



anti
counterfeit
authority

Upholding Authenticity

ANTI-COUNTERFEIT NEWSLETTER

18TH EDITION
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025



+ Enforcement News

ACA Cracks Down on Sh100 Million Counterfeit Cooking Oil Syndicate in Mombasa

Enforcement

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Public Awareness

ACA Sensitizes Farmers on Dangers of Counterfeit Agro-Inputs at North Rift Avocado Farmers Day

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Government Boosts Industrial Growth and Innovation Through CAIPs Initiative in Embu

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Robi M. King'a, PhD Executive Director



The Anti-Counterfeit Authority recorded remarkable progress in the third quarter of 2025, reinforcing Kenya's commitment to authentic trade and industrial transformation. During the period our enforcement teams dismantled a counterfeit cooking oil syndicate in Mombasa valued at over KSh 100 million, intercepted counterfeit calculators worth KSh 8 million in Nairobi ahead of national examinations, and seized fake sugar in Malindi estimated at KSh 10 million. These intelligence-led operations demonstrate ACA's growing capacity to disrupt illicit trade networks that endanger public health and undermine genuine businesses.

Equally significant is our participation in national industrialization efforts through the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) initiative spearheaded by the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry. ACA's involvement ensures that Kenya's emerging industrial hubs are safeguarded from illicit trade and that investors operate in an environment founded on authenticity, fair competition, and innovation.

Collaboration continues to be

central to our success. During the quarter, ACA and the National Police Service conducted joint training at the Emali Command College, strengthening cross-agency capacity in detection, investigation, and prosecution of counterfeiting offences. This partnership underscores the recognition that counterfeiting is not merely a trade violation — it is a national security, economic, and public safety

“Collaboration continues to be central to our success. During the quarter, ACA and the National Police Service conducted joint training at the Emali Command College, strengthening cross-agency capacity in detection, investigation, and prosecution of counterfeiting offences.”

concern that demands a unified response.

Institutionally, ACA also advanced its modernization drive by fully adopting the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) platform and expanding the National IP Recor-

dation System. These digital tools enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency, in line with the government's e-governance agenda.

Going forward, the Authority remains steadfast in fulfilling its mandate to protect Kenyans and industries from the dangers of counterfeit goods. ACA enforces the law to stop illicit trade, safeguards consumers and legitimate businesses, raises public awareness on the value of genuine products, and undertakes research to inform policy and foster innovation. Through these efforts, the Authority continues to secure Kenya's markets and advance authentic trade as a pillar of national development.

I extend my appreciation to our Board, management, staff of the Authority, and partners in government, industry, and general public for their steadfast collaboration. Together, we are demonstrating that authentic trade is not just a legal requirement — it is a national value that sustains innovation, investment, and trust in Kenya's markets.

(Robi M. King'a, PhD is the Executive Director at the Anti-Counterfeit Authority).

Tom Muteti
Editor & Head of Corporate
Communication



Welcome to the 18th Edition of the Anti-Counterfeit Newsletter—a chronicle of action, collaboration, and national resolve in the ongoing fight against counterfeits.

This quarter captures ACA's active footprint across enforcement, government policy engagement, and public education. From the Sh100 million cooking oil crackdown in Mombasa to our strong presence at the Devolution Conference in Homa Bay and the KNCCI Tharaka Nithi Business Expo, the Authority continues to expand its voice where it matters most—among citizens, innovators, and county partners in the spirit of devolution.

A notable highlight is the joint engagement between ACA and the National Police Service at Emali, where the shared conviction that enforcement begins with knowledge took center stage. The training reflected the Authority's philosophy that combating counterfeiting is not a one-agency affair but a collective national mission rooted in vigilance, coordination, and public trust.

This edition also celebrates ACA's embrace of digital governance, following the successful adoption of the

e-Government Procurement (e-GP) system. By digitizing procurement and recordation processes, ACA is not only improving efficiency but also aligning with the government's broader strategy for transparent and accountable service delivery.

The stories in these pages mirror a dynamic institution—one that enforces with integrity, educates with empathy, and communicates with clarity. They

"This edition also celebrates ACA's embrace of digital governance, following the successful adoption of the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) system. By digitizing procurement and recordation processes, ACA is not only improving efficiency but also aligning with the government's broader strategy for transparent and accountable service delivery."

remind us that behind every raid, policy reform, and awareness campaign lies a bigger idea: that authentic trade

is the heartbeat of Kenya's economic future.

