

CORPORATE NEWS

Kenafric in legal battle with Puma over trademark

ROW German firm accuses Kenyan manufacturer of infringing on its brand with use of Fuma products

BY BRIAN WASUNA

Kenyan manufacturer Kenafric Industries is entangled in a dispute with German clothing and footwear firm Puma over alleged trademark infringement.

Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) inspectors seized several shoes and exercise books from Kenafric's factory bearing the name Fuma — which Germany's Puma holds are manufactured to confuse consumers of its global brand.

The trademark row has seen Kenafric officials charged at a chief magistrate's court.

Kenafric has on the other hand the ACA seeking release of footwear

“The shoes are not traded by any other entity as they are uniquely designed to reach the very poor customers

MIKUL SHAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KENAFRIC

exercise books seized at its Baba Dogo factory in August last year following a complaint by Puma.

The Kenyan firm enjoined Director of Public Prosecutions Kelvin Tobiko and the chief magistrate's court as respondents. Puma has been joined as an interested party through its agent — P. Ramara.

But Kenafric now says its Fuma brand is not confused with the Kenyan Industrial Properties Institute, and the ACA wrongly seized its prod-

Hilton to open 43-floor hotel in Upper Hill

BY SANDRA CHAO-BLASTO

Global hotel chain Hilton Worldwide has announced plans to open its tallest African outlet in Nairobi's Upper Hill area.

The group of hotels yesterday announced that it had entered into a franchise agreement with Jabavu Village Ltd and White Lotus Projects for the construction of the 225-roomed hotel.

Hilton Nairobi Upper Hill, the third Kenyan outlet, will stand at 330m high with an estimated 43 floors.

It is estimated to be completed by 2020.

The Hilton group said in a statement yesterday that the new outlet will have a relaxing poolside bar, speciality smokehouse and grill restaurant, lobby dining area with landscaped deck and a boutique rooftop bar with views of the skyline on the top most level.

Hilton Worldwide in 2013 said that it had ceased owning hotels and instead had adopted a franchise model that is less expensive and more efficient for expansion.