

HEALTH & DISEASE - Drug Addiction

1996 - 1997

# Curse or blessing — the flourishing dagga controversy

As world campaigns for decriminalising

dagga are growing, local experts have

their say. Marika Sboros reports.

**R**aving about marijuana as if it were the holy grail used to be the preserve of ageing hippies. Now you hear such talk from the mouths of the most unlikely folk across the globe.

Cannabis, also known as hemp, marijuana, dagga, grass, pot, ganja and the "holy weed" of the Rashtarians, is the psychoactive ingredient of the environment-friendly hemp plant.

Its use has been banned in Western countries for 60 years, but cannabis remains the most widely used illicit recreational drug in the world.

In the United States, illegal cannabis clubs are lighting up faster than joints at Woodstock. The clubs' directors say they help people cope with the symptoms of a range of serious and terminal illnesses, especially Aids and cancer.

Britain took tentative steps last year towards the legislation of cannabis for medicinal purposes amid growing evidence of its effectiveness in pain management and a wide range of neurological diseases. Multiple sclerosis sufferers say the drug reduces spasms.

In Switzerland, two American sisters joined more than 100 Swiss farmers and have launched a line of products including a hemp tea, which they say helps asthma and can "cure anybody's insomnia".

In China residents say they have found a little-known benefit

from cannabis: the drug is part of a diet including leaves from tea-oil trees and yellow corn that helps many of the community of Bama Yao to live to more than 100.

Two Hong Kong high court judges have called for cannabis use to be legalised, saying the ban made "no sense while alcohol and tobacco are legal".

In Canada, police are turning a blind eye to entrepreneur Marc Emery, who identifies himself on his tax return as a "seller of marijuana-related items" and whose expressed intention is to "blanket the world with marijuana".

And on the home front, in South Africa, it's against the law to possess, deal or use dagga, but more and more people believe the Dickensian assertion that the law, in this case, is a stoned ass.

One is Professor Frances Ames, of Valkenburg Hospital in Cape Town, who has frequently called for the decriminalisation of dagga. She does so again in the latest issue of the South African Medical Journal.

Dagga has been used for centuries to induce happiness, relieve suffering and promote spirituality, she says. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was frequently prescribed by Western medical practitioners.

The most psychoactively potent of the more than 60 known cannabinoids in the hemp plant, says Ames, is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), first isolated and synthesised in 1964. Unlike the



whole plant extract, THC has been extensively studied in pharmacological laboratories.

Studies of communities where cannabis use is endemic have not shown any convincing evidence that it causes intellectual decline.

She cautions, however, that young people who abuse cannabis for prolonged periods during critical times of learning

may "jeopardise their emotional and cognitive maturation".

There have been many claims for the therapeutic efficiency of cannabis, says Ames, and it is reputed to be used in a wide variety of traditional medicines in South Africa. Presently, great interest is being shown in its effects in reducing the nausea and vomiting that almost invariably accompa-

nies chemotherapy.

Cannabis supporters claim it is more efficacious and a great deal cheaper than orthodox medication, which also has the disadvantage of having to be administered orally or by injection, Ames says. Aids patients report appetite promotion and weight gain, and it has been shown to be a useful adjunct in conventional anticon-

vulsant therapy in temporal lobe epilepsy, which is "notoriously difficult to control". Apart from analgesic (pain control) and hypnotic effects, cannabis use can reduce intra-ocular pressure in glaucoma, Ames says. It also has local antibacterial action, and chronic asthmatics report dramatic relief from bronchospasms.

According to Ames, it may also

be useful as an antidepressant, and some schizophrenic patients claim relief of "negative" symptoms from its use.

The problem is that careful, well-controlled studies of cannabis have been hampered by legislation prohibiting its use. Ames says South Africa should follow the Australian example and decriminalise cannabis for medical use.

Professor Tuviah Zabow, of the Forensic Psychiatry Unit at the University of Cape Town's Medical School is not so sanguine.

He says evidence has accumulated to suggest considerable potential hazards of cannabis in its various forms. There are many environmental and social factors involved, but it is deceptive to consider cannabis use as merely a "passing youthful fad".

Cannabinoids cross the placenta, Zabow says, and in view of their long elimination time may have adverse effects on the foetus. They inhibit DNA synthesis and increase mutation potential and the risk of spontaneous abortion.

Cannabis use, particularly among young people today, is part of the "pandemic toxicomania" that has developed in the second half of this century, Zabow says.

"It is a potentially dangerous drug, and as such, a public health concern, especially with regard to the increased use evident in adolescents."

(87) Star 10/11/96

# Makgoba could be reinstated by Wits

BD 10/1/96

Kevin O'Grady

WITS deputy vice-chancellor William Makgoba was likely to be reinstated at a university council meeting on Friday, sources said yesterday.

Agreement on "the way forward" was also likely at the council's third meeting to discuss Makgoba's recent suspension, the sources said.

Wits spokesmen could not be reached for comment, but university officials and Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's spokesman, Lincoln Mali, confirmed that the meeting would be taking place.

A source at the university said it was likely an alternative to the planned international tribunal, which had been expected to meet at the end of this month, would be agreed to as a mechanism for resolving the crisis.

This could either take the form of a tribunal comprised of South Africans, or of mediation, the source said. Independent mediator and arbitrator Charles Nupen has already offered his services to the university.

Makgoba was suspended after making public details from the personal files of 13 senior academics who had accused him of falsifying his CV, of bringing the university into disrepute

and of not fulfilling his administrative duties.

He rejected an offer for his reinstatement after the previous council meeting which hinged on his returning the files and undertaking not to reveal any further information from them.

Plans for the allegations against Makgoba to be investigated by the tribunal were met by threats of legal action by the Wits Transformation Front as well as threats of disruptions to the academic year by various student organisations.

The Wits source said it was a "well-founded rumour" at the university that about eight of Makgoba's accusers were now in favour of mediation to resolve the dispute as "they realise they cannot win this case".

Others had been reported to have threatened to resign if the outcome was not to their liking.

Bengu's spokesman said the minister would wait and see what the outcome of Friday's meeting was before deciding whether any government intervention was necessary.

A Wits Transformation Front source said court action to prevent the international tribunal sitting would remain an option if there was an unfavourable outcome at the meeting.

## 'Drug hub' fears at Cape docks

(87)  
Samantha Sharpe  
BD 10/1/96

CAPE TOWN — Poor controls and a surge in shipping business from South America and Southeast Asia were threatening to turn Cape Town into a drug trafficking hub, port officials warned yesterday.

Officials said transshipment cargo — where containers were dropped off by one ship, left uninspected and then picked up by another ship — was burgeoning at the harbour, and that just 4% of other containers landed at the port was inspected by customs and excise.

The department said it had now set up a narcotics unit to combat drug smuggling at the port, but that inspections were selective.

Portnet account manager Peter Fortune said greater shipping activity between Cape Town, South American and Southeast Asian ports was likely to compound the drug-smuggling problem.

SAPS director Raymond Dowd said police were concerned about escalating drug activity in the Western Cape.

There had been an increase in drugs into the region, most of which was gang related.

# Smoke signals new round in ad war

ARG 13/1/96

**MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Staff Reporter

ADVERTISING and tobacco industry strategists — armed with a landmark Canadian Supreme Court decision favouring tobacco advertising — will be watching Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma like a hawk this year after her threat to consider more restrictions.

As the worldwide row on whether cigarette advertising really does promote smoking fumes on, the tobacco industry has in the Canadian decision a purely constitutional weapon to fight off a ban. And it has the support of the advertising industry.

Dr Zuma is among South Africa's most vociferous anti-smoking lobbyists, and a keen advocate of further measures to turn the country into a smoke-free zone.

She is widely supported by other lobbying groups and civic authorities such as the Cape Town City Council.

Dr Zuma's most recent comments make it clear she favours tougher action on smoking.

Speaking at a Commonwealth health ministers' summit last month, she said that while no firm decision had been taken on banning tobacco advertising, it was something that had to be considered.

"We have to decide whether it is the best way, or whether we can ban certain forms of advertising,"

she said. In the meantime, further (unspecified) anti-smoking measures were in the pipeline.

As parliament prepares for its next stint of law-making, a close watch will be kept on possible moves to limit, restrict or ban advertisements promoting products which are legal — such as tobacco, liquor and even some medicines — but which have drawn critical attention from lobbyists.

One of the foremost critics of the ban-the-ads lobby is Johanna McDowell, vice-president of the International Advertising Association's South African chapter.

"While the tobacco issue is a very emotional one

■ Any government moves to impose further restrictions on tobacco advertising will have advertisers fuming.

and causes great debate, the IAA is firmly committed to freedom of commercial speech and freedom of consumer choice."

The IAA also stood firm on the issue that "if it is legal to manufacture and distribute a product, then it is legal to advertise it".

Ms McDowell cites the recent Canadian Su-

preme Court case in which the judge "stated that there was no direct evidence of a scientific nature showing a causal link between advertising bans and a decrease in tobacco consumption".

More significantly, perhaps, the court "went on to comment that freedom of expression, even commercial expression, was an important and fundamental tenet of a democratic society".

"The IAA fully supports that belief," she said.

This month, in fact, the IAA is convening a special meeting to discuss not only tobacco advertising, but the possible effects of legislation generally on advertising.

Argus, January 13/14 1996

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"This could have an impact on medical and liquor advertising too — we suspect these industries could also be in line for restrictions of one kind or another," says Ms McDowell.

She points out that the IAA's position is that with freedom of commercial expression, comes the requirement for self-regulation.

"It is the obligation of the advertising industry to provide responsible restraint at every level."

The Tobacco Institute of South Africa argues that cigarette advertising is geared to promoting specific brands, persuading existing smokers to support a different brand, or discourage them from changing brands.

And it insists that studies — comparing countries where tobacco advertising is banned with those where it is not — show "there is no significant relationship between the extent of cigarette advertising and total cigarette consumption".

Encouraged by the Canadian decision, the institute says it "expects this decision to have a significant effect on the decisions of authorities worldwide — including in South Africa — on proposed advertising prohibitions".

"The verdict confirms the view of the Institute that the manufacturers of a legal product have the fundamental right to communicate with their customers."

ST 14/1/96

# Plan to stub out smoking 'pimps'

By LINDA RULASHE

HEALTH authorities are gearing up for a fresh onslaught against tobacco companies, including those involved in sports sponsorship.

Anti-smoking lobbyists have complained that sports sponsorship allows tobacco companies to indirectly advertise their products without health warnings.

Vincent Hlongwane, media liaison officer for the Department of Health, said the department was going to act against companies taking advantage of loopholes in the Tobacco Products Control Act.

Bernard Hellburg of Pretoria has complained to the police that the Benson and Hedges trademark on the cricket pitch at Springbok Park during Thursday's match between South Africa and England in Bloemfontein carried no health warning.

While Benson and Hedges is virtually synonymous with limited-overs cricket, Rothmans is well known for its sponsorship of motor racing, the Cape-to-Rio yacht race and the July Handicap horse race.

Other sports sponsorships include Gunston in surfing and Dunhill and Lexington in golf.

Cricket will cut its links with the cigarette manufacturer at the end of the season, and will begin a five-year association with a major bank.

Dr Yussuf Saloojee, the executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, compared the tobacco company's sport sponsorship to a "pimp which procures new customers".

