

PRESS STATEMENT

FCC AND TBS INSPECT ROOFING SHEET FACTORIES IN DAR ES SALAAM

Three out of five "Anti-counterfeit task-force team members", the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Police Force, yesterday, Friday, 22nd February, 2013, made investigations in two roofing sheet factories in Dar es Salaam.

The inspected factories were the KAMAKA Enterprises located in Buguruni area and the Dragon Roofing Sheets, located in Vingunguti area in Dar es Salaam.

The inspection was prompted by mounting complaints from consumers of goods produced by the two firms, who asserted that the goods from such factories appear not to meet the expected use value, thereby denying them the desired satisfaction from such purchases in terms of value for money.

FCC in collaboration with the TBS inspectors and the police force identified significant non-conformity observations relating to production and quality assurance at the Dragon Roofing Sheets Factory. The factory owners were, consequently ordered to meet all the requirements of quality certification and assurance before continuing with production.

Some of the observed shortcomings include the following:

1. All products lacked production information including batch number, anti-corrosion/rust coating material used and lacked any ascription to the manufacturer by way of a logo or manufacturer's identity. This paves way for unscrupulous resellers to brand such products using unauthorized competitors' logo thereby passing on the goods to the market as originating from the competing producer, without the original manufacturer bearing any liability in case of consumer complaints over dissatisfaction with the products.;
2. The products have been selling in the market without securing any quality assurance certification from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

A total of 74 green iron sheets, 74 red roofing sheets and 80 blue roofing sheets were seized at the factory. The factory management was instructed not to sell pending quality assurance certification by TBS. Two roofing sheet samples were taken for quality conformity tests at TBS;

The inspectors found no goods at the KAMAKA factory.

The inspection was extended to shops stocking construction materials in Buguruni area, whence an additional sample of corrugated iron sheet was taken for quality conformity tests at TBS.

The FCC also conducted another inspection on 20th February, 2012 along bridge street, in Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with inspectors from the International Corporate Research (ICR). During such an inspection a total of 43 HP toners and cartridges valued at TShs 6.35 were seized in a shop located adjacent to Al Baasha Restaurant.

FCC conducted yet other inspections on 24th January, 2013 and 1st February, 2013, in which case it seized a number of counterfeited AK brand Brake pads and Drum brake shoes as indicated in the table below.

The inspections were prompted by the complaint from the genuine brand owner, M/S Al Khair Auto Parts of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

| Goods seized in 1 st February, 2013 inspection | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------|
| NO. | Name of the Shop | Type of Goods | Totals |
| 1. | Several Auto Spare Parts, P.O.Box 7967, DSM | Disc Brake Pads | 438 sets |
| | | Drum Brake Shoe | 11 sets |
| 2. | Aisin Auto Parts, P.O.Box 7832, Dar es Salaam. | Brake Pads | 738 sets |
| 3. | Nassor Chande Nassor | Brake Pads | 23 |
| TOTAL | | Brake Pads | 1,199 SETS |
| | | Brake Shoe | 11 SETS |
| Goods seized in 24 th January, 2013 inspection | | | |
| NO. | Name of the Shop | Type of Goods | |
| | BM Spare Parts | Disc Brake Pads | 643 sets |
| GRAND TOTAL | | Disc Brake Pads | 1,842 sets |
| | | Brake shoe | 11 sets |

FCC Also seized 176 counterfeited EURO SOLAR (Solar Panels) in another inspection conducted on 23rd November, 2012, which involved two shops owned by M/S Charles. The same has been penalized according to the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963, as amended.

Between 1st July, 2011 and 31st December, 2012, FCC made 78 dawn raids (search and seizure operations), seized 313 containers with counterfeit goods and penalized 272 traders for trading in counterfeit goods. Goods worth TSh 324,700,000 were seized in those operations.

CALL:

The Government, through its market oversight; Intellectual Property Protection; and Quality Assurance agencies are set to ensure that Tanzanian market is not turned into a dumping group for shoddy and counterfeit goods and would like all traders to desist from trading in such contraband goods. Those failing to observe the requirements of the law, shall face the full grip of the hand of the law.

The Commission calls on consumers to desist from buying goods from unreliable shops, but rather buy from reliable ones. Such include registered or authorized resellers or agents of particular product. They can lodge complaints and seek redress easily in such outlet centres in case of unsatisfactory results from the use of such products. Typically, unreliable resellers, including those selling counterfeit goods won't take any liability for goods they sell to consumers, since they free-ride on the research and investment efforts of the genuine brand owners.

ISSUED BY COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

**Fair Competition Commission Commission
Ubungu Plaza, Dar es Salaam
23rd February, 2013**