

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

JANUARY 2021

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



Tobacco Industry Interference

South Africa

- Calls to be wary of big tobacco's tactics to tout vape devices as "healthier" amidst lack of consensus by experts that new devices actually reduce the risk to smokers, for more profits.
<https://www.businesslive.co.za/fm/opinion/2021-01-22-telita-snyckers-is-vaping-just-another-smokescreen-from-big-tobacco/>
- BATSAs counter-files response to government's leave to appeal application following Western Cape's High Court ruling in favour of BATSAs pertaining last year's tobacco sales ban during Covid lockdown.
<https://mg.co.za/politics/2021-01-06-batsa-fires-back-in-response-to-dlamini-zumas-appeal/>
- As the country awaits passing of the Control of the Tobacco Products and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems Bill, vaping companies in South Africa are calling for separate legislation on the regulation of tobacco and vaping products.
<https://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/news/vaping-companies-call-for-own-regulations-25db7824-6fd7-462e-bede-578bc94b4373>

Advocacy and Responses to Tobacco Industry Interference

South Africa

- Tax Justice SA's report details rampant illicit cigarette trade since last year's Covid lockdown and calls on authorities to take action.
<https://www.news24.com/fin24/economy/2-out-of-every-3-cigarettes-sold-in-sa-are-illicit-report-estimates-20210120>

Benin

- Benin government declares a ban of shisha consumption in public places.
<https://lanouvelletribune.info/2021/01/benin-apres-le-zou-le-prefet-interdit-la-consommation-de-la-chicha-dans-les-collines/?cn-reloaded=1>

Nigeria

- Nigeria advocates calls for budgetary allocation of funds for tobacco control still not addressed.
<https://newdiplomatng.com/again-nigeria-gets-wrong/>
- Experts call for higher taxes on tobacco products to reduce tobacco consumption and its burden of preventable diseases in Nigeria.
<https://thenationonlineng.net/nigeria-spent-526-4b-in-treating-tobacco-ailments/>

General

Kenya

- The UK Serious Fraud Office closes investigations on BAT East Africa fraud and bribery allegations but vow to continue assisting other law enforcement in their ongoing investigations.
<https://www.standard.co.uk/business/sfo-drops-corruption-probe-into-british-american-tobacco-kenya-africa-bribery-b899848.html>

Recent Industry Interference Research Reports

Nigeria

- The Report by CAPPAs in support of ATCA exposes how tobacco industry use intermediaries to clean their image through Corporate Social Responsibility to gain profits. The 'TakeApart' Report launched by CAPPAs in Nigeria exposes tobacco industry's use of front groups and corporate social responsibility to promote their image and undermine the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/439444-tobacco-companies-using-intermediaries-to-promote-image-report.html>

Recent Research Papers and/or Policy Briefs

Research Papers: Recent ATIM Publications

- Agaku, I. T., Egbe, C. O., & Ayo-Yusuf, O. A. (2021). Potential revenue from taxing e-cigarettes and comparison of annual costs of daily e-cigarette use versus daily cigarette smoking among South African adults. *Tobacco Induced Diseases*, 19(January), 1-14.
- Agaku, I., Egbe, C. O., & Ayo-Yusuf, O. (2021). Associations between electronic cigarette use and quitting behaviours among South African adult smokers. *Tobacco Control*. 15(January), tobaccocontrol-2020-056102. doi: 10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2020-056102. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33452210.
- Agaku, I. T., Egbe, C. O., & Ayo-Yusuf, O. A. (2021). Geospatial spread of e-cigarette vape shops in South Africa and the relationship with tobacco product use among adults. *Health & Place*, 68, 102507.
- Agaku, I., Egbe, C., & Ayo-Yusuf, O. (2021). Utilisation of smoking cessation aids among South African adult smokers: findings from a national survey of 18 208 South African adults. *Family Medicine and Community Health*, 9 (1), e000637.
- Ngobese, S. P., Egbe, C. O., Londani, M., & Ayo-Yusuf, O. A. (2020). Non-smoker's exposure to second-hand smoke in South Africa during 2017. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(21), 8112.

<https://www.atim.co.za/research-papers/>

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