The Advertising Standards Authority, however, maintains that sponsorship is not advertising.

# Dagga widely used by SA's traditional healers

PARC 22/1/96 (87)

JOHANNESBURG. — Salomon Mahlaba's practice in Johannesburg is piled to the ceiling with boxes and sacks of bulbs, grasses and roots, among them dagga, as cannabis is known in southern Africa.

"One of my most important medicines is dagga," says Mr Mahlaba, a traditional healer.

He prescribes an infusion of dagga and calamus, a fibrous root, to small children for coughs.

"The mixture kills bacteria and viruses," the 41-year-old medicine man says. "The dagga works as a stimulant to keep the child fit."

According to the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), some 80 percent of blacks believe in the abilities of traditional healers.

Combined with the iqonsi bulb, dagga produces an excellent aphrodisiac, Mr Mahlaba says. "It opens the lazy veins and gives old men lasting pleasure.

"Dagga must be used in a controlled way. When young people smoke it for fun, they abuse the drug, and some go crazy."

About 175 000 tons of dagga are harvested each year in South Africa in a production area of about 825 square kilometres.

Mr Mahlaba and his 200 000 col-

leagues find themselves in a legal grey area, for the cultivation and consumption of cannabis is forbidden.

Every year around 11 000 people are convicted for contravening the ban on dagga — a huge problem for Correctional Services Minister Siphon Mzimela, whose ministry is responsible for prisons and spends R200 million jailing those convicted.

"Don't forget our ancestors used to smoke, and it was respected long before the pale people came to this part of the world," Mr Mzimela told parliament last year.

One of the few Western doctors in favour of the decriminalisation of the controversial plant is Frances Ames of Cape Town.

Cannabis has an antibacterial effect, helps with asthma and could alleviate the side-effects of chemotherapy, she reports in the latest edition of the South African Medical Journal.

"South Africa should follow the Australian example and allow medical use," she proposes, adding that cannabis needs to be scientifically researched.

Mr Mahlaba, chairman of the African National Healers Association, regards research of this kind with suspicion: "Universities and pharmaceutical companies want to earn money with our knowledge and we will get nothing." — Sapa-DPA.

# SA doctors support US tobacco war

(87) ~~(88)~~  
BY CATO FEDDER

CT(MR) 23/1/96  
Johannesburg — The Food and Drug Administration in the United States, which wants tobacco declared a drug, has received support from the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa).

President Clinton's administration is embroiled in a row with American tobacco companies.

Dr Edoo Barker, the chairman of the science and education committee of Masa, said yesterday that the institution fully supported moves in the United States to declare tobacco a drug.

"It has been unequivocally proven that tobacco, besides being addictive, causes damage to the health of smokers and those in their environment".

Masa, along with Dr Yusuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking, would like to see a complete ban on tobacco advertising.

At the recent conference of the Organisation of International Doctors against Tobacco in Stockholm, it was agreed that the most urgent task facing doctors was to reduce the incidence of first-time smoking among children and teenagers.

No national survey has been taken of the incidence of smoking among children in South Africa, but smaller studies show almost the same proportion of children smoke as adults. Most smokers begin before they are 16.

In a survey of township primary schools in Cape Town, it was found that 46 percent of primary school boys smoke compared with 50 percent of adult African males.

A spokesman for United Tobacco said that its advertising was not directed towards children.

He said that the company adhered to a voluntary advertising code and did not portray chil-



**LIGHT UP** The Medical Association of South Africa supports moves in the United States to have tobacco declared a drug and would like to see a complete ban on tobacco advertising in South Africa

dren younger than 18 in its advertisements.

Masa takes issue with claims that tobacco advertising does not induce first-time smoking among non-smokers, especially young people.

Saloojee believes that advertisements in places such as sports grounds makes them attractive to children by signifying excitement and drama.

He also says that the tax on

South African cigarettes is low compared with other countries. In South Africa the tax on a box of cigarettes is 35 percent to 38 percent of the retail price. In Europe and Britain the average is 76 percent tax.

The department of health is believed to have a fairly positive attitude towards a complete ban on tobacco advertising, but this could not be verified as it was unavailable for comment.

# 'Smokers who start in their teens will cut their life span by 25 years'

By JAMIE SIMON  
Medical Correspondent

Half the cigarette smokers who start in their teens and don't stop will be killed by tobacco in middle or old age, a leading researcher on tobacco and health, Prof Richard Peto, has said.

"Nearly everyone knows that smoking is dangerous, but they underestimate the dangers, or mistakenly think many other things are of comparable importance," said Peto, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF)'s Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at Oxford University.

"It's not dicing with death, it's tossing a coin," he warned.

Worldwide, tobacco and HIV were the only two big causes of disease that were increasing rapidly and HIV was not being vigorously promoted, Peto said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Smoking was killing three million people worldwide each year, two million of whom were in developed countries.

And, ICRF researchers predicted, unless cigarette consumption dropped significantly by the time the children of today reached

middle age in the 2020s, total global deaths from tobacco would reach 10 million a year; three million in developed, and seven million in developing countries.

Those risks applied to South Africa meant tobacco would kill

## Questions on death notices

People reporting a death in Gauteng will soon have to answer two extra questions on the death notice: "Was the deceased a smoker five years ago?" and "did you, the informant/next of kin smoke five years ago?" This is the core of the continent's most important study on the effects of smoking, which was launched in Johannesburg yesterday by statistician and epidemiologist Prof Richard Peto. The study will give prominence to smoking as a health and political issue, and support the anti-smoking lobby's bid to curb it. Some 300 000 death notices will be studied over the next five years to determine the risk of death due to tobacco-related diseases. — Medical Correspondent.

in adulthood two to three million of the six million youngsters who were under 19.

Tobacco was already the leading cause of adult death in developed countries and could well become the biggest cause of adult death, without exception, in the world, Peto added.

He said that most of those killed had been males in developed countries.

The female smoking epidemic had not peaked anywhere in the world, but, in the US, where women had been smoking for several decades, tobacco caused almost one third of all female deaths in middle age.

"If women smoke like men, they will die like men," he said.

But the main cause of the misunderstanding about the threat of tobacco was the long delay between cause and full effect.

About a quarter of smokers who start young will be killed in middle age, losing 20 to 25 years of non-smoker life expectancy, and another quarter in old age.

Stopping smoking before having cancer or some other serious disease avoided most of the later excess risk of death from tobacco, he added.

Star 30/1/96

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# Pouring cold water on lighting up hot ashes

**ANEEZ SÁLIE**  
HEALTH WRITER

IF you and a friend light up a cigarette right now, one of you will definitely die prematurely. Neither of you will live to 70.

Of the 19 million South Africans younger than 19, about 2,5 million will be killed by tobacco, research has shown.

Hot air? To convince you, experts are going to great lengths. They will use about 300 000 death certificates in the most important anti-smoking study yet, to determine the real death rate from smoking in South Africa.

The initiative will be launched tomorrow with the help of renowned statistician and epidemiologist Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University.

He is in South Africa as a guest

of the Cancer Association of South Africa and the South African Institute for Medical Research to deliver the Oettlé Memorial Lecture.

His topic is the Future Worldwide Health Effects of Current Smoking Patterns.

For the past two decades he has collaborated with Sir Richard Doll, whose world-famous study first conclusively proved that smoking causes lung cancer.

According to Dr Freddy Sitas, of the National Cancer Registry at the South African Institute for Medical Research, the study will analyse information from the 300 000 death certificates.

Existing death certificates will be modified by the addition of two questions — did the deceased smoke five years ago, and did you (next of kin or the informant) smoke five years ago?

He said: "This study will endeavour to measure the numbers and risk of death due to tobacco-related diseases.

"In addition, it aims to improve the way in which deaths are recorded.

"In Gauteng (the most populous province) the cause of death in a quarter of cases is unknown, which results in the loss of valuable medical statistical information."

With the assistance of Peto and the World Health Organisation, the study will be undertaken by the National Cancer Registry in conjunction with the Medical Research Council, the National Centre for Occupational Health, the National Council Against Smoking and the provincial authorities of the Western Cape and Gauteng.

(87) ET 31/1/96

# Smoking kills half of those 'addicted' says Oxford expert

ARG 2/2/96

(87)

JENNY VIALI, Health Reporter

HALF of all smokers die from their habit.

And there's an 80 percent chance that smoking is the cause of heart attacks in people in their 30s and 40s.

So says Richard Peto, a prominent Oxford University epidemiologist, in Cape Town to lecture on smoking.

"While most people know that smoking can kill, most people don't know how dangerous it is," he says.

Professor Peto likens the high risk from smoking to tossing coins. "One side you die, the other you live. That's a 50 percent chance of dying in middle-age from smoking."

On average, a person who dies from smoking in middle age (35 to 69 years old) loses 20 to 25 years of his or her life.

Professor Peto warns that the smoking and Human Immunodeficiency Virus epidemics must be taken seriously.

"They're big and they're getting bigger - fast. Worldwide, the only two big causes of disease that are increasing rapidly are tobacco and HIV."

Health priorities in South Africa are the under five-years-old mortality rate, HIV infection and smoking, believes Professor Peto, who welcomes Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's stand on smoking.

"Politicians must take a stand. People should be informed when they make choices. It's the size of the risk that matters."

For prevention, what really matters is not current mortality from previous smok-

ing, but future mortality from current smoking patterns, says Professor Peto.

"At present rates of smoking in South Africa, you're heading for 100 000 tobacco deaths each year. In developed countries, tobacco is already the biggest cause of premature death. Smoking causes about one-sixth of all deaths in developed countries, and this proportion is rising."

Getting across the message that smoking kills is hindered by confusion over present effects and long-term effects.

"The key problem is the long delay between smoking and the increase in death risk," says Professor Peto.

The risks of smoking were first highlighted in the 1960s and 1970s, based on data from the 1940s and 1950s.

"Thirty years down the line, and we now know that half of all smokers are killed by their habit," says Professor Peto, who was involved in the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's groundbreaking study of smoking among British doctors.

People are misinformed about smoking, he says, knowing that it is risky, but not the extent of the risks.

Figures from the United States show that among 1 000 20-year-olds who smoke

regularly, six will die from homicide, 12 from car accidents and 250 will be killed by smoking in middle age alone. A further 250 will die from smoking in old age.

Figures in Britain are, respectively, one from homicide, six from car accidents and 250 from smoking in middle age.

In the United States, cancer rates are decreasing overall, but lung cancer is rising steadily.

More women now die of lung cancer than breast cancer.

A new study in South Africa by the National Cancer Registry will start later this year, using information from death certificates.

This will show results within five years as to the extent of the epidemic in South Africa, highlighting South African peculiarities.

The good news, says Professor Peto, is that stopping is beneficial,

even if you stop in your 40s, and if it's done before you develop cancer or other serious diseases.

Of course, the earlier you give up, the more the benefit.

Smoking low-tar cigarettes doesn't make that much of a difference, says Professor Peto.



# Tobacco profits may go up in smoke

New allegations against the tobacco industry look set to make it all the way to the US Supreme Court, reports **Mark Tran**

**T**HE tobacco industry has never paid a penny in damages to smokers, but that record is in jeopardy amid accumulating evidence that cigarette companies dissembled on the addictive power of nicotine and new legal moves by opponents.

