consumer behaviour, emerging forms of intellectual property infringement

and increasingly sophisticated counterfeit networks will require new skills and innovative approaches.

Human Resources will therefore continue to play a critical role in preparing the Authority for the future. This means attracting and retaining talent, strengthening competencies, supporting leadership development, promoting continuous learning, nurturing a culture of innovation and ensuring that human capital remains aligned with ACA's strategic priorities.

The success of ACA's mandate ultimately depends on the people entrusted with delivering it.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority's mandate is not delivered by policies and strategies alone. It is delivered by people who wake up every day committed to making a difference.

Every inspection, investigation, seizure, awareness campaign, stakeholder engagement, legal process, research activity and support service contributes to the broader fight against counterfeiting.

Human Resources therefore has a simple but significant responsibility: to enable the people who deliver ACA's mandate.

By recruiting the right talent, developing employee capabilities, promoting integrity, supporting wellness, strengthening performance and building a culture of teamwork, HR helps transform human potential into institutional impact.

At ACA, our people are not separate from the mandate—they are the means through which the mandate is achieved.

When we invest in our people, we strengthen our ability to protect consumers, support legitimate businesses, safeguard intellectual property and help ensure a counterfeit-free Kenya.

People make the mandate possible. People make the difference.

IP STORIES MAKING HEADLINES AROUND THE WORLD



A snapshot of significant developments in trademarks, patents, copyright, counterfeiting and digital enforcement across global markets.

DIGITAL MARKETPLACES

EUROPE

EU FINES ALIEXPRESS €550 MILLION OVER ILLEGAL AND COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS



The European Commission has fined AliExpress €550 million for breaching its obligations under the European Union's Digital Services Act.

Announcing the decision on 20 July 2026, the Commission said the online marketplace had failed to adequately assess and reduce risks associated with the sale of illegal, unsafe and counterfeit products through its platform. The concerns included counterfeit clothing, dangerous cosmetics, unsafe toys and other potentially harmful products.

As one of the platforms classified as a Very Large Online Platform under the Digital Services Act, AliExpress is required to systematically identify risks arising from its services and introduce

effective measures to address them.

The Commission has directed AliExpress to take corrective action. Continued non-compliance could result in additional periodic penalty payments.

The decision represents a significant step in Europe's efforts to hold large digital marketplaces accountable for products offered by third-party sellers.

Source: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-fines-aliexpress-eu550-million-breaching-digital-services-act>

PATENTS

MOROCCO

CASABLANCA COURT DELIVERS LANDMARK STANDARD-ESSENTIAL PATENT JUDGMENT

The Casablanca Commercial Court of First Instance delivered what researchers describe as Morocco's first substantive standard-essential patent judgment and reportedly the first such decision in Africa—on 6 July 2026.

The dispute involved telecommunications company Ericsson and smartphone businesses associated with Transsion Holdings, including TECNO Mobile and Itel Mobility. Ericsson alleged that smartphones supporting 4G and 5G technology infringed patents essential to cellular communication standards.

The court accepted Ericsson's infringement case and issued orders restricting the sale of the affected smartphones in Morocco. The judgment demonstrated the Moroccan court's willingness to consider technically complex patent disputes and grant meaningful enforcement remedies. Two days after the ruling, Ericsson and Transsion announced a worldwide settlement involving a multi-year global patent cross-licence. The companies agreed to withdraw their pending lawsuits and administrative proceedings across several jurisdictions. The settlement announcement did not expressly state that the Casablanca decision caused the agreement.

Source: https://www.adams.africa/ramon-pereira/newsflash-first-ever-sep-judgment-in-africa-moroccan-court-interdicts-transsion-smartphone-sales/?utm_source=mondaq&utm_medium=syndication&utm_content=sourceoriginal&utm_campaign=



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

Mobile: +254 717 430 640

Email: info@aca.go.ke

Intelligence: intelligence@aca.go.ke



ACA HEADQUARTERS

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YOUR REPORT COULD BE THE ONE THAT STOPS THE REST.



**anti
counterfeit
authority**
Upholding Authenticity