As we move forward, our communication lens will continue to focus on the intersection of policy, innovation, and citizen engagement. We invite you to read, reflect, and share—because the fight against counterfeiting is a story that belongs to all of us.

(Mr. Tom Muteti, is the Head of Corporate Communication at the Anti-Counterfeit Authority).

CORPORATE
NEWS

ACA Adopts E-Government Procurement to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability



Group photo of ACA management team

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Liberties Commission (ACA) has reaffirmed its commitment to fully implement the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) system, in line with the Government's ongoing efforts to digitize public procurement processes and enhance transparency. Speaking during an e-GP

retreat in Naivasha, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a Phd emphasized that adopting the digital platform will promote efficiency, accountability, and responsible management of public resources.

Dr. Njoroge noted that mainstreaming e-GP will play a key role in curbing corruption, reducing human interference, and ensuring fair competition in procurement processes.

The retreat, led by the National Treasury, brought together ACA's senior management team to strengthen their capacity on the use of end-to-end e-GP modules.

By embracing digital procurement, ACA aims to align its operations with global best practices in public sector governance. The move reflects the Authority's dedication to promoting transparency, delivering value for

money, and building public trust in service delivery within the trade, investment, and industry sector.

CORPORATE
NEWS

Government Boosts Industrial Growth and Innovation Through CAIPs Initiative in Embu

The Cabinet Secretary for

Investments, Trade and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, together with Embu Governor Hon. Cecily Mbarire, led an official visit to the Embu County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) to assess progress on the transformative initiative. They were joined by the Chairman of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Board, Hon. Josphat Kabeabea, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a Phd, and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Ms. Esther Ngari. The government considers CAIPs a cornerstone of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), aimed at empowering farmers, MSMEs, and cooperatives by providing modern infrastructure for value addition, aggregation, and access to both local and export markets.

The Embu CAIP visit highlighted the government's commitment to fostering industrial growth, job creation, and inclusive economic development. Once operational, CAIPs across the country



Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority Receiving the Cabinet secretary Hon Lee Kinyanjui and Embu Governor Hon Cecily Mbarire.

are expected to spur innovation, attract investment, and create sustainable livelihoods by supporting local manufacturing and agro-processing industries. The initiative is designed to transform counties into industrial hubs that can compete globally while promoting value addition at the grassroots level.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) are playing key roles in safeguarding the success of CAIPs. ACA continues to combat counterfeit trade through enforcement, market surveillance, and public awareness campaigns, ensuring

that only genuine and certified products reach consumers. Working alongside KEBS, which upholds quality and certification standards, ACA's efforts strengthen investor confidence, protect innovation,

and guarantee fair competition. Together, these institutions reaffirm the government's dedication to authenticity, industrial growth, and sustainable economic transformation across Kenya.



Former Kamukunji Member of Parliament Norman Nyagah joined the CS and Governor of Embu at the CAIPs inspection

CORPORATE
NEWS

ACA Partners with State Department for Industry to Support Meru County's Industrial Growth through CAIPs.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), in collaboration with the State Department for Industry, visited Meru County as part of the ongoing documentation and support for the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) initiative. The delegation paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Governor of Meru, Hon. Lindah Kiome, and members of the County Executive, where discussions focused on the county's efforts to promote value addition, strengthen local industries, and create employment opportunities through the CAIP program.

During the visit, the team toured the Meru County Aggregation and Industrial Park, which is in its final stages of construction and is set for launch in the coming months. Once operational, the park will serve as a hub for aggregation, agro-processing, and manufacturing, unlocking new opportunities for farmers, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and investors in the region. The facility is expected to drive industrial transformation by boosting productivity and expanding markets for locally produced goods.



Deputy Governor of Meru, Hon. Lindah Kiome, addressing the meeting.

As part of this initiative, ACA's role is to ensure the integrity of the value chain by protecting industries from counterfeit inputs and products, enhancing investor confidence, and

safeguarding the interests of genuine manufacturers. The Authority reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Meru County and all other devolved units in making CAIPs

sustainable engines of industrial growth, innovation, and inclusive economic development across Kenya.