The industry's only brush with defeat came when a court awarded \$400 000 to the relatives of a New Jersey woman, Rose Cippollone, until the decision was overturned on appeal.

The basic argument deployed by tobacco companies — that smokers enjoy cigarettes at their own risk — has always triumphed. But that contention looks vulnerable after allegations by Jeffrey Wigand, former vice-president for research and development with

Brown and Williamson (B & W), a subsidiary of BAT in the United States.

Most Wall Street analysts believe the tobacco industry will wriggle free once more, but some are less certain. Diana Temple of Salomon Brothers believes that a huge smokers' class action suit in New Orleans could make it all the way to the Supreme Court.

While this and other lawsuits are unlikely to affect tobacco company profits, she asserts that they will have a psychological effect, driving share prices down.

Even before any trial, Wigand has furnished devastating testimony against the tobacco industry.

In a CBS prime-time *60 Minutes* programme, he alleged that tobacco companies covered up evidence that nicotine is addictive, that they manipulated the level of nicotine in cigarettes and that tobacco execu-

tives lied under oath about these matters before Congress.

The programme appeared after the *Wall Street Journal* published an article on Wigand's deposition in Mississippi, which is suing tobacco companies to recoup millions of dollars spent treating smoking-related illnesses.

**Smoking imposes little extra cost on local governments and may even save states money when sick people die young**

Tobacco companies are marshalling arguments to counter that of "unjust enrichment", being used by Richard Scruggs in a Mississippi case.

A veteran of the asbestos wars that led to the bankruptcy of Johns Manville, Scruggs is using money he made then to take on tobacco. The Mississippi suit does not focus on allegations of wrong doing but on the general theme of justice and equity. The suit, filed by a group of lawyers brought together by Mississippi attorney general Mike Moore, seeks damages of \$200-million on

behalf of the state — to cover the expenses Mississippi is said to have incurred to care for poor people with tobacco-related illnesses.

Even if they lose, the tobacco companies are unlikely to sink into bankruptcy, but they will be obliged to bear a greater percentage of the costs picked up by taxpayers.

In their defence, they argue that states are already compensated for smokers' health by the revenue from hefty excise taxes, that smoking imposes little extra cost on local governments and may even save states money when sick people die young, and that health costs cannot fairly be separated from tobacco's overall contribution to the economy.

But a report in late January by the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta found that the direct medical costs of smoking in the US came to \$50-billion a year — more than double the \$21-billion revenue from tobacco agriculture and manufacturing.

A forthcoming study by two Uni-

versity of Michigan professors is expected to conclude that tobacco accounts for a net economic loss in all but six big tobacco-growing states, and that states would gain substantially if people spent their cigarette money on anything but tobacco.

In fact, the tobacco industry is in decline, with employment in tobacco farming and manufacturing down.

For now, however, tobacco companies continue to rake in profits. RJR Nabisco is under siege from corporate raiders Carl Icahn and Bennett LeBow. LeBow, owner of Liggett tobacco, wants the company to spin off its food unit and merge the RJ Reynolds tobacco group with Liggett.

Nabisco argues that a spin-off would trigger lawsuits by anti-tobacco plaintiffs who could claim that the company was trying to shelter its tobacco assets under the food unit. But that contradicts RJR Nabisco's earlier argument that litigation against the tobacco industry is unlikely to succeed.

The confusion is a fair sign of the company's nervousness.

(87) (87) M+C (Sm) 16-22/2/96

# Cocaine dealers find a lucrative market in new SA

(87) Star 21/2/96

'Many of the things that make this country so great are the things that give it such potential for major international drug dealing'

**NEW YORK TIMES**  
Johannesburg

On a weekday afternoon recently, the streets of Hillbrow were alive with commerce - vendors selling fruit from plates on the sidewalk, barbers working under makeshift tents, men sitting behind ancient pedal-powered sewing machines, willing to tailor at a moment's notice.

But everywhere, it seemed, there were also anxious young whites. A group of white teenage girls, still in school uniforms, approached a doorway looking over their shoulders. Across the street, two white boys waited outside a gate nervously jiggling their pockets. At a service station, a young white woman darted from her car to speak to a man on the corner. The exchanges - money for drugs - were quick and not particularly subtle.

Nearby, in Yeoville, runners waited on the grassy corners of each block, approaching any car that slowed down. "What you looking for?" was the opening line.

While a crack epidemic raged through the United States and much of Europe in the 1980s, this country remained virtually free of cocaine. International sanctions, which isolated South Africa from the world and eventually helped to topple the apartheid government, had the unexpected benefit of also isolating South Africa from the hugely addictive drug.

But now, as South Africa returns to the world economy, it has become a target for drug traffickers seeking to enlarge their markets.

In the last few years, the amount of cocaine confiscated here has soared, and even more telling, officials say, the price of the drug on the street has plummeted because so much is available. Heroin use is also on the increase, though not as fast as cocaine.

"A few years ago, if you'd get a few grams, that was a decent case," said Supt Ian Ralph of the Johannesburg narcotics squad.

"Now, it's much bigger. Cocaine is freely available, just about any time of the day or night. It's all over the place, and it's still getting worse."

## Police fear cocaine will be as cheap as Mandrax

Police officials admit that they are hardly ready to combat the influx of drugs. The South African police force has only about 400 men assigned to the task nationwide.

At Johannesburg airport, where international flights have more than doubled since 1990, no new narcotics agents have been hired, and the X-ray machine they used to inspect luggage coming off the planes broke down more than a year ago and has not been replaced.

Police officers at the airport are amassing an interesting collection of suitcases with false bottoms and storage containers made to look like everything from hair-spray cans to engine parts. But there is no doubt about how much gets through.

In one instance, the officers found an unaccompanied suitcase filled with cocaine. By checking shipping records and comparing handwriting, they were able to figure out that it was only the latest shipment from a dealer who had passed more than two tons of cocaine through

new status in the drug world has drawn the attention of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, which announced last month that it would soon open an office here.

The British have promised to do the same.

South Africa not only has a sizable population rich enough to use drugs. It is also strategically placed between South America and the Far East and is therefore particularly attractive to drug dealers looking for a transit point for shipments to Europe.

It also boasts the best airports, ports and roads in Africa.

"Many of the things that make this country so great are the things that give it such potential for major international drug dealing," Thomas A Constantine, the head of the DEA, said after touring the country.

While South Africa is only now discovering cocaine and heroin, it has al-

## Potential for violence is immense with crack

ways had a drug-using population.

Most popular was a powerful, locally grown marijuana called dagga that has played a role in tribal customs for centuries.

More recently, a synthetic drug called Mandrax, which is manufactured in South Africa and India, has been popular. Mandrax was a legally available sleeping pill until the 1970s. Since then, many South Africans have taken to crushing it, mixing it with marijuana, and smoking it.

Officials estimate that 4.5 million tablets of Mandrax were sold in this country last year, for between R30 and R40 a tablet.

Those who run rehabilitation centres say they first began seeing cocaine addictions about four years ago. But in recent months, there have been more and more users of crack, the smokeable and most addictive form of cocaine.

"It's getting totally out of hand," said Dr Sylvaine de Miranda, the director of Phoenix House, a rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg.

"Four years ago, we might have had one cocaine case a year. Now we are getting six to 12 inquiries a day."

For the time being, the smallest quantity of cocaine usually sold here is a "rock" of crack, which sells for about R54. Police officials say their greatest fear is that cocaine - which is half the price it was a year ago - will become as cheap as Mandrax.

"Crack is much, much worse than Mandrax," said CJD Venter, the head of the country's organised crime task force. "If they can swing that market, then the potential for violence is enormous."

The cocaine sold here originates in South America, and in South Africa it is usually distributed by Nigerians, who come in as tourists or refugees. They rarely use the drugs themselves.

Their customers are largely white, since whites are the most likely to be able to afford cocaine.

At a rehabilitation centre here recently, a 16-year-old girl described her downward spiral of addiction to cocaine. In three months, she said, she wiped out her R11 500 savings account. Then, she said, she pawned her jewellery and even her shoes. Then she started stealing from her parents.

"I found I could buy cocaine any-



Tricks of the trade: A person in a white protective suit and mask, likely a biohazard or chemical spill response team, working in an industrial or laboratory setting. The person is leaning over a piece of equipment, possibly a large container or a piece of machinery. The background is dark and indistinct.

Drug market has expanded tremendously, police admit they cannot combat the influx. At Johannesburg airport, international flights have doubled in five years but no new planes have been ordered. X-ray machines used to inspect luggage broke down more than a year ago and has not been replaced.

# Legalise dagga or else, warn Rastas

(87) Star 24/2/96

By **WILLIAM-MERVIN GUMEDE**

Rastafarians this week threatened to block off all roads leading to Johannesburg International Airport as part of a campaign of mass action if dagga was not legalised by the Government soon.

David Mejane, general secretary of His Imperial Majesty's Voice (Him Voice) - the organisation of Rastafarians - said members of the organisation who were in jail for dagga-related offences were ready to go on mass hunger strikes immediately if their demands were not met.

"Members outside prisons will barricade all the main roads leading to Johannesburg International Airport," Mejane said.

"We will follow this up with marches countrywide to force the Government to accede to our demands," he said.

Mejane praised Minister of Correctional Services Sipo Mzimela for supporting the legalisation of dagga.

"We thank the minister for his supportive speeches favouring the decriminalisation of ganja," he said.

Him Voice has petitioned Minister of Justice Dullah Omar for the legalisation of the herb.

Mejane said his organisation was not satisfied with the responses given by Omar and said it gave the minister until the third week of March to respond positively to their demands or face mass action.

Omar told the group to make submissions outlining their proposals to the Constitutional Assembly.

"We use ganja for religious purposes, but it is still illegal in South Africa today, and thus our religion is regarded as illegal. This is completely out of step with the draft constitution,

which allows freedom of religion," he said.

He said there were about 34 clauses in the draft constitution which indemnify Rastafarians from prosecution. These were based on religious freedom, indigenous law, freedom of association, non-discrimination, promotion of culture and even protecting business from state interference.

"We are not seeking conflict with the authorities over the issue of legislation of ganja; our religion preaches negotiation.

"We are marching for the legalisation of ganja to obtain the freedom to practise our religion," Mejane said.

The movement is planning to make submissions, accompanied by supporting research and documentation, to the Constitutional Assembly.

"All that we ask from the Government is to legalise our holy herb," said Mejane.

# Rastas threaten jail strikes, roadblocks for dagga's sake, (87)

JOHANNESBURG. — Rastafarians have threatened to block off all roads leading to Johannesburg airport as part of a campaign of mass action if dagga is not legalised by the government soon.

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ARG 24/2/96  
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## Poor awareness of drug abuse in Africa

(87)  
VIENNA — Africa has become a transit continent for illegal drugs and more and more Africans are abusing narcotic substances, yet there is little awareness about the scale of the problem, according to the UN. **BD 28/2/95**

In its annual report for last year, the UN International Narcotics Control Board says knowledge of "drug abuse forms, trends and consequences in Africa is limited". In many countries treatment facilities for drug addicts are limited.

Some countries are making advances however. In Nigeria the government has been establishing separate drug units in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric departments of general hospitals.

