

Minister warns promoters of counterfeit goods

THE Minister for Trade and Industry, Dr Cyril Chami, has warned the media that promote counterfeit goods.

The minister said websites and other forms of media had been featuring adverts promoting counterfeit goods, which has escalated the problem of the products in the market.

Dr Chami who was tabling the Business Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2011 yesterday, said that running such ads was a clear sign of economic sabotage, thus legal actions had to be taken against the media owners.

The minister also announced that company registration would now be done even by an individual unlike in the past when registration required at least two people.

In his speech before the National Assembly, Dr Chami also noted that the amendments which were meant to create a conducive environment for conducting business in Tanzania, allow a person aged 18 years and above to register a company or business.

Bunge Trade and Industry Committee in their recommendations applauded the amend-



DR Chami

ments, saying that allowing a person aged 18 years to individually register a company or business would enable many Tanzanians to own companies.

The committee further urged the government to put more emphasis on public education, saying there were many business laws that could help individuals do business.

The opposition through their spokesperson Ms Lucy Owenya also applauded the amendments, saying that many Tanzanians were failing to own companies due to complicated procedures involved. She said that lowering the age to 18 years and allowing an individual to register a com-

pany at the Business Registration and Licensing Authority (BRELA) was a good move to boost business in Tanzania.

Debating the bill, Kigoma North MP Zitto Kabwe said that there were bureaucracies in registering businesses and companies, calling on the concerned officers to change attitude.

Mr Kabwe said that three years ago the World Bank reported that Tanzania had fallen from 125 to 127 position and the reason being gratuitous bureaucracy involved in the system.

"We must change our ways of doing business to make the country achieve its economic developments, these bureaucracies sometimes discourages both local and foreign investors," Mr Kabwe noted.

Mr Felix Mkosamali (Muhambwe - NCCR) concurred with Mr Kabwe, insisting that laws were not enough to improve the business climate in the country, saying the system had to change also.

"Imposing complicated terms on people who want to register their businesses or companies weakens the country's ability to utilize its available resources," Mr Mkosamali said.

CTI: Enact one law on counterfeit goods

By Felister Peter

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has called for the enactment of a comprehensive law and formation of an agency to spearhead the fight against the manufacture and importation of counterfeit goods.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the opening of a stakeholders' meeting called to discuss laws and

regulations relating to counterfeit and sub-standard goods in Tanzania, CTI Chairman Dr Samwel Nyantahe warned that the situation is deteriorating as some factories have been constructed mainly to manufacture fake goods for certain countries, including Tanzania.

Dr Nyantahe explained that Tanzania has several laws and policies relating to fake goods, but they do not address the problem fully.

He also underscored the need to have a single agency to deal with counterfeits.

"We have agencies, laws, policies and the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), but we are yet to succeed. We want to have a specific law to address the problem," he noted.

The problem of counterfeits touches everybody and so concerted efforts are needed to combat it, he said, adding that there is no need to blame the

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and other authorities, but rather chart ways to curb the menace.

Meanwhile, a legal consultant (Intellectual Properties), Adam Mambi said in his presentations that the country's related laws don't even define counterfeit, hence causing difficulties for responsible authorities to address the problem.

The current law, Merchandise Marks Act has

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CTI: Enact one law on sub-standard products

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not defined sub-standards and counterfeits, he said, adding: "Tanzania lacks specific and comprehensive law to address counterfeits".

Mambi gave the examples of Kenya and South Africa, who he said are now making their way through in the fight against fake goods by formulating specific laws. He said the Kenyan law gives a broad definition on counterfeits.

He mentioned some of the challenges hindering the fight against fake products in the country as corruption, lack of public awareness, human resources, lack of coordination and capacity building for stakeholders like the police and customs officers.

Reached for comment, Deputy Trade and Industry minister Lazaro Nyalandu concurred with the CTI suggestion, saying the government plans to give more legal powers to the FCC so that it can execute investigation and arraign suspects.

He said currently the problem is addressed by FCC and the Tanzania Bureau of Statistics (TBS).

TBS is responsible for controlling the quality and standard of manufactured and imported products, while FCC goes beyond standards, checking trade mark ownership and protection of intellectual property, he said.

"We want to give more legal powers to FCC to execute investigations and file cases against suspects," he said.