CORPORATE NEWS

CS Lee Kinyanjui Inspects Near-Complete Meru CAIP, Reaffirms Government's Commitment to Industrial Growth.

The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, accompanied by the Deputy Governor of Meru County, H.E. Linda Gakii Kiome, visited the Meru County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) to assess progress on the ongoing project. The inspection revealed that the park is now 97 percent complete, marking a major milestone in the government's efforts to promote industrialization through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Once operational, the Meru CAIP will serve as a transformative hub for farmers, MSMEs, and cooperatives, enabling value addition, aggregation, and expanded access to both local and international markets.

Joining the Cabinet Secretary was the Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), Robi M. King'a Phd, who reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to protecting investments within CAIPs. He emphasized ACA's role in enforcing



CS Hon Lee Kinyanjui, Deputy governor Meru Hon Linda Kiomeb Inspecting Near-Complete Meru CAIP,

intellectual property rights, conducting market surveillance, and combating counterfeit trade to ensure that the benefits of industrial parks are not undermined by illicit goods. The Cabinet Secretary also met with local investors and business leaders from Meru County, highlighting the importance of strong public-private partnerships in driving sustainable industrial growth and job creation.

In addition to the inspection, the delegation participated in a tree planting exercise, symbolizing the

government's dedication to environmental conservation alongside industrial progress. The visit also featured displays of locally produced, value-added products that stand to benefit directly from the CAIP's operations. The successful

near-completion of the Meru Industrial Park reflects Kenya's growing momentum toward decentralized industrial development, aimed at boosting regional economies and improving livelihoods across the country.





**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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

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

ENFORCEMENT

ACA Cracks Down on Sh100 Million Counterfeit Cooking Oil Syndicate in Mombasa.



Director of Enforcement Yusuf Osman inspecting containers used in the production of the counterfeit cooking oil

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has uncovered a major counterfeit cooking oil operation at a yard in Shimanzi, Mombasa County, leading to the arrest of seven suspects while four others remain at large. The illegal operation, which authorities believe had been running for several months, was found to be processing counterfeit cooking oil using packaging from 13 well-known local brands. ACA Director of Enforcement, Yusuf Ahmed, confirmed that several documents were seized during the raid and will aid investigations in identifying the owners and financiers of the illicit enterprise.

According to ACA, the yard was previously used to process sludge oil from the port before being converted into a counterfeit production site. The facility contained

large quantities of counterfeit products, packaging materials, and industrial equipment used in the illegal repackaging process. Property worth more than Sh100 million was confiscated during the joint operation, marking one of the largest seizures of counterfeit edible oil in the region. The raid forms part of ACA's broader effort to dismantle illicit trade networks that pose

significant risks to public health and undermine Kenya's manufacturing sector.

ACA has intensified its enforcement actions across the country in response to the growing circulation of counterfeit consumer goods, particularly in food and household sectors. The Authority cautioned the public against purchasing unverified

cooking oil products and urged manufacturers to remain vigilant in safeguarding their brands. Investigations into the Shimanzi operation are ongoing, and ACA has vowed to bring all those involved to justice while reinforcing market surveillance to protect consumers and legitimate businesses from similar threats.



ENFORCEMENT NEWS

ACA Seizes KSh 8 Million Worth of Fake Calculators in Nairobi Ahead of National Exams

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has intercepted 2,996 counterfeit scientific calculators valued at over KSh8 million during a raid at Rubymall in Nairobi's Central Business District. The operation, which comes just weeks before the start of national examinations, led to the arrest of one suspect who is assisting with investigations. According to ACA's Nairobi Regional Manager, Mr. Abdi Abikar, the fake calculators were imitations of a popular global brand and were being sold to unsuspecting students and parents preparing for exams.

Mr. Abikar emphasized that the counterfeit devices posed a major risk to learners, as they often produced inaccurate results and were prone to failure during exams, undermining both student performance and the credibility of the education system. He warned unscrupulous traders that the government remains vigilant and ready to dismantle counterfeit networks that exploit the exam season to flood the market with substandard learning tools.



Boxes of some of the suspected counterfeit calculators that were seized in the raid.