The International Narcotics Control Board was set up in 1968 as an independent quasi-judicial control body to implement UN drug control treaties. The board says heroin seizures increased in 1994 and that trafficking in Asian heroin has spread from eastern to western Africa.

While just over a third of cannabis stocks seized by police in Europe in 1992 originated in Morocco, this doubled to 70% by the end of 1994. SA is also a major producer of cannabis, most of which is consumed locally.

As has been the case elsewhere, drugs intended for other continents often end up on the local market. SA authorities have reported to the board a huge increase in the quantity of cocaine seized over the past four years. Cocaine abuse has also risen in many western African nations.

The board also noted an increase in the abuse of synthetic drugs such as so-called Ecstasy or MDMA and a variety of amphetamines, hallucinogens such as LSD and "designer drugs" — derivatives of the main synthetic drugs. Some synthetics, such as amphetamines, are legally prescribed.

The board says that there is evidence that diversion of legally imported shipments and inadequate supervision of pharmaceutical supplies play an important role in the spread of such abuse in Africa. — Sapa-IPS.



# Abuse grows as Africa becomes big drugs pipeline

ARG 28/2/96

(87)

VIENNA.- Africa has become a transit continent for drugs and more and more Africans are abusing narcotic substances, yet there is little awareness about the scale of the problem, according to the United Nations.

In its report for last year, the UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) says knowledge about "drug abuse forms, trends and consequences in Africa is limited".

In many countries treatment facilities for drug addicts are limited although the continent is witnessing an increase in the abuse of drugs, both plant-based and synthetic.

Some countries are making advances, however.

In Nigeria the government has been establishing separate drug units in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric departments of general hospitals.

But elsewhere it has been left to non-governmental organisations to take the lead in establishing facilities for the care of drug addicts.

The INCB was established in 1968 as an independent quasi-judicial control agency to implement UN drug control treaties.

Its annual report is based on reports submitted by states, collated media, Interpol and other data.

The INCB has in past years expressed concern that international drug cartels are exploiting the legislation and enforcement gaps in Africa and using the continent as a transit point for drugs destined for Europe and North America.

It reports that the number of heroin seizures increased in 1994 and that trafficking in heroin - originating in Asia - has spread from East to West Africa.

A leading cannabis producing country is Morocco, particularly its mountainous Rif area.

Whereas just over a third of cannabis stocks seized by police in Europe in 1992 originated in Morocco, the proportion doubled to 70 percent by the end of 1994.

"Trafficking is organised by criminal gangs having connections with syndicates in Western and Southern Europe," the INCB reports.

South Africa is also a big producer of cannabis, most of which is consumed locally.

The board says the large number of

seizures of cannabis in Europe originating from Nigeria indicates substantial illicit production in that country as well.

As has been the case elsewhere, portions of the drug consignments intended for other continents end up in the local market, increasing the number of users.

South African authorities have reported to the INCB an increase in the quantity of cocaine seized and the number of addicts seeking treatment over the past four years.

Cocaine abuse has also been increasing in many West African nations, where the practice has spread to poorer sectors of society, due to falling prices.

The INCB has given considerable attention to what it sees as an increase in the abuse of synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy or MDMA, and a variety of amphetamines, hallucinogens such as LSD, and designer drugs - derivatives of the main synthetic drugs.

Some synthetics, such as amphetamines, are prescribed for a variety of illnesses, though their medical benefits are thought to be limited.

The INCB says that there is evidence that diversion of legally imported shipments and inadequate supervision of pharmaceutical supplies play an important role in the spread of drug abuse in Africa.

Indeed, a new study by the UN Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) on stimulants says poor pharmaceutical networks have led to the rise of informal suppliers of ordinary medicines who can easily turn their hands to illicit trafficking of synthetic drugs.

Some substances imported officially to be used for veterinary purposes have been diverted to the illicit market in Africa.

In an effort to control the import and diversion of such substances, the board has called upon countries to follow the example of India and some European countries.

These ask the importing countries and the INCB to confirm the authenticity of documents when doubts on the legitimacy of transactions exist.

Besides following such steps, African countries should also respond in a "timely and proper" manner to such inquiries by the board or other countries, the report urges. Sapa-IPS.

## Industry ignoring health regulations, says lobby

Jacqueline Zaina (87) (48)

THE anti-tobacco lobby, spearheaded by the Tobacco Action Committee, is taking a hard line on tobacco advertising.

It wants advertising of tobacco products banned in the wake of what it sees as the failure of the industry to implement health regulations adequately.

"The industry has ignored the Tobacco Products Control Act and conducts itself as if it were above the law," said committee chairman Ken Shephard.

Newspaper advertisements often did not list tar and nicotine content, and in many cases the warnings occupied a mere 10% of the total advertising space, rather than the stipulated 15%.

The anti-smoking lobby was also fighting to have the provision for equal radio airtime reinstated in the Tobacco Products Control Act. The provision that allowed for as much air time to flight health warnings and educational messages as was allocated to cigarette advertisements had been scratched from the Act in a concession won by the tobacco industry from the NP government.

Anti-smoking advertisements currently flighted on radio represented the views and concerns of the health department and anti-tobacco lobby groups, but were sponsored by the radio stations. The SABC stopped flighting free health warnings in October. "The SABC's reluctance to offend the tobacco industry, which spends R50m a year on television and radio advertising, is hardly surprising," said Shephard.

Why buy a



Tobacco production: Africa has the lowest rate of cigarette consumption in the world and represents a huge growth market PHOTO: KEN OOSTERBROEK

# Tobacco tax lights up a fire

The 18% excise duty increase on cigarettes displeases both anti-smoking lobbyists and the tobacco industry, reports Karen Harverson

**A**NTI-SMOKING lobbyists are disappointed at the 18% increase in the excise tax on cigarettes announced in the Budget on Wednesday.

Total tax on cigarettes (including value-added tax) now comprises about 42% of the selling price compared to 37% last year and, in effect, pushes the retail price of cigarettes up by only 4%.

"This puny increase in tobacco tax cannot be justified in either fiscal or health terms," says executive director Yussuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking.

He says this will contribute a mere R220-million a year to the state's coffers, whereas, "if the Minister of Finance had heeded our call to increase the excise tax by 100%, R1-billion would have gone to the state".

Saloojee reports that the price of tobacco is the single largest factor determining short-term patterns of use "so when the price goes up, consumption falls and when price goes down, consumption rises".

Over the past 25 years, excise duties on tobacco, after adjusting for inflation, have dwindled from more than R1-billion in the early 1970s to less than R750-million in the 1990s. Saloojee

finds it strange that at a time when health care costs associated with smoking are rising, real government revenue from the tobacco industry is declining.

"In 1972, 70% of the price of a packet of cigarettes was excise tax — by 1990, that had declined to a mere 23% of the price," says Saloojee.

But in the last three years, government has got tougher on the tobacco industry, raising excise taxes way above the inflation rate.

Despite these increases, however, South Africa still has one of the lowest tax rates in the world. South Africa's total tax on cigarettes is 42% of the retail price (37% in 1995), against 60% in Japan, 74% in Brazil, and 76% in the United Kingdom.

Saloojee adds that the sharp decrease in excise taxes since 1970

M+G (PMM) 15-21/3/96

has enabled manufacturers to reduce the real price of cigarettes. Cigarettes are 21% cheaper today than they were in 1970. "As a result, tobacco consumption has increased at an annual rate of 1,8%."

So how much do South Africans smoke? Saloojee estimates about 35 billion cigarettes were consumed in 1994/95, a figure which has been in a slight decline for the past few years, owing to the downturn in the economy.

"There's a close correlation between increase in income and increase in consumption."

But it seems Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg has equally displeased the tobacco industry. Says United Tobacco Corporation corporate affairs manager Hilary Thomson: "We're disappointed at the high increase in excise duty ... it has gone up way in excess of inflation over the past three years."

She adds that international experience indicates that as excise rates increase, so does smuggling. "In South Africa, this is exacerbated by a manpower shortage in the Department of Customs and Excise, which prevents them from effectively policing borders and ports of entry."

**E**xecutive chairman of R&R Tobacco Daan Prins concurs, adding that smuggling is already prevalent. "I'm also concerned that there appears to be no correlation between the increase and the inflation rate."

Saloojee is dismissive of the tobacco industry's fears about smuggling, adding "it should not be a barrier to healthy public policy".

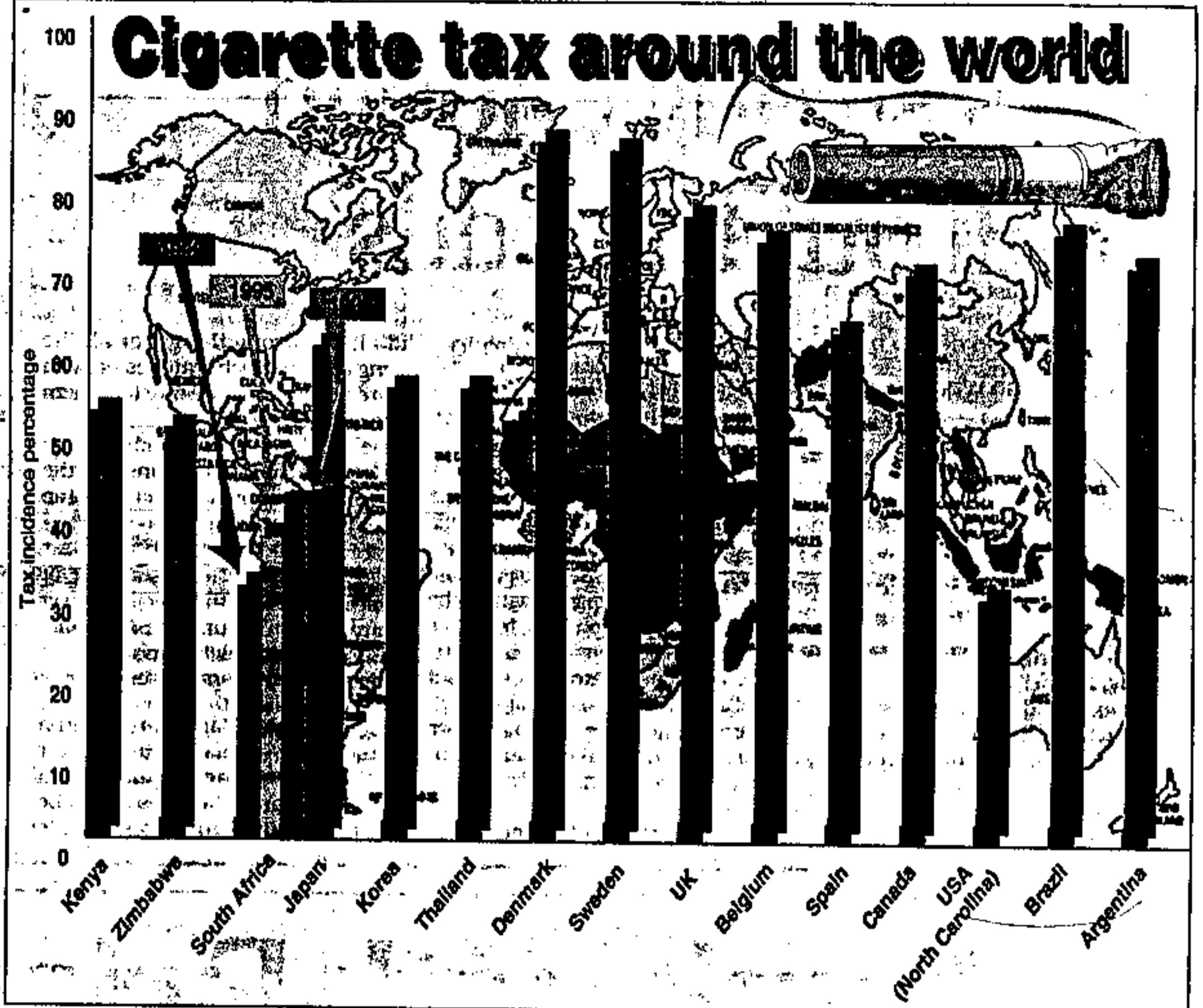
He states that controlling smuggling in South Africa should be even easier now, because of the distinctive health warnings which appear on local packaging.

