

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

South Africa

- Industry calls for government to regulate vaping based on a scientific approach that would allow users to be informed of the facts.
<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-10-06-vaping-industry-would-welcome-regulation-but-please-be-scientific/>
- Tobacco groups have pleaded with the administration to freeze proposed tax increments on tobacco products reported in the 2020 Budget, because of the effect of Covid-19 and the increase in illegal cigarette trade during the lockdown.
<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/legal-tobacco-industry-pleads-for-tax-freeze-19bb8d7e-e569-4913-b38b-b4c1ca41b1d4>
- The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime report (2020) shows that cigarettes 'exported' from SA during lockdown never got out and allegations are that industry may have been behind it.
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-10-07-cigarettes-exported-from-sa-during-lockdown-never-got-out-report/>
- As tobacco control activists and South Africa Congress of Trade Unions (COSATU) argue for increase in taxes to reduce smoking prevalence, Fair Trade Independent Tobacco Association (FITA) argues that the increase will drive illicit trade and disastrously affect the government and consumers.
www.thesouthafrican.com/news/will-tobacco-taxes-increase-mid-term-budget-mboweni-cigarettes/
<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/cigarette-tax-hike-cosatu-fita-29-october-2020/>
- The South Africa Tobacco Transformation Alliance (SATTA) argues against the proposed 100% increase in tax products by anti-tobacco groups arguing that black tobacco farmers will go out of business accompanied by job losses of people dependent on tobacco for livelihood.
<https://ewn.co.za/2020/10/28/100-tax-increase-on-tobacco-products-will-kill-industry-satta>

Advocacy and Responses to Tobacco Interference

Kenya

- The government has requested the deregistration of popular nicotine pockets known as LYFT due to pressure from advocates.
<https://www.mwakilishi.com/article/kenya-news/2020-10-07/kenya-government-moves-to-ban-popular-nicotine-pouches-lyft>

Ghana

- Stakeholders and advocates express the need for increase in tax for tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened products to raise revenue and to protect the lives of the citizens from diseases.
<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Stakeholders-express-need-for-increase-in-tax-on-tobacco-and-alcohol-1092262>

South Africa

- The Treasury has not consented to the tobacco Industry applications for a freeze on increments of excise duty on cigarettes.
<https://static.pmg.org.za/201013SCOF - NTSARS - Draft Response presentation on 2020 Draft.pdf>
- Advocates call for treasury to take advantage of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement to substantially increase tax on tobacco products.
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-10-21-the-mini-budget-is-the-ideal-opportunity-to-whack-up-tobacco-taxes-lockdown-has-shown-us-the-way/>
- Advocates call for parliament to move fast to process vaping law to protect children.
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-10-21-parliament-needs-to-process-vaping-law-urgently-to-protect-children/>

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