



FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

## **FCC Seizes Counterfeit Notepads**

The Fair Competition Commission, acting pursuant to the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963, as amended, had on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, and in collaboration with the Police Force, conducted a Search and Seizure operation in 11 shops located in Dar es Salaam, suspected to stock counterfeited "SinarLine" Notepads.

During the operation, FCC, found seven shops with 3,910 pieces of counterfeited products imitating SinarLine Brands. The shops found stocking counterfeited brands are as follows:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Shop/Owner</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount of Seized Goods</b>
1.	Abdulrazaq M. Abdullah (Trading as Hilal Stationery), P.O.Box 7108, DSM	Kariakoo	949 pcs
2.	Urafiki Stationary	Kariakoo	612 pcs
3.	Rose Michael Munywanga, P.O.Box 3374, DSM	Kariakoo	720 pcs
4.	Square Business & Supply Printing Ltd, DSM	Kariakoo	121 pcs
5.	Paul Nitin Somani, P.O.Box 6239, DSM	Kariakoo	708 pcs
6.	Shabaan M. Mwinyihija	Kariakoo	771 pcs
7.	Imalaseko Inv, Ltd, P.O.Box 1015, DSM	Samora Avenue	29 pcs
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,910 pcs</b>

The Search and Seizure operation was prompted by a complaint lodged by representative of the brand owner, M/S ABENRY & CO. ADVOCATES that there had been investigative reports indicating that unscrupulous businessmen were trading in counterfeit products imitating SinarLine products outlooks and Trademark.

## **Measured Taken against Contravening Businessmen**

Owners of all shops found stocking counterfeited brands imitating those of SinarLine, contrary to the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963, as amended, and the MMA Regulations 2010, have been penalized and are in the process of complying with the requirements of the law.

The Chief Inspector of the Merchandise Marks Act (MMA) will not hesitate to take more stringent legal actions against firms found to contravene the MMA, who fail to meet the required legal obligations with regard to their conducts.

**The Commission warns all members of the Business Community to desist from importing, stocking and trading in counterfeit goods, since the acts contravene the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963, as amended and its relevant Regulations.**

Similarly, the FCC warns the general public to shun from "careless and carefree purchasing behaviour" and should prefer buying from authorized dealers and reliable resellers or distributors of goods and services.

In the same token, FCC advocate for stepped-up "Brand-Awareness" campaigns on the part of the Brand Owners and Intellectual Property Holders so as to enable members of the Business Community to identify and differentiate genuine from counterfeit products, thereby promoting voluntary compliance to trading in genuine products only.

**Issued by the Communications and Public Relations Unit**

Fair Competition Commission

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2013**