

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

NOVEMBER 2020

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



Tobacco Industry Interference

South Africa

- Vapour Products Association of South Africa (VPASA) opposes imposing excise on vapour products. <https://sundayworld.co.za/breaking-news/taxing-vapes-should-be-handled-with-care-experts-say/>
- With the new proposed regulations to be placed on vapes in South Africa, government is being persuaded to consider the products as an aid to assist smokers with quitting. <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/new-vaping-regulations-proposed-for-south-africa/>
- New research exposes world's big tobacco groups' tax-avoidance methods, including in South Africa. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-11-24-big-tobacco-tax-cheats-or-tax-sneaks/>
- SA ban on cigarettes sales exposed the government's incapacity in dealing with illicit trading as some cigarette manufacturers allegedly played a role in the illicit market using tactics such as ghost exports, undeclared production and round-tripping. <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2020-11-23-lockdown-ban-on-tobacco-sales-exposes-gaping-holes-in-state-capacity/>
- Two global reports released by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) and STOP have linked big-brands corporations to exploitative practices in the food and tobacco industries, preying on the most vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic. <https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/health/2397336/how-food-and-tobacco-giants-used-covid-19-to-exploit-the-poor/>

Ghana

- Calls for Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to put a hard effort on the track and trace system following its breach of public procurement regulations regarding transparency when it outsourced the system to the IT giant Atos, a longstanding tobacco industry partner. <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/health/1314983-turbulence-surrounding-tobacco-control-in-ghana>

Advocacy and Responses to Tobacco Interference

South Africa

- SARS' efforts to curb illicit tobacco trade is questioned as evidence points out that the implementation of the track and trace system which SARS has cancelled has been deemed cost-effective in other countries. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-11-12-smoke-and-mirrors-sa-revenue-service-faces-an-uphill-battle-against-illicit-tobacco/>
- Call for stronger actions from government to curb illicit cigarette trading in South Africa. <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/cigarette-smugglers-plans-up-in-smoke-as-cops-make-several-big-busts-20201111>
- SA primary school vice Principal has thrown his full weight behind a campaign to educate children about the dangers of tobacco and smoking. <https://alexnews.co.za/181619/smoke-at-own-peril/>

Nigeria

- The tobacco issue in Nigeria requires much attention from the federal government for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the industry continues to profit from the vulnerable. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/tobacco-control-ncds-and-sdgs-in-nigeria-still-a-far-cry/>
- The Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) has called for adult rating for films with smoking scenes, anti-smoking adverts, anti-smoking health warnings, certified no pay-offs, stop identification of tobacco brands and a total ban on tobacco products placement in the Nigerian movie industry. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/cappa-launches-smokefreenollywood-campaign/>

The Gambia

- Various stakeholders have solicited the police to play their role in its enforcement by arresting people who smoke in public. <https://standard.gm/police-to-arrest-public-smokers/>
- Tobacco Control advocate urges the people of Gambia to quit smoking as this is a great measure to prevent the spread and severity of Covid-19. <https://standard.gm/quit-smoking-a-way-to-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19-in-the-gambia/>

General

- The Global tobacco industry interference index 2020 stipulates on how the industry preys on the African continent calling for stronger efforts from the government in implementing tobacco control policies. <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1044426/big-tobacco-wants-african-nations-to-do-its-biddin.html>
- This article points out how tobacco use as a pandemic has contributed to the deepening of the covid-19 pandemic, placing a burden on public health. Thus, hindering the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDG's). <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-tobacco-a-slow-motion-pandemic-hindering-achievement-of-the-sdgs-98436>

Recent Industry Interference Research Reports

Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2020

- The Recently released interference index show how countries including 9 African countries are performing in implementing the WHO FCTC recommendations. The index indicates high levels of interference on policy development, through CSR and the government lack of transparency in its interactions with the industry. The government should strengthen its efforts to comply with article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. https://exposetobacco.org/wp-content/uploads/GlobalTIIndex2020_Report.pdf

FACTSHEET: Africa Summary of the Tobacco industry Interference Index 2020

<https://www.atim.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Africa-Factsheet-Tobacco-Industry-Interference-Index-2020.pdf>

Recent Research Papers and/or Policy Briefs

Policy Brief

- This policy brief presents results from the 2017 South African Social Attitude Survey showing the level of exposure of non-smokers to second-hand tobacco smoke. <https://www.samrc.ac.za/policy-briefs/case-100-smoke-free-policy-south-africa?bc=240>

Connect with us

Follow [ATIM](#) online to keep up to date with

Tobacco Industry news across Africa