The seized items, which bore falsified branding and packaging, were being distributed at reduced prices to attract schools and bookshops. Trademark owners cautioned that such counterfeit devices could lead to serious disadvantages for students, particularly in time-sensitive subjects like mathematics and physics. The Authority has urged parents, teachers, and retailers to purchase learning materials only from authorized distributors to ensure authenticity and safeguard the future of learners.

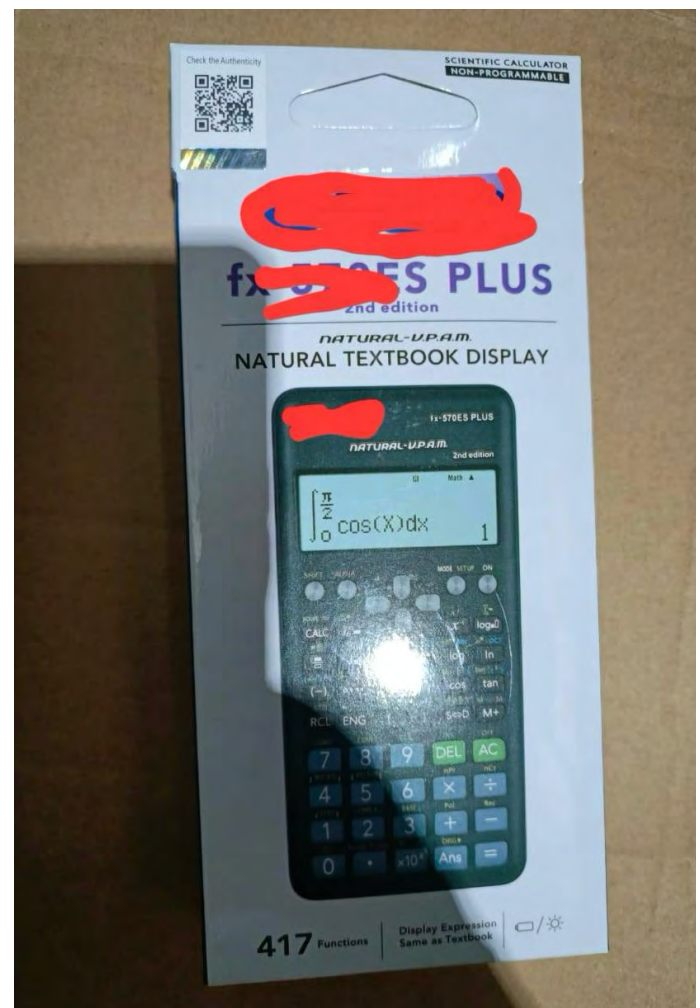


image of a confiscated counterfeit calculator

FEATURE
STORY

*Daar Bulle,
Regional Manager Mom-
basa region*

Counterfeit cooking oil: a hidden threat in kenyan kitchens



Daar Bulle, Regional Manager Mombasa region and Senior Inspector Mohammed Zaki inspecting the suspected counterfeit cooking oil.

When Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) officers stormed a warehouse in Mombasa recently, they uncovered a ticking time bomb in Kenyan kitchens: thousands of litres of counterfeit cooking oil disguised as trusted brands. The raid exposed a dangerous trade flourishing in informal markets and kiosks,

where genuine oils are repackaged, diluted, or substituted with toxic blends that endanger consumers.

Counterfeit cooking oil poses a double threat—it cheats consumers of value and jeopardizes public health. Substandard oil often contains unregulated additives and industrial-grade contaminants linked to chronic diseases such as heart failure, cancer, and liver complications. For many low-income families, these invisible costs add to an already rising cost of living.

Findings from ACA's

“Globally, counterfeit oil scandals have led to mass poisonings, from South Asia to West Africa. Kenya is not immune. According to the OECD, the global trade in counterfeit goods exceeds USD 500 billion annually,”

Consumer Awareness and Counterfeiting Survey reveal that counterfeiters exploit Kenya's "Kadogo economy," where small traders repackage branded oil into unbranded sachets or recycled bottles. While these small portions make oil affordable, they also open the door for adulteration. What reaches the cooking pot often bears little resemblance to the original product.