R&R Tobacco (formerly Rembrandt) dominates the South African

market, supplying more than 80%, while United Tobacco Corporation is the second biggest player. Imported cigarettes account for a mere 3%.

With the arrival of British company Imperial Tobacco Limited into South Africa, Saloojee reckons other companies may be looking to South Africa as a springboard into the rest of Africa.

Africa has the lowest rate of cigarette consumption worldwide and represents a huge growth market, but with high risk. Instead, international tobacco giants are targeting markets in China, Eastern Europe and South East Asia.



Smokin': South Africa still has one of the lowest tax rates in the world

GRAPHIC: VAL SING

# Tobacco group's legal battle has wide implication

(87) ~~87~~ ARG 16/3/96

WASHINGTON. — One day, as historians survey the Great Tobacco Wars that raged across America for most of the second half of the 20th century and into the following millennium, March 13, 1996, may prove to be the decisive turning point.

For on that day the Liggett Group, smallest of the country's five main cigarette manufacturers, struck a landmark deal in the largest of the class action suits brought on behalf of aggrieved smokers against the companies.

The annual payment involved is puny, just \$2m (R8 million), or three hours worth of profits for the \$45 billion US tobacco industry. But a Rubicon has been crossed.

In America, the most litigious country on earth, lawsuits beget lawsuits. Hitherto the greatest psychological bulwark for the companies was their boast that in decades of litigation — in which they had been accused of everything from making people addicted to their product to killing them — they had paid not a single cent in damages. Hundreds of millions of dollars in legal defence costs, millions of words of obfuscation, evasion, half-truth and denial — yes. But never had a plaintiff actually won.

That absolute no longer holds. Small in itself, Liggett's surrender means Big Tobacco is no longer invincible.

Its champions, of course, hold otherwise. Even though the settlement formula would imply a pre-tax cost to the industry of \$800m (R3,2 billion) annually, analysts insist the risk of massive legal payments has long since been factored into share prices. Take, for example, Philip Morris, the largest, richest and most intransigent of the companies, which accounts for half the US cigarette market; its shares might be worth \$150 (R600) today instead of around \$100 (R400), were Mars Bars or Big Macs, not Marlboros, its flagship product.

"We intend to fight and win all of the cases in which we are involved," was the company's predictably dismissive reaction to Liggett's white flag, as it damned a settlement "so full of holes that it won't affect our approach to litigation". And the arithmetic of that defiance is crystal clear. Under the proposed settlement, Liggett's agreement to pay out \$2m is a far better bargain than the \$10m (R40 million) it currently shells out annually in legal fees. If Philip Morris accepted similar terms, it would be liable for \$440m (R1,2 billion) a year, or 12 percent of its 1995 pre-tax domestic tobacco business profit of \$3,7bn.

Then again, as analysts further point out, the behaviour of Bennett LeBow, chairman of Liggett's parent Brooke Group and the prime architect of the deal, is not unalloyed. Mr LeBow has designs on RJR Nabisco, the second-biggest tobacco company, in which he is a dissident shareholder. The Liggett deal has been tailored to help him persuade RJR's stockholders to dismiss the current board, approve a merger with Liggett, and split RJR-Nabisco's food and tobacco operations into independent entities. All of which, of course, would suit Mr LeBow mightily.

But even Philip Morris cannot discount the longer-term impact of what he has done. The monolithic facade of unity of the companies has been splintered. With Liggett gone, attorneys and the government will focus their fire on the other four major companies.

The Food and Drug Administration, the federal watchdog which seeks to have cigarettes regulated as drugs, has been handed a sweet victory in Liggett's undertaking not to give out free samples or use cartoon characters in advertisement.

That is an implicit acceptance of the FDA's assertion that these campaigns are deliberate attempts to hook children. — The Independent, London.

Historic US settlement paves way for action

# 'Quitting' tax for tobacco firms mooted

(87) (88) BD 18/3/96  
Jacqueline Zaina

THE health department may call for an extra tax on the tobacco industry to fund a programme for weaning people off cigarettes.

Department officials, in the wake of a groundbreaking out-of-court settlement in the US, said at the weekend they were studying proposals for a 5% "quitting levy". Had such a levy been in place last year, it would have cost Rembrandt and Utico a total of R60m.

The proposal had been mooted in the department last week by its consultants, and it was considering whether to call on the finance department to introduce the tax.

A spokesman for Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg said the department was investigating the cost implications of a "package" of proposals from the health department, but was unable to say whether it would be sympathetic to a "quitting levy".

The move follows US tobacco manufacturer Liggett's \$50m settlement with anti-tobacco lawyers, which sent shares of major tobacco companies sliding on Wall Street last week.

The deal, in terms of which Liggett, maker of Chesterfield, agreed to pay 5% of its pre-tax profit up to \$50m over the next 25 years to establish a fund to help people give up smoking, was heralded abroad as a turning point

which could see cigarette manufacturers sued for millions.

Director of the SA National Council Against Smoking Yussuf Saloojee said the Liggett case, in terms of which plaintiffs had in a class action lawsuit sought compensation for the consequences of smokers' addiction to nicotine, would open the way for SA smokers to institute similar proceedings.

The proposed levy would be another blow to the tobacco industry.

Rembrandt and Utico together had to spend R57m last year on packaging changes to carry prominent health warnings, and last week watched Liebenberg slap hefty increases on tobacco excise duties in the Budget.

Saloojee, a health department adviser, said most smokers wanted to stop and get help from "those responsible for their addictions".

Goldman Judin & Werner senior partner Michael Judin said: "We are going to see class actions similar to those in the US and Britain in this country, and tobacco companies would be well advised to take cognisance of the recent developments abroad."

R&R Tobacco Company CE Daniel Prins — Rothmans International's SA subsidiary — said a dedicated tax was not conducive to fiscal control as it would not be effected through normal democratic channels of tax collection and might not even be constitutional.

## Tobacco firms to wait and see

(178) (87)  
Jacqueline Zaina

BD 19/3/96

THE tobacco industry is adopting a wait-and-see approach to proposals for an extra 5% tax on tobacco companies mooted by health department consultants last week.

A spokesman for R&R Tobacco, representing the merged tobacco interests of Rembrandt and Swiss-based Richmond, said the proposal would be subject to negotiation. The group would wait to see what emerged. It is estimated such a tax would have cost Rembrandt and Utico R60m last year.

Utico corporate affairs manager Hilary Thomson said the tax could be unconstitutional. It would constitute unfair discrimination as it placed an unwarranted burden on a given sector of tax-payers.

# Drugs, substance abuse rife in city's schools

**ABDURAGHIEM JOHNSTONE**  
FREELANCE JOURNALIST

LITTLE is being done against the substance abuse now widespread in many junior primary and secondary schools in the Cape in spite of post-election rhetoric about waging war against the drug merchants and pedlars. The story told by Mrs Magdalene Hen-

dicks is common to many concerned mothers.

Mrs Hendricks awoke one morning recently after hearing a noise in her dining room.

She investigated and found her son Pedro Hendricks, 15, high on the glue she had bought to fix her shoes.

Pedro told her he had been introduced

to glue-sniffing at school.

Most teenage pregnancies occur at schools, many involving teachers, but these and gang fights, child abuse, teachers' fear of pupils and weapons in schools have been swept under the carpet to protect the good name of the schools concerned — and substance abuse has seen teachers, principals and NGOs interven-

ing at an unprecedented level.

Desmond Petersen, a Std 9 pupil at Tafelsig Senior Secondary, says members of gangs such as the Hard Livings sell drugs at school and so do pupils.

A Western Cape Education Department official said there were structures to assist in handling substances-abusers. (Names have been changed.)

(87) CT 21/3/96

# Society in a fix as increasing number of youths get hooked on designer drugs

(87) Star 28/3/96

Symptoms may have gone undetected because of the newness of substance in SA

By TAMSEN DE BEER

Doctors and others involved in rehabilitating drug addicts have spoken out against the designer drug Ecstasy, saying incidents of addiction, physical and psychological problems have increased dramatically in recent months.

Numerous cases of dehydration and cardiac distress have been reported at various intensive care units throughout Gauteng and there may have been an Ecstasy death in South Africa.

"Although Britain was the first country to report Ecstasy casualties, I wouldn't bet there hasn't been an Ecstasy death in South Africa because it would not have been recognised," said Sylvain de Miranda, doctor at rehabilitation clinics Phoenix House and Riverfield Lodge.

Medical and rehabilitation practitioners said Ecstasy-related problems have increased in the last three to six months, and described it as the latest "trend" in drugs. But, they said, many psychological and physical problems experienced by youngsters could go unnoticed and might not be diagnosed as Ecstasy-related because of the drug's newness and a tendency to protect the drug within rave

culture.

"Information is directly proportional to the spread of its use and only recently have we needed to find out about it," said De Miranda.

He said doctors and rehabilitation clinics had stressed upon authorities a database of ecstasy-related incidents and information about the drug was vital to monitor its growing use.

Doctors had noticed a recent surge in what they term "bizarre" effects on Ecstasy-users. They attribute this to drugs mixed with Ecstasy: cocaine, heroin, ketamine and LSD.

"We are picking up some very bizarre mental symptoms which should not belong to pure Ecstasy, almost bearing on psychotic episodes - the flashbacks common with LSD or resembling acute schizophrenic disturbances," said De Miranda.

Severe hallucinations and dissociation, where a patient was distraught, thinking a particular body part had fallen off, were common, he said. Such dissociation De Miranda attrib-

uted to ketamine, a dissociative anaesthetic.

Panic disorder has been reported internationally as an acute effect of taking Ecstasy, where serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain, is damaged.

Phoenix House superintendent Rita van Rensburg said six of the home's 15 patients were suffering from Ecstasy-related problems, and ranged in age from 16 to 30 years.

Problems included severe fatigue, physical pain, depression, anxiety, paranoia and psychosis, she said, adding that all the patients were underweight.

Amphetamine, of which Ecstasy is a derivative, though it also has hallucinogenic properties, is itself a banned substance in most parts of the world.

Because of this, De Miranda said, there had not been the stringent laboratory and human trials that a legal substance would undergo before being released on the market. Ecstasy was originally marketed as a

## What scares

### us is kids now start off on E



"We have found a lot of types of prostitution where girls as young as 15 sell themselves to drug dealers and runners to pay the R120 for Ecstasy," said Toughlove chairman Cheryl, who wished not to reveal her last name. "Ecstasy-users seem to think of themselves as different from other junkies, and have a love relationship with the drug, refusing to believe it is dangerous," she said.

