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County Sensitization Program against illicit trade kicks off



KAM CEO, Ms Phyllis Wakiaga speaks during the launch of the County Sensitization Forum against illicit trade in Busia.

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) launched a sensitization program on 24th October 2019 targeting counties to combat counterfeiting and other forms of illicit trade in the country.

Speaking during the event, KAM Chief Executive, Ms Phyllis Wakiaga, noted that despite efforts being made to combat it, Kenya is experiencing a heightened level of illicit trade.

“The vice has grown to great proportions in recent years, threatening our economy and the realization of a number of the country’s development goals, including the Big 4 Agenda.

KAM will continue to work closely with both National and County Governments in order to address the menace of illicit trade which threatens the health and safety of all citizens, undermines national and regional security, destabilises economies, increases the

cost of public health, sabotages tourism, stunts innovation, and offers a haven to organised crime and trafficking,” said Ms Wakiaga.

The County Commissioner for Busia, Mr Jacob Narengo, remarked that the fight against illicit trade calls for collaboration among all enforcement agencies and committed to sustaining the fight against illicit trade within Busia county.

“The fight against illicit trade is a collaborative effort amongst all stakeholders. Collaboration will increase our gains in this fight as we work towards growing our economies and having a safe, healthy population. Busia County has dedicated Thursdays for operations against various forms of illicit trade. We shall be conducting random, impromptu checks in business premises to check for counterfeits in the county,” noted Mr Narengo.

COUNTY SENSITIZATION PROGRAM ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRADE

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ACA Research, Awareness, Policy and Quality Assurance Deputy Director, Dr John Akoten reiterated the importance of sustaining the fight against illicit trade.

“We are on the right track on this issue as a country. It is incumbent upon us as citizens, stakeholders and partners in our nation’s development to meet this challenge head-on, sure-footed with conviction and clarity. If left alone to fester, illicit trade is a threat to our nationhood,” said Dr Akoten.

The forum, held in Busia, is the first of a series of engagements planned to sensitize law enforcement agencies on denormalising illicit trade.



ACA Research, Awareness, Policy and Quality Assurance Deputy Director, Dr John Akoten speaking at the County Sensitization Forum against illicit trade in Busia.

KAM Vice Chair, Mucai Kunyihia, KAM CEO Phyllis Wakiaga and other plastic industry stakeholders visit Brush Manufacturers Limited. They recycle PET and other plastic waste into brushes.



KAM MEETS KEBS MD ON STANDARDS

KAM mattresses or foam manufacturers led by KAM CEO Ms Phyllis Wakiaga, met the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) MD Lt Bernard Njiani to discuss challenges facing the sector on standards, specifically KS376 on mattress production.



KAM, KMJA, LSK partner to develop Company Law Guidebook



Participants at the Companies Law Guidebook Forum

KAM in partnership with Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA), Law Society of Kenya (LSK), Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and the Office of the Attorney General held a forum with judicial officers in Mombasa (12th - 13th October 2019) and Eldoret (26th - 27th October 2019) on the development of the Companies Law Guidebook.

Since the passing of The Companies Act, 2015 and the Insolvency Act, there have been concerns about the voluminous nature of the laws. This has led to key stakeholders responsible for interpreting the Act (Judicial officers, legal practitioners and business people) raising concerns on the difficulties of interpreting the law due to its bulkiness. Reading through the voluminous

law takes a lot of time and delays the period of administration of justice.

For this reason, KAM in partnership with KMJA is developing a simplified Judicial guidebook on the Companies Act, 2015, Insolvency Act, 2015 and their Regulations.

The guidebook shall enable judicial officers and legal practitioners to expeditiously review the relevant provisions in the laws as they settle commercial cases.

If the Laws are well implemented, it would make it easier for local and foreign investors to set up and run companies in Kenya.

The guidebook seeks to:

- Reduce the time and burden of reading through the voluminous provisions of the Companies Act and the Insolvency Act in the country.
- Enhance awareness on the provisions of the laws.
- Provide an easy-to-read document on the environment of company law in Kenya.
- Support compliance in the private sector with company law requirements and support investor confidence.

Way Forward

- KAM shall continue to engage stakeholders including its Members on the development of the guidebook.

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Dear Member,

Thank you for your support and partnership in advocating for competitive and sustainable manufacturing sector.

In order to best serve you, kindly share any issue(s) you are facing by clicking on the feedback form below.

[FEEDBACK FORM](#)

Thank you.

Regards,
KAM Team

Post AGOA (2025) Strategy

KAM engaged The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to develop a post-2025 AGOA strategy.

KAM presented the manufacturing sector's perspective and possible ways of engaging the United States government.

Way Forward

- KAM shall engage the sectors to identify the exclusions or sensitive lists in the Kenya and EAC - US engagement and come up with appropriate rules of origin to support the process.

Sector CET and Local Content regulations review sessions

KAM collected Members' feedback on the ongoing Common External Tariff (CET) review from all sectors on a tariff line level.

KAM also updated Members on the ongoing development of local content guidelines and regulations and resubmitted the template to the sectors for filling up.

Way Forward

KAM shall continue engaging sectors on follow-up issues and organise meetings to address pending action items.

PLASTIC INDUSTRY STRATEGY MEETING



KAM Deputy Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy Miriam Bomett giving a presentation on the Position of the Industry on the ban of single-use plastic in protected areas in Kenya during the Plastic Industry Strategy meeting.

The ban takes effect from June 2020.

CONTACT US



15 Mwanzi Road,
Westlands, Opp.
Westgate Shopping Mall



www.kam.co.ke



info@kam.co.ke



@kam_kenya



Kenya Association of
Manufacturers



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TOP 2 POLICY ISSUES IN THE MEDIA

1. Illicit Trade

- Ghana News: [Kenyan industrialists launch campaign against illicit trade](#)
- Daily Nation: [Counties' anti-counterfeit war starts](#)

2. State of the manufacturing sector

- People Daily: [Experts warn on impact of redundancies](#)
- The Exchange: [Factors affecting Kenya's manufacturing sector](#)