"Counterfeiting is not just an economic crime — it is an attack on our health and livelihoods," said Robi M. King'a Phd, Executive Director of ACA.

Health experts warn that adulterated oils can contain high levels of free fatty acids and trans fats unfit for human consumption. Globally, counterfeit oil scandals have led to mass poisonings, from South Asia to West Africa. Kenya is not immune. According to the OECD, the global trade in counterfeit goods exceeds USD 500 billion annually, with food and beverages increasingly targeted. Locally, ACA estimates that counterfeiting drains billions from Kenya's economy, costing jobs and threatening industrial growth.

The Mombasa operation is part of ACA's broader strategy to strengthen enforcement through

intelligence sharing, surveillance, and collaboration with agencies such as the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), and the National Police Service. Public education campaigns are also being scaled up to empower consumers to spot fake products and make informed choices.

Yet, enforcement alone cannot end this menace. Counterfeiting thrives on consumer demand for cheap alternatives. As long as buyers are lured by unusually low prices, counterfeiters will exploit the gap. The solution lies in a shared commitment — stronger regulation, responsible industry practices, and consumer vigilance.

As the African proverb reminds us, "One finger cannot kill a louse." Protecting our markets requires collective effort. Every consumer, trader, and agency has a role to play in promoting authenticity and integrity. The Mombasa seizure is a wake-up call: counterfeit cooking oil is not a distant problem — it sits on our kitchen shelves.

By buying smart, reporting suspicious goods, and supporting enforcement efforts, Kenyans can help safeguard not only the economy but also the health of millions of families.



Counterfeiters are getting smarter — but with a keen eye, you can protect your family.

1. Check the Seal – Genuine oils have tamper-proof seals. Avoid loose or broken ones.

2. Inspect the Label – Look for spelling errors or faded print.

3. Examine the Packaging – Avoid recycled bottles or mismatched caps.

4. Smell Test – Authentic oils have a light, natural aroma. Chemical or rancid smells are red flags.

5. Too Cheap to Be True? – Extreme price drops often indicate counterfeits.

6. Buy from Trusted Retailers – Stick to supermarkets and authorized dealers.

7. Verify Certification Marks – Check for KEBS marks, batch codes, and expiry dates.



ENFORCEMENT

ACA Seizes Ksh 10 Million Worth of Counterfeit Sugar Smuggled from Somalia in Malindi Operation



Suspected counterfeit sugar

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), in collaboration with the Multi-Agency Team (MAT) and security officers, has intercepted counterfeit sugar smuggled from Somalia during a night operation at the Sabaki Security Patrol Point in Malindi. The operation led to the seizure of 676 bags of counterfeit sugar branded Butali and other labels, several jerricans of cooking oil, and three trucks used in transportation. Eight suspects were arrested and booked at Malindi Police Station, with the seized goods valued at approximately Ksh 10 million.

Speaking after the successful operation, ACA Executive Director Robi M. King'a Phd emphasized that the crackdown was not only about consumer protection but also about defending

Kenya's economy and national security. He noted that counterfeit sugar harms the local sugar industry and farmers' livelihoods while smuggling from Somalia undermines government revenue and fuels illicit trade networks linked to organized crime and terrorism. Dr. Njoroge reaffirmed ACA's resolve to safeguard Kenyan markets from such threats.

Over the past year, ACA has intensified nationwide enforcement efforts, seizing counterfeit goods worth over Ksh 500 million and arresting more than 120 suspects. National studies reveal that illicit trade costs Kenya an estimated Ksh 153 billion annually in lost tax revenue and over 40,000 jobs. Dr. Njoroge called on the public, private sector, and

consumers to work together to combat counterfeiting by reporting suspicious goods and rejecting fake products. ACA reiterated its commitment to protecting consumers, securing markets, and dismantling criminal trade networks across the country.



ENFORCEMENT NEWS

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and senior commanders of the National Police Service held a high-level training session at the Administration Police Senior Staff College in Emali on September 1, 2025. The meeting, themed “Enforcing Intellectual Property: A Turning Point in National Development,” brought together officers from the Administration Police and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations to enhance cooperation in the fight against counterfeit trade. The discussions focused on how closer collaboration between law enforcement agencies can strengthen the protection of intel-

lectual property rights and support Kenya’s economic development.