"What really scares us is that a few years ago kids would start with cough mixture and dope. Now they start off with Ecstasy, LSD and cocaine," she said.

safe drug and is still seen as such within rave culture. But De Miranda said even in its pure form it is dangerous.

Overdosing can cause serious overstimulation of the heart, over-exhaustion and dehydration. After taking the drug users are abnormally tired.

"Over the long-term you may get real mental changes, including suspicion and paranoid delusions that people are trying to harm you," he said.

Toughlove, a support group for the parents of children on drugs, said seven out of 10 phone calls received from the parents of under-age children were Ecstasy-related.

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# Airport tobacco ads to disappear

ARG 28/3/96  
Staff Reporter

ALL tobacco advertisements are to be withdrawn from Cape Town International Airport and George Airport - and alcohol advertisements may disappear as well.

This follows a charge laid with the police by the Tobacco Action Committee (TAC) that advertisements in George contravene the Tobacco Products Control Act.

The Airports Company's Hennie Taljaard confirmed this week that the ads and billboards would be pulled down.

He said alcohol advertisements might soon get the same treatment.

A charge laid by TAC said that on ads at George Airport, the health warnings were smaller than required by law, and the tar and nicotine content of the cigarettes was almost illegible.

"The cigarette manufacturers are deliberately ignoring health regulations and dodging their legal responsibility to inform the public of the level of hazardous constituents in tobacco," a TAC spokesman said.

The Tobacco Institute of South Africa declined to comment.

The Airports Company has since reviewed its policy on tobacco adverts and the banning decision was taken as Mr Taljaard believed the adverts clashed with the offering of smoke-free zones to customers.

Instead, tourism in the Western Cape would be promoted, he said.

"We would far prefer to advertise God's creations."

At least seven ads had fallen and the remainder would disappear by April 15, after they had run their course.

The TAC spokesman regarded the decision as "a big step towards civic responsibility by The Airports Company".

# Govt to ban tobacco ads

Jacqueline Zaina

87) ~~114~~  
BD 114/96

GOVERNMENT plans to ban tobacco advertising in an attempt to rein the industry in.

The health department said at the weekend that Minister Nkosazana Zuma planned to introduce "comprehensive tobacco legislation" as proposed by the World Health Organisation to ban tobacco advertising, and that the industry had flouted current health warning regulations.

Officials did not put a timeframe on the plans, nor whether they would include banning tobacco promotion through sponsorship or marketing activity.



# Dagga used as medicine puts traditional healer in a hazy legal position

(87)

SMW 2/4/96

Salomon Mahlaba's practice in Johannesburg is piled to the ceiling with boxes and sacks of bulbs, grasses and roots, among them dagga.

"One of my most important medicines is dagga," says Mahlaba, a traditional healer.

He prescribes an infusion of dagga and calamus, a fibrous root, to small children for coughs.

"The mixture kills bacteria and viruses," the 41-year-old medicine man says.

"The dagga works as a stimulant to keep the child fit."

According to the Medical Association of South Africa, some 80% of black people put their faith in the abilities of traditional healers.

Combined with the Igonsi bulb, dagga produces an excellent aphrodisiac, Mahlaba says.

"It opens the lazy veins and gives old men lasting pleasure."

Mahlaba stresses that "Dagga must be used in a controlled way. When young people smoke it for fun, they are abusing the drug, and some go crazy."

About 175 000 tons of dagga are harvested each year in South Africa, and the production area is around 825 square kilometres.

Mahlaba and his 200 000 colleagues find themselves in a legal grey area, for the cultivation and consumption of dagga is forbidden in South Africa as in most countries.

Every year around 11 000 people are convicted for contravening the ban on dagga - a huge problem for Correctional Services Minister Siphon Mzimela, whose ministry spends R200-million to keep those convicted behind bars.

"Don't forget our forefathers and foremothers used to smoke, and it was respected, long before the pale people came to this part of the world," Mzimela told Parliament last year.

"Just because we have been through brainwashing, we regard dagga as something evil."

The opposition reacted with shock, saying that dagga led to violence and was a threat to society. One of the few Western doctors in

favour of the decriminalisation of the controversial plant is Frances Ames of Cape Town.

Dagga had an anti-bacterial effect, helped with asthma and could possibly alleviate the side-effects of chemotherapy, she claimed in the latest edition of the South African Medical Journal.

"South Africa should follow the Australian example, and allow medical use," she proposes, adding that dagga needs to be scientifically researched.

Mahlaba, chairman of the African National Healers Association, regards research of this kind with suspicion: "Universities and pharmaceutical companies want to earn money with our knowledge and we will get nothing." - dpa Features.

# HEALTH CARE ISSUES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

## Addiction not self-inflicted but a 'terminal disease'

ARG 18/14/96 (87)

There is definitely a growth in the incidence of substance abuse, says Lyn Dick, manager of Riverfield Lodge.

"There are more cocaine addicts than ever before and alcoholism is still a major problem," she says.

Dick attributes the growth of these additions to the stress of modern-day life and to the availability of drugs.

Riverfield Lodge is the only private clinic of its kind in the country and has been open for almost seven years. The clinic keeps patients' identities confidential and has a multidisciplinary team of doctors, psychologists, nurses and therapists.

Although Riverfield Lodge is a private clinic its rates are less expensive than those of a private

hospital and medical aids are starting to accept that addiction is not self-inflicted but is a disease, so treatment is becoming far more accessible.

However, Dick says one of the biggest problems with alcohol and drug addiction is that people do not acknowledge they have a problem.

"So we only see people at Riverfield Lodge when they can't help themselves anymore," says Dick.

"The effects of alcohol and drugs are much the same, in that they damage the organs and brain and affect thinking and family life," she adds.

Mike Abelheim, confirms Dick's views. "I didn't realise I had a dependency problem until after I crashed with a cocaine ad-

diction, then looking back and analysing my dependency with the aid of a therapist I discovered that I had also had an alcohol dependency," he says.

Abelheim, who is a chartered accountant, Comrades Marathon silver medalist and iron man, says cocaine gave him a feeling of euphoria.

Initially his usage of the drug was controlled as he only used it with friends and he had no direct access to it.

It was only after he made direct contact with someone who sold cocaine and the drug became easy to obtain that he used it more frequently.

Abelheim says although cocaine became his substance of preference he tended to use both the drug and alcohol excessively.

Eventually his family who noticed a change in his behaviour and confronted him urging him to get treatment.

"However, I was in denial. I believed I could stop when I wanted to and I was ashamed to go for rehabilitation, because I was a professional person and didn't know how I could have become addicted.

"When I left rehabilitation I was straight for a few months, then a friend introduced me to crack, a highly addictive form of purified cocaine, which is smoked.

"The drug is also very expensive and resulted in my ruin. I lost everything, my money, job, assets and will to live," he adds. Abelheim entered rehabilitation for the second time.

"At Riverfield Lodge you go through a detoxification period during which the staff make you as comfortable as possible with medication," says Abelheim.

"After detoxification you go into one-on-one therapy. It was then that I realised that addiction is a terminal disease, which if not tackled will land you in jail or in the mortuary.

"Slowly I started to regain control of my life and regain my ability to make a choice.

Though Abelheim agrees that drug abuse is a growing problem in SA he believes alcohol abuse is just as problematic, yet little is done to warn people.

For more information call Riverfield Lodge at (011) 460-1970.



Riverfield Lodge ... provides one-on-one therapy for people with substance abuse problems.

Star 31/5/96

## Fewer smokers as public heeds government health warnings (87)

Fewer South Africans are smoking and the public appears to be heeding the government health warnings, a survey commissioned by the Department of Health reveals.

The department's policy and planning deputy director-general, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba - at a reception to mark World No Tobacco Day today - said the number of smokers had been reduced by at least 2% last year, according to a survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

The anti-smoking lobby is using World No Tobacco Day to raise awareness on how the tobacco industry uses sponsorships to promote its products.

Singer Yvonne Chaka

Chaka and Springbok Johan Roux will be guests of honour at Department of Health activities highlighting this year's theme: "Sports and Arts Play it without Tobacco".

Springbok Chester Williams is featured on a poster to be distributed to all schools, which will bear the slogan: "Be a winner - don't smoke".

According to the National Council Against Smoking, the local tobacco industry - since the introduction of health warnings on tobacco advertisements - has shifted to sponsoring sports and music events.

Advertisements promoting these events do not carry health warnings and can be shown on television. - Staff Reporters.

## FOCUS ON TOBACCO INDUSTRY

# Sports, singing stars unite against smoking <sup>(87)</sup>

CT 31/5/96

**JOHANNESBURG:** To celebrate World No Tobacco Day today, the Department of Health has revealed that a survey has shown there are now 500 000 fewer smokers in SA.

**R**AISING awareness of how the tobacco industry uses sponsorships to promote its products is the focus of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) today.

Singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka and rugby Springbok Johan Roux will be guests of honour at Department of Health WNTD celebrations today to emphasise this year's theme: "Sports and Arts. Play it without Tobacco".

Springbok Chester Williams is featured on a poster to be sent to schools nationwide with the message: "Be a winner — don't smoke."

According to the National Council Against Smoking, the local tobacco industry has shifted its advertising budgets to sponsoring sports and music concerts since the introduction of health warnings on tobacco advertisements.

Advertisements promoting these events do not carry health warnings and can be shown on television, the council said.

They made a sham of the Advertising Standards Authority Code of Practice which said tobacco advertising should not depict sports or entertainment celebrities.

The World Health Organisation (Who), which is co-sponsoring World No Tobacco Day with

the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United National Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), says sports and arts sponsorships are ethically unacceptable.

Sports and cultural events which should celebrate good health and intellectual freedom were cynically used as an opportunity to promote addictive and hazardous products among the young, the Who said.

It has proposed instead that governments increase taxes on tobacco products and use the revenue to allow health organisations to become sponsors.

Also, it has invited individuals and groups in the arts and sports to pledge not to promote tobacco use with sports/cultural events.

Tobacco companies will not be allowed to advertise or promote their products at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Meanwhile, a top Department of Health official said yesterday the number of South Africans who do not smoke has increased by two percent during the past year as the public heeded government health warnings.

Speaking at a reception to mark World No-Tobacco Day, Dr Ayan-

da Ntsaluba said the Human Sciences Research Council and Medical Research Council had found in a survey commissioned by the department that "the regulations requiring health warnings on tobacco advertisements and tobacco packaging have been effective in reducing smoking in South Africa".

The survey — conducted among 2 200 adults nationwide — showed that while 34% of adults smoked in February 1995, the figure had dropped to 32% in February this year.

This meant that there were half-a-million fewer smokers in the country.

"The decline in the number of people who smoke may appear modest, but given the addictiveness of nicotine the achievement is significant," Ntsaluba said.

The health warnings were seen by 83% of the adult population and 95% of those who had seen, read or heard the warnings thought they were helpful and informative, the department said.

The survey found that 78% of the population supported regulating smoking in public places and 68% wanted a ban on tobacco advertising.

