



MEDIA STATEMENT

LAUNCH OF THE STUDY ON THE ILLICIT TRADE IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Pretoria – Thursday, 06 March 2025

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), hosted a pivotal workshop addressing the illicit trade in counterfeit goods within the leather and footwear sector on 04 March 2025.

This groundbreaking initiative, event marked the official launch of a critical study examining the profound impact of counterfeit goods on the South African economy, local manufacturing, and employment. The workshop successfully convened over 60 delegates, including senior government officials, industry stakeholders, enforcement agencies, and labour representatives, to strategize on combating the escalating threat of illicit trade. With 71 RSVPs and strong representation from key industry players and law enforcement partners such as the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the South African Police Service (SAPS), the hybrid format significantly boosted participation.

The workshop featured compelling keynote addresses from Ms. Maimela on behalf of CIPC, Dr. Jayward Irkhede representing DTIC, Teklu Kidane, Chief Technical Officer from the ILO, and Shakespeare Madombi from State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). A highlight of the event was the well-received presentation by Mr. Mervyn Chiwayu, which laid out a concrete path forward.

The study, part of the Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work South Africa Project, implemented by the ILO in partnership with DTIC and CIPC, provides evidence-based insights and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening enforcement efforts, enhancing industry resilience, and safeguarding intellectual property (IP) rights.

Discussions at the workshop centered on legislative interventions, cross-sectoral collaboration, and the crucial role of international cooperation in curbing illicit trade. This event underscored South Africa's unwavering commitment to tackling counterfeiting through robust enforcement mechanisms and stakeholder-driven solutions. As a key outcome, the establishment of the Project Steering Committee, chaired by DTIC and supported by CIPC, will ensure ongoing collaboration between government, industry, and law enforcement.

Ends.

Issued By: CIPC Communications
Media inquiries: Ndileka Cola – Head of Communications
Cellphone: 073 376 8758 Telephone: 087 000 0000 email: NCola@cipc.co.za