ACA Executive Director Robi M. King’a Phd described counterfeiting as a serious national security, economic, and public health threat. He cited recent incidents, including the seizure of fake anti-malarial drugs in Mombasa and the widespread use of counterfeit agrochemicals that have cost farmers millions in losses. Dr. Njoroge revealed that ACA-led operations over the past five years have seized counterfeit goods worth 5.4 billion shillings and emphasized that counterfeiters can be effectively stopped when police, prosecutors, and the courts work in unison. His remarks under-

ACA and Police Commanders Unite to Strengthen War on Counterfeits in Emali Training.



CP Perita Wesaya, Commandant of the Emali Campus,

scored the importance of a united enforcement approach in dismantling illicit trade networks.

The training was hosted by CP Perita Wesaya, Commandant of the Emali Campus, and attended by ACA Directors Dr. John Akoten and Yusuf Osman, who reaffirmed the Authority’s commitment to collaborative enforcement. ACA outlined three main

priorities to guide future efforts: conducting joint operations, continuous capacity building for officers, and enhancing automation through the National IP Recordation system. These initiatives aim to improve intelligence sharing, close enforcement loopholes, and create a more coordinated response to the growing challenge of counterfeiting in Kenya.



PICTORIAL

Mombasa Regional office visit



Nyeri Regional office visit



ACA team pay a courtesy visit to Nyeri County Commissioner



ACA team pay a courtesy visit to Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner



PUBLIC
AWARENESS

ACA Champions the War on Counterfeits at 2025 Devolution Conference in HomaBay



education and public awareness officer Fridah Kendi creating awareness to delegates at the conference

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) took center stage at the 2025 Devolution Conference held at Homa Bay High School from August 12 to 15, reaffirming its commitment to leading the fight against counterfeit goods in Kenya. As the government agency mandated to combat counterfeiting and safeguard intellectual property rights, ACA highlighted its vital role in protecting consumers, supporting innovators, and promoting a fair and

secure trading environment. The agency underscored that counterfeit products not only exploit consumers and endanger public safety but also drain revenues from genuine enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized businesses that drive Kenya's economic growth.

The conference, themed "Assessing the Role of Devolution in

Promoting Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice," provided ACA with a platform to showcase how devolution strengthens the fight against counterfeits. Through partnerships with county governments, enforcement networks, and local communities, ACA has expanded its reach to the grassroots, ensuring that the war against counterfeit trade becomes a shared national responsibility. By integrating

anti-counterfeit measures into devolved governance structures, ACA continues to empower entrepreneurs, protect livelihoods, and enhance economic resilience in all 47 counties.

Visitors to the ACA exhibition stand were invited to explore the agency's key initiatives and learn how its core values: Authenticity, Credibility, and Alert-



ness translate into tangible impact for Kenyan communities. The exhibition highlighted ACA's innovative programs, public awareness campaigns, and collaborations that strengthen market integrity and consumer protection. As ACA continues to advance its mission, it remains steadfast in fostering a culture of authenticity that supports fair competition, encourages innovation, and promotes sustainable development across Kenya.

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PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), Robi M. King'a Phd, presided over the official opening of the KNCCI Tharaka Nithi Business Expo, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to protecting consumers and businesses from counterfeit goods. Dr. Njoroge warned that counterfeit trade undermines economic growth, discourages investment, and poses serious risks to public health and safety. He urged Tharaka Nithi residents to remain alert and to utilize ACA's reporting channels to help curb the circulation of fake products in the market.

Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner, Mr. David Gitonga, emphasized the county's dependence on agriculture and cautioned that counterfeit agricultural inputs threaten food security and farmers' livelihoods. He pledged the county administration's continued cooperation with ACA and other state agencies to protect local farmers and consumers. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Tharaka Nithi Chapter, represented by Chairman Mr. Faustin

ACA Strengthens Anti-Counterfeit Awareness at KNCCI Tharaka Nithi Business Expo

Gakindu and Vice Chairperson Ms. Mercy Mbu-ba, also pledged full support to ACA's initiatives, noting that counterfeit trade discourages genuine entrepreneurship and distorts fair competition in the marketplace.