It also found that 50% would support increases in excise if the extra revenue raised was used to promote health. — Sapa, Special Correspondent

# Smoking on borrowed time

VENILLA YOGANATHAN

Own Correspondent

WITH the national Department of Health seemingly bent on transforming South Africa into a smoke-free haven, an increasing number of public service groups and private companies are introducing smoking bans on their premises.

According to Yussuf Saloojee, head of the National Council Against Smoking, around 30 per cent of private companies throughout the country do not allow smoking on their premises or have restricted it to certain parts of their buildings.

And following closely on the heels of British Airways recently, SAA has introduced smoke-free domestic and international flights.

National Minister of Health Nkosazana Zuma has so far made no secret about her campaign to cut the number of smokers in South Africa and to make smoking-related laws as stringent as possible.

Last year, she kicked off by introducing new cigarette advertising legislation.

It is now compulsory for 30 per cent of the cover of a cigarette packet to contain advertising warnings about the dangers of smoking.

In keeping with international standards, South Africans could soon be stubbing out more than they are lighting up in public places and at work as the trend to implement smoking bans gains momentum.

A toll-free help-line, which offers free advice on how to quit smoking, is also required to be printed on all packs.

If hard-hitting proposals – based on New Zealand's anti-smoking legislation – which were put before a parliamentary committee, are adopted, companies soon could be obliged by law to implement strict smoking policies.

Among the proposals which have been given the thumbs-up already by the health minister are:

- A smoking ban at all workplaces where offices are occupied by more than one person, unless written permission was obtained from non-smokers.

- In open-plan offices, each non-smoker must also provide written permission before his or her smoking colleagues can light up, or alternatively, employers should consider providing smoking rooms.

- A complete ban on smoking in conference rooms, lifts, corridors and other shared rooms.

- Company cafeterias would have to bar at least half of their dining areas to smokers, or hold two separate dining sessions.

- At restaurants, similar rules would apply, with owners being obliged to cater at least half of their dining tables for non-smokers.

- At schools, technicians and universities, smoking would be completely outlawed, as it would be in public transport vehicles such as buses, taxis and trains, except in designated compartments.

- If the proposals are accepted and become law, employers that failed to obey the rules could be held liable for several thousands of rands in fines or spend six months in prison.

Staff who failed to comply could face similar penalties.

At companies which have implemented smoking bans already, staff, even heavy smokers, appear to have adjusted easily.

If anything, smoking bans have led to long-standing addicts cutting

down on their nicotine intake, or even giving up completely.

At the NBS open-plan corporate headquarters in Durban, neither staff nor visitors are allowed to smoke in the building, except in specially provided smoking rooms.

Mahala Manley, assistant general manager of human resources, said the smoking ban had not affected productivity.

"Staff are permitted to smoke during their lunch-breaks and are permitted to smoke breaks during the day."

She said smokers were now smoking fewer cigarettes and non-smokers were no longer suffering from the effects of passive smoking.

"It may be inconvenient for a while, but people get used to it and it solves the smoking problem."

Smoking also is banned in most parts of the TWS Communications building in Durban.

Deputy chairman Denzil Bradley said the company had catered for the majority of the staff, who were non-smokers, by implementing the ban.

"Fortunately, we didn't have any heavy smokers. The smokers on the staff were all mainly social smokers, so in our case, the ban has worked very effectively," he said.

Yvette Baxter, public relations officer for Adcock Ingram, said smoking was not allowed at the company's Mobeni-based buildings, except in the canteen.

Staff were allowed to smoke only during their tea-breaks and lunch-breaks.

"It has been very effective and has not affected the day-to-day running of the place."

Welcoming the change in attitude towards smoking, Mr Saloojee said the National Council Against Smoking campaign, definitively was bearing fruit.

Painting a morbid picture for both smokers and non-smokers alike, the anti-smoking group's Mr Saloojee predicted that smoking would become the No 1 cause of death in the world in less than five years.

Already 3 million people were dying of smoking-related diseases each year throughout the world, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Mr Saloojee said.

But even people who had never smoked a cigarette in their lives would not escape from the effects of smoking, as passive smoking could lead to their contracting fatal diseases, he quoted the WHO as saying.

Star 1/6/96

# More companies join the clean air bandwagon as puffers banished

By VENILLA YOGANATHAN  
and BENITA VAN EYSSEN

With the Department of Health seemingly bent on transforming South Africa into a smoke-free haven, an increasing number of public service groups and private companies are introducing smoking bans on their premises.

According to Dr Yussuf Saloojee, head of the National Council Against Smoking, some 30% of private companies throughout the country do not allow smoking on their premises or have restricted it to certain parts of their building.

Following closely on the heels of British Airways, SAA has introduced smoke-free domestic and international flights.

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma has made no secret about her campaign to cut down on the number of smokers in South Africa and to make smoking-related laws as stringent as possible. Last year she introduced new cigarette advertising legislation that made it compulsory for 30% of the cover of cigarette packets to contain a warning about the dangers of smoking.

The phone number of a toll-free helpline, which offers free advice on how to quit smoking, must also be printed on all packs.

If hard-hitting recommendations - based on New Zealand's anti-smoking legislation - which were put before a parliamentary com-

mittee are adopted, companies could soon be obliged by law to implement strict smoking policies.

Among the proposals which have already been given the thumbs-up by Zuma are:

■ A smoking ban at all workplaces where offices are occupied by more than one person, unless written permission is obtained from non-smokers.

■ In open-plan offices, all non-smokers must provide written permission before their smoking colleagues can light up; alternatively, employers should consider providing special smoking rooms.

■ A complete ban on smoking in conference rooms, lifts, corridors and other shared areas.

■ Company cafeterias would have to bar at least half of their dining areas to smokers, or hold two separate dining sessions.

■ Similar rules would apply in restaurants, with owners being obliged to have at least half of their dining tables for non-smokers.

■ At schools, technikons and universities, smoking would be completely outlawed, as it would be in buses, taxis and trains, except in designated compartments.

If the proposals are made law, employers who fail to obey the rules could land up paying heavy fines or face stiff jail terms. Staff who fail to comply could face similar penalties.

At companies which have already implemented smoking bans,

staff, including heavy smokers, appear to have adjusted easily. If anything, smoking bans have led to addicts cutting down on their nicotine intake or giving up completely.

Smokers at Standard Bank's head office have to leave their desks to smoke in demarcated smoking areas in its open-plan offices. To accommodate the rights of both smokers and non-smokers, Standard took to designating smoking zones in all its buildings, including bank branches, after researching the policies of other companies here and abroad. Of the corporation's 30 000 staff, between 20 and 30% are smokers.

Group human resources manager John Thompson said: "Initially, productivity was negatively affected but this has changed since most staff have developed some sort of routine when it comes to smoke breaks."

Eskom's Megawatt Park offices were declared smoke free late last year. Of the almost 4 000 staff, those who smoke do so in one of 28 coffee bars or special smoking areas. According to spokesman Peter Adams there has been no noticeable decrease in productivity and the policy has been very effective.

Welcoming the change in attitude towards the killer habit, Saloojee said the National Council Against Smoking's campaign was definitely bearing fruit.



# Tobacco industry could cough up

Samantha Sharpe

GOVERNMENT could consider calling on the tobacco industry to refund it for costs associated with treating smoking-related illnesses, the health department said at the weekend.

The department, which has already mooted an additional 5% tax on the industry to help fund a programme to wean people off tobacco, said it would consider all recommendations aimed at reducing the effect of tobacco on health and the economy.

Spokesman Marie Venter said latest Medical Research Council estimates showed tobacco cost SA around R2,2bn a year in lost productivity due to premature death and hospitalisation and outpatient costs in the public sector alone. This represented a "conservative" analysis, she said.

The Tobacco Institute for Southern Africa dismissed the department's proposals. Spokesman Cor Leijenaar said the figure appeared to be incorrect.

According to a detailed study, he said the tobacco industry made a contribution to the economy which far exceeded the alleged social cost of smoking.

He said there were "serious reservations" within government about the 5% tax "regarding the undesirable effects of dedicated taxes of this nature, namely the way they bind the hands of the fiscal authorities in apportioning tax revenues to the most pressing national needs of the day".

The industry had contributed about R3,1bn in taxes last year, he said. □ **Kathryn Strachan** reports that new research suggests that recently introduced health warnings on cigarette packs and adverts may be taking effect, the council and the Human Sciences Research Council said on World No-Tobacco Day on Friday.

The studies indicated a decrease of 2% in smoking trends

among adults in the past year, taking the smoking rate down to 32%. It also showed 23% of smokers would like to stop smoking and 18% of smokers have tried to quit.

The department and the Medical Association said that the health risks of smoking have been substantially underestimated. Studies show that 50% of smokers will eventually die of this addiction, with half of these deaths occurring in middle age (35 years plus).

This year's focus has fallen on the role athletes and artists can play in promoting non-smoking and also to raise awareness about how the industry uses sponsorships to promote products and to buy legitimacy and allies.

The International Olympic Committee also put its weight behind World No-Tobacco Day, and it is not allowing tobacco companies to advertise or promote their products in any way at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The World Health Organisation says that sports and cultural events, which should celebrate good health and cultural independence, are cynically used to promote addictive and hazardous products among the young.

With the introduction of health warnings, the industry has shifted its advertising budgets to sponsoring sports and music concerts. Advertisements promoting such events do not carry warnings and can be televised.

The National Council Against Smoking says they make a sham of the Advertising Standards Association code which requires that "no tobacco advertising will depict... celebrities in the sporting or entertainment world nor any other person who shall particularly appeal to those under 18 years."

The WHO has proposed governments increase taxes on tobacco products and allow health bodies to use the revenue to sponsor arts and sports.

(188) (87)  
SD 3/6/96

# Call for national anti-drug body

*A-G says state hasn't done enough to fight abuse*  
(87) ARG 28/6/96

**LINDSAY BARNES**  
Staff Reporter

AN umbrella body dedicated to fighting the scourge of drugs in South Africa must be set up urgently, according to Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn.

Mr Kahn was responding to shocking statistics released this week showing drug addiction in the province may have risen phenomenally during the past year.

This week, local Minister of Health Ebrahim Rasool said the government had not done enough during the years to recognise the importance of fighting drugs.

Mr Kahn called on parliament to amend existing legislation to allow for the formation of a national body, as had been done successfully in America with its Drug Enforcement Agency, and in Canada.

Furthermore, it was embarrassing that South Africa had not yet signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 because of bureaucratic delays, and this should be done immediately.

A huge 58 percent increase in drug addicts seeking help for the first time was recorded during 1995 at the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre, the only one of its kind in the Western Cape.

The centre also warned that Cape Town had become the Man-

drax capital of the world and might soon find itself in the same situation with crack.

Mr Kahn said South Africa was becoming a transit country for international drug traffickers and he branded the Drug Advisory Board, formed in 1993, "toothless" as it reported to the Minister of Social Welfare when it should be reporting straight to the President.

The board should be a decision-making body instead of an advisory one.

He said the central anti-drug body should co-ordinate all departments fighting drug abuse in some way, such as the departments of justice, foreign affairs, trade and industry, safety and security, customs and excise, foreign affairs, welfare, health and education, in conjunction with the community.

"It is a matter of putting all these disciplines under one umbrella, under the watchful eye of the president," said Mr Kahn.

He outlined current shortcomings in the fight against drugs:

"In the past, the department of welfare has been loathe to use some muscle, but this must change, as must the frequent duplication of strategies in the present system against drug abuse."

