

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

FEBRUARY 2021

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



Tobacco Industry Interference

South Africa

- Business entities, tobacco farmers, producers, and manufacturers argue that the thriving illicit trade during lockdown is causing job losses in SA.
<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/thriving-illicit-trade-threatens-jobs-in-sa-16db0856-a142-4fbc-98f7-897c3f7d210f>
- Tobacco Industry criticises the recent 8% tax increase on cigarettes and argues that it will disadvantage them and increase illicit trade.
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-02-25-mbowenis-cigarette-price-hike-a-windfall-for-the-illegal-market-batsa/>
- Labour Union backs industry by calling on the government to introduce tax incentives for the alcohol and tobacco industry.
<https://citizen.co.za/business/2438023/keep-sin-taxes-unchanged-and-save-sas-jobs-says-cosatu-ahead-of-sona-2021/>
- BAT claim only a one percent drop in market share despite a 5-month lockdown in South Africa.
<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/bat-impairs-twisp-stake-2021-2>

Kenya

- BAT steps up efforts to influence the government to reverse the current ban on the sale of nicotine pouches.
<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/markets/market-news/bat-in-talks-kenya-s-ban-on-nicotine-pouches-3296468>
- BAT's PR agency employee is alleged to have bribed a Kenyan journalist to leak information on the Bureau's investigation on BAT activities in Kenya; BAT denies involvement.
<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2021-02-21/bats-pr-agency-tried-to-bribe-bureaus-kenyan-reporter>

Zimbabwe

- An article from a damning report reveals highly secretive cartels taking over state-owned operations and their involvement in Zimbabwe's illegal tobacco trade.
<https://allafrica.com/stories/202102100336.html>
- Cigarette businessman threatens legal action over allegations of being linked to cartels reported to be taking over the economic operations in Zimbabwe.
<https://www.zimlive.com/2021/02/21/cigarette-tycoon-adam-molai-denies-cartel-links-in-zimbabwe/>

Advocacy and Responses to Tobacco Interference

South Africa

- Business community call for inspectors to keep watch at cigarette factories to curb illicit trade in South Africa.
<https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/agribusiness/calls-for-inspectors-to-keep-watch-at-factories-as-illicit-cigarettes-filter-through-20210203>

Kenya

- Kenya government pushes to classify nicotine pouches as tobacco products under the tobacco control law.
<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/markets/market-news/state-0-bat-nicotine-pouches-as-tobacco-products-3300512>
- Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance petitions the government against revoking the ban of nicotine pouches, including Lyft, as they are highly addictive.
<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2021/03/tobacco-control-alliance-objects-lifting-of-ban-on-nicotine-pouches/>
- The Africa Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action, an NGO in Kenya, calls for an increase on the minimum legal age for smokers from 18 to 21 to help protect young people's health.
<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2021/02/ngo-petitions-parliament-to-review-age-of-tobacco-users-to-21/>
- Tobacco control advocates call for enforcement of the law to curb the country's rising burden of non-communicable diseases.
<https://www.the-star.co.ke/health/2021-02-07-lobby-wants-tobacco-control-laws-enforced-to-curb-rising-burden-of-ncds/>

Nigeria

- The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is set to enforce the law and confiscate cigarettes sold in single sticks as it contravenes the tobacco control law.
<https://allafrica.com/stories/202102210083.html>

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