In line with its man-

date, ACA deployed a technical team led by senior officials, including Dr. John Akoten and Mrs. Agnes Karingu, to educate participants on the enforcement process, legal frameworks, and how to identify and report counterfeit goods. The Authority reiterated its unwavering mission to protect Kenyans from the dangers of counterfeit trade, vowing to continue working closely with county governments, business associations, and citizens to promote genuine trade and safeguard livelihoods across the country.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

Day Three of the KNCCI Tharaka Nithi Business Expo featured the participation of Hon. Josphat Kabeabea, Chairman of the Board of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), who called for greater promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship as key pillars of Kenya's economic growth and sustainable development. Hon. Kabeabea highlighted that innovation not only drives competitiveness but also creates opportunities for youth empowerment and local enterprise development.

Addressing members of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Hon. Kabeabea warned that counterfeit trade stifles creativity, discourages investment, and weakens the foundation of a fair marketplace. He urged traders and exhibitors to prioritize originality, respect intellectual property rights, and work closely with ACA to eliminate counterfeit goods from the market. He emphasized that collaboration between government, the private sector, and consumers is vital to fostering a culture of authenticity and innovation.

ACA Board Chairman Urges Support for Innovation and Fair Trade at KNCCI Tharaka Nithi Business Expo.



During his tour of the exhibition stands, Hon. Kabeabea interacted with local traders and innovators, commending their resilience, creativity, and determination to grow genuine businesses. The KNCCI leadership

lauded ACA's continued engagement with entrepreneurs, noting that such initiatives demonstrate the Authority's broader commitment beyond enforcement — supporting the growth

of legitimate enterprises and safeguarding livelihoods. ACA reaffirmed its dedication to building a secure, innovative, and inclusive business environment for all Kenyans.

PUBLIC
AWARENESSACA Engages Murang'a Business Leaders on Brand
Protection and Counterfeit-Free Trade

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) participated in the Murang'a CEOs' Business Breakfast hosted by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) – Murang'a Chapter, under the theme "Creating Business Legacy and Sustainability." The event brought together top executives, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to discuss strategies for building resilient and sustainable enterprises. ACA used the forum to highlight the importance of intellectual property protection and its role in fostering innovation and fair competition in Kenya's business environment.

Addressing the participants, ACA Deputy Director for Education and Public Awareness, Madam Agnes Karingu, outlined key areas of compliance under the Anti-Counterfeit Act. She emphasized the need for importers to adhere

to the ACA Recordation requirement, which makes it an offense to import goods that are not recorded with ACA or whose intellectual property rights have not been declared. She also encouraged businesses to pursue Trademark Registration as a way of safeguarding their brand identity and protecting themselves from

imitation and unfair competition.

Madam Karingu further urged CEOs and entrepreneurs to take a proactive role in the fight against counterfeit trade by reporting counterfeit goods and supporting authentic products. She reaffirmed ACA's commitment to strengthening partnerships with

the private sector to protect innovation, ensure market integrity, and promote sustainable business growth. Through awareness creation and enforcement, ACA continues to empower Kenyan enterprises to thrive in a counterfeit-free and competitive marketplace.



PUBLIC
AWARENESS

ACA Sensitizes Farmers on Dangers of Counterfeit Agro-Inputs at North Rift Avocado Farmers Day



ACA officers sensitizing farmers

the Avocado Society of Kenya to bring together farmers, agribusiness stakeholders, and industry partners. The forum focused on enhancing avocado production, improving quality standards, and expanding market access for growers in the North Rift region. ACA's participation underscored its commitment to safeguarding Kenya's agricultural value chains from the harmful effects of counterfeit products.

During the event, ACA officials engaged farmers and agribusiness stakeholders on the growing threat of counterfeit agro-inputs,

which undermine farmers' investments and productivity. The Authority raised awareness about the health and economic risks associated with substandard seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, emphasizing that such products not only reduce yields but also endanger the health of consumers and the environment. Participants were urged to verify inputs before purchase and to rely on authorized suppliers to ensure quality and safety in their farming operations.

