

THE AFRICA CENTRE FOR TOBACCO INDUSTRY MONITORING AND POLICY RESEARCH (ATIM)

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Latest updates on Tobacco Industry Interference and Tobacco Control in Africa:



Tobacco Industry Interference

Nigeria

- Philip Morris International (PMI) proposed a ban on selling cigarettes suggesting a less harmful alternative tagged "I quit original smoking" (IQOS) — an electronic tobacco heated system, claims which however, are still unsubstantiated.
<https://thenationonline.net/tobacco-causing-more-harm-than-good/>

Kenya

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Kenya is pushing for a three-year tax holiday on local production of nicotine pouches and similar products.
<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/corporate/companies/bat-eyes-tax-holiday-for-nicotine-pouches-2301640>

South Africa

- Big companies including the tobacco companies, are using clever marketing tactics including corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs to promote unhealthy products during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://bhekisisa.org/resources/general-resource/2020-09-16-did-covid-19-help-big-business-punt-harmful-products/>

Advocacy and Responses to Tobacco Interference

Uganda

- Tobacco control advocate of UHCA urges Covid-19 National task force to integrate Tobacco Control information in dealing with Covid-19 as the pandemic creates high chances of tobacco users succumbing to death due to tobacco use.
<https://www.eyewitnessug.com/2020/09/04/covid-19-pandemic-affecting-implementation-of-tobacco-control-laws/>

South Africa

- The City of Cape Town is working towards a "smoke-free environment" and public buildings could soon become smoke free as part of its health department's partnership for 'Healthy Cities Tobacco Campaign'.
<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/public-smoking-could-become-a-thing-of-the-past-in-cape-town-3a93c723-c90b-4ac0-b252-b68572f78537>
- Tobacco control advocates urge women to be wary of gender constructed advertisements and promotions. Exposure to tobacco through smoking or passive smoking imposes female-specific health concerns for women and children.
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-09-11-women-and-tobacco-young-girls-and-women-of-all-ages-should-be-concerned/>

Kenya

- The Ministry of Health has warned that tobacco smokers are at risk of spreading COVID-19, with renewed calls for them to quit the habit.
<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/09/smokers-can-be-covid-19-super-spreaders-health-ministry-warns/>
- In response to the request by BAT of a three year tax holiday on nicotine pouches, tobacco control advocates have denounced the plans by the government to grant BAT a tax holiday arguing that this will pose as a setback to tobacco control policies and interventions in Kenya and the bid to protect public health.
<https://www.the-star.co.ke/health/2020-09-29-granting-tax-holiday-for-bat-nicotine-pouch-plant-a-bad-idea/>

Senegal

- A coalition of civil society organizations has just launched a month-long communication campaign aimed at getting governments to create a new tax on tobacco products.
<http://aps.sn/actualites/societe/sante/article/lutte-contre-le-tabac-la-nouvelle-campagne-de-la-societe-civile-pour-une-nouvelle-taxation>
- The Alliance for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCA) notes that despite the relatively low cost of tobacco control "strategies" and the significant health benefits that can be derived from them, tobacco control in Africa region still remains underfunded.
<http://aps.sn/actualites/societe/sante/article/les-programmes-de-lutte-anti-tabac-largement-sous-finances-ong/>
- Advocates argue that unsigned regulations are restricting implementation of law provisions in Senegal despite the major advances in passing of the law by the national assembly.
<https://www.lequotidien.sn/loi-anti-tabac-des-avancees-majeures-mais-encore-des-textes-reglementaires-en-souffrance/>

Recent Industry Interference Research Reports

Nigeria Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2020

- The recently launched Nigeria Tobacco Industry Interference (TII) report shows that Nigeria has an overall score of 49 in the 2020 TII index survey. Despite clear laws and policies in place, the tobacco industry continues to participate in the development of health policies, engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) as well as unnecessary interactions that deter proper implementation of tobacco control programs in the country. The government needs to strengthen its efforts in ensuring transparency and integrity in its association with the tobacco industry.
https://www.atim.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Nigeria_TII_Index_Findings.pdf

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