ACA further called on farmers to take an

active role in combating counterfeit trade by reporting suspicious products and promoting genuine brands. The Authority reiterated that protecting agriculture from counterfeiting is vital to ensuring food security, sustaining livelihoods, and protecting public health. By supporting authentic products and rejecting counterfeits, stakeholders can collectively safeguard the future of Kenya's agricultural sector and strengthen the competitiveness of Kenyan produce in global markets.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) participated in the North Rift Avocado Farmers Day held at the Eldoret Sports Club, an event organized by

OPINION PIECE



Yusuf Osman Ahmed
Director, Enforcement Directorate,
Anti-Counterfeit
Authority (ACA)

Kenya's journey toward industrial expansion and market modernization is gaining momentum, driven by the Government's commitment to strengthening manufacturing, value addition, and investment through initiatives such as the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs). Yet behind this progress lies a growing and often invisible threat—one that quietly erodes industrial gains, weakens investor confidence, and endangers the public: the steady proliferation of counterfeit and illicit goods.

From the vantage point of enforcement, the true measure of economic health is not only how many industries are being built, but whether those industries are protected from infiltration by fake products and criminal networks. Counterfeiting remains one of the most persistent forms of economic sabotage facing the country. It is sophisticated, transnational, and increasingly digital, exploiting vulnerabilities

IP Enforcement at the Heart of Kenya's Industrial Future

in supply chains and consumer behaviour. Our operational experience shows that without strong and coordinated enforcement, industrial growth will always rest on shaky ground.

Over the past year, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority's enforcement operations have revealed the scale of the challenge. In the 2024/2025 period alone, we registered 221 intellectual property complaints—the highest in five years—confirming that Kenyans are becoming more vigilant and more willing to defend their brands and businesses. Enforcement teams seized counterfeit goods valued at over KSh 223 million and destroyed illicit products worth KSh 237 million, representing one of the highest destruction totals recorded by the Authority since its inception. These figures reflect not only enforcement effort but the sheer volume of harmful goods circulating within the economy.

Recent operations paint an even clearer picture. The dismantling of a KSh 100 million counterfeit cooking oil syndicate in Mombasa exposed the extent to which criminal enterprises are prepared to compromise public health for profit. The interception of counterfeit sugar in Malindi—smuggled through irregular cross-border channels—highlighted the deepening links between illicit trade, revenue loss, and national security. Fake agro-inputs continue to undermine ag-

ricultural productivity just as counterfeit electronics, pharmaceuticals, and automotive parts threaten lives and livelihoods daily. Each raid, seizure, and arrest underscores a simple truth: Kenya's industrialization will not be realized unless counterfeit supply chains are disrupted decisively and consistently.

This calls for enforcement that is not episodic but systemic; not reactive but intelligence-led; not isolated but multi-agency. The Authority continues to strengthen its partnerships with the Kenya Revenue Authority, the National Police Service, KEBS, county governments, and regional enforcement bodies. Joint operations, shared intelligence, capacity building, and digitization of processes—such as the ongoing modernization of the National IP Recordation System—are helping to seal gaps historically exploited by counterfeiters. In the reporting year, ACA processed over 145,000 import permit applications, reflecting the expanding reliance on structured compliance systems that support traceability and reduce opportunities for illicit imports.

However, enforcement alone cannot secure markets if consumers continue to purchase counterfeit goods unknowingly or if manufacturers and traders fail to protect their intellectual property along the supply chain. A culture of authenticity must accom-

pany enforcement. Manufacturers must take responsibility for securing their brands and complying with recordation requirements. County governments must integrate anti-counterfeit safeguards into local economic and market systems. Consumers must reject suspicious goods and report illicit traders, recognizing that cheaper is not always safer.

Kenya stands at a pivotal moment. The country is investing heavily in industrial infrastructure, expanding regional trade opportunities, and promoting innovation. For these gains to be meaningful, enforcement must remain firmly at the centre of market protection. When enforcement is strong, innovation flourishes. When enforcement is consistent, investors remain confident. When enforcement is collaborative, counterfeiters have nowhere to hide.

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority remains committed to securing Kenya's markets, protecting consumers, and safeguarding the nation's economic transformation. Our mandate is not only to seize fake products but to defend the integrity of Kenya's industrial future. Genuine trade must be protected, and enforcement will continue to be the shield that ensures Kenya's growth is not built on adulterated foundations.

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Anti-Counterfeit Authority



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

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