Regarding the link between gangsterism and drug abuse, he said the national co-ordinating

body should be linked with the department of economic affairs so that, if it was unable to prosecute drug lords, it should be able to tax them at least.

The government was relying too much on the community in that in the whole of the Western Cape there was only one drug counselling centre, which was on the verge of collapse because of financial problems.

South Africa desperately needed a national training institution for tackling the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and, like community policing bodies, each community should have a drug-fighting forum.

A uniform database should be established on national and international fronts.

Then, for instance, South African officials could be alerted about the intended migration to the country of internationally-notorious drug smugglers.

A free data exchange, run by this central body, should get top priority.

A monthly intelligence report from all African states and other countries with trade links with South Africa should be issued and customs officials should be alerted to pending imports or exports.

Customs officials also required further training on the identification of authentic documents, he said.

# Curbs will reduce print media to ashes

By CHERYL HUNTER

**R**igid anti-tobacco legislation, in line with the growing global lobby against smoking, is poised to impose severe restrictions on advertising which the media industry currently relies on for a substantial portion of its revenue.

Most forms of media, including newspapers, radio and magazines, are largely dependent on the tobacco industry for millions of rands worth of advertising and sponsorship each year.

If South Africa chooses to follow international trends next year by banning tobacco adverts, certain media could face a financial crisis.

The World Health Organisation has drawn up draft legislation advocating a total ban on the advertising of tobacco and its related products and the Ministry of Health in South Africa is considering adapting those recommendations here.

But many people are unsympathetic as they believe the media has played a decisive role in perpetuating the culture of tobacco smoking with their financial dependency on the tobacco industry.

Executive director of the Council Against Smoking, Yusuf Saloojee, said he favoured the ban because advertising influences young people more than adults.

"They remember advertising better and are more influenced by it. They also read more adverts than adults," he said.

Tobacco advertising preys on our perceptions of ourselves, according to Saloojee. "African and Asian women very rarely smoke, so the tobacco industries are targeting their marketing at these women," he said.

He cited recent Japanese and Indian adverts where a new brand of cigarette was being aimed directly at women in those countries and marketed as symbolising a "Western, affluent, feminist

lifestyle" where "the ideal woman declares her independence with a decision to smoke".

"This is a woman's health issue," Saloojee said.

The Tobacco Products Control Act, implemented in 1993, effectively prohibits the sale of cigarettes to anyone under 16 years of age, allows the Minister of Health to regulate smoking in public places and makes it a legal requirement to carry health warnings on tobacco products and advertisements.

When this was introduced, however, the SABC used its enormous lobbying power to make sure that health warnings were not required on radio.

## Tobacco firms can accept big restrictions

strong argument against health warnings on radio was that tobacco advertising comprised up to 20% of the revenue for many of the radio stations and that the tobacco industry had threatened to withdraw all advertising if they were forced to carry a warning with the adverts.

**T**he SABC won out - but not entirely. A compromise was reached where there would be no health warning accompanying the adverts, but a percentage of time would be allocated for counter-advertising and this would be broadcast at no cost to the council by the SABC. Hence the "And now we're really smoking" adverts.

This reprieve was granted to radio stations until May 1996 and renewed by the Ministry of Health this year, but things may change considerably next year. Radio Africa's advertising sales and

Staw 5/7/96

(87)

marketing manager, Rob Hayne said: "We have been given a reprieve until May 1997, but this does not mean that there will be no more tobacco ads next year. We will lobby extensively to keep on advertising and our chances of success are pretty good."

His belief in their ability to deflect the health department's attempts at regulation relies on the financial implications of discontinuing tobacco advertising.

"The public broadcaster needs to be financed and we cannot burden the taxpayer with this shortfall."

His confidence may be inappropriate. One of the largest international tobacco companies and the makers of Marlboro cigarettes, Phillip Morris, are so worried about US proposals to regulate the industry that they have agreed to support strong measures to curb tobacco use by minors if the US government drops efforts to regulate tobacco.

As part of a new federal law to restrain teenage smoking, they have said they will accept a nationwide minimum age of 18 for buying tobacco products, ban cigarette names and logos on t-shirts, baseball hats and other non-tobacco items, establish a \$250-million (about R1-billion) enforcement fund to be financed by the tobacco industry, ban all outdoor advertising of tobacco products within 300m of a school, ban sales of single cigarettes or packs with fewer than 20, ban all cigarette vending machines and ban tobacco advertising at sports events with significant youth audiences.

This they are willing to accept in return for continued exemption from regulation by the US Food and Drug Administration - whose proposals include regulating what goes into a cigarette and labelling cigarettes "nicotine-delivery devices".

But Saloojee and his US colleagues criticise this move. "A US survey shows

their cigarettes from vending machines and this concession would not affect sales.

"They are effectively giving in on the smaller battles to avoid the larger ones which will cost them dearly," he said.

**O**ther members of the media industry have taken a hardline stance. "Personally I am against compromising people's freedom of activity and this is exactly what is being proposed here," general manager of sales at Times Media Limited, Trevor Ormerod, said.

"We will support the tobacco industry for as long as we can," he said.

Ormerod said there simply are no alternatives for advertising revenue. "When cellular phones were introduced here we were very happy because they represented more revenue, but there's no way they will make up for the loss of the tobacco industry."

Independent Newspapers advertising and marketing director Steve Serfontein said banning the adverts would represent "an abuse of people's rights" by not allowing for freedom of choice.

"Not only that, but I believe we will lose a lot of employment, which is the last thing we can afford," Serfontein said, adding that radio and the print media would suffer the most from the change in advertising revenue.

Hayne also believed that there would be a "hole" if tobacco advertising was banned. "We can only hope that these people would then buy the time currently utilised by cigarette ads," he said.

The Ministry of Health refused to comment on what possible legislation lay ahead for the tobacco industry, but the unspoken advice to the media was to start probing for alternative sources of

## Health warnings not needed on radio

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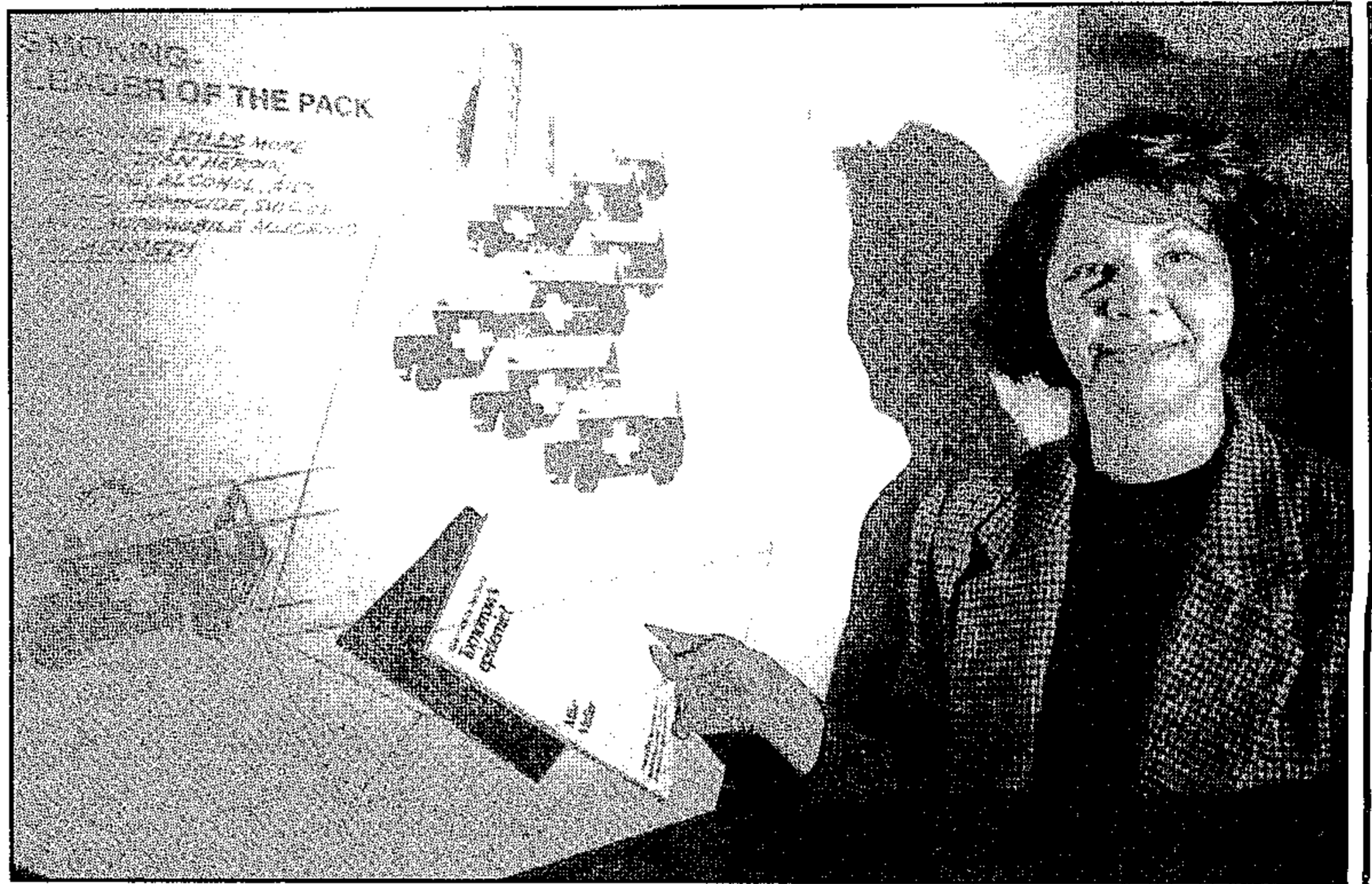
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# Statistics show rise in SA smokers



**PACK LEADER:** University of the Western Cape Public Health Promotion lecturer Blanche Tobias says World Health Organisation statistics reveal that smoking kills more people than heroin, cocaine, alcohol, aids, fires, homicide, suicide and automobile accidents combined.

PICTURE: ROY WIGLEY, Staff Photographer.

More black and coloured people are smoking and there are fears that tobacco companies will increasingly target disadvantaged communities for cigarette advertising campaigns.

**ADELE BALETA**  
Staff Reporter

MORE than half of all people in the Northern Cape are smokers and while overall three percent more South Africans are lighting up, the greatest increase in the number of people smoking is among the coloured population.

University of the Western Cape Public Health Promotion lecturer Blanche Tobias said the latest trends recorded by a recent study found that from 1992 to 1995 the highest overall smoking rate was for the coloured population (59 percent), followed by Asians (36 percent), whites (35 percent) and blacks (31 percent).

The study by the Medical Research Council which surveyed 2 200 adults indicated that 34 percent of adult South Africans (seven million) were smokers. Of these 52 percent were men and 17 percent women.

The Northern Cape had the lion's share of smokers (55 percent) followed by the Western Cape (48 percent) and North West Province (46 percent).

Ms Tobias said the current demographic profile of the South African population had been shaped by racial divisions.

"In South Africa there has been a close association between social class and racial classification with standards of health and longevity."

The MRC study and others had confirmed that there were increasing smoking prevalence rates among the coloured and black populations while rates among the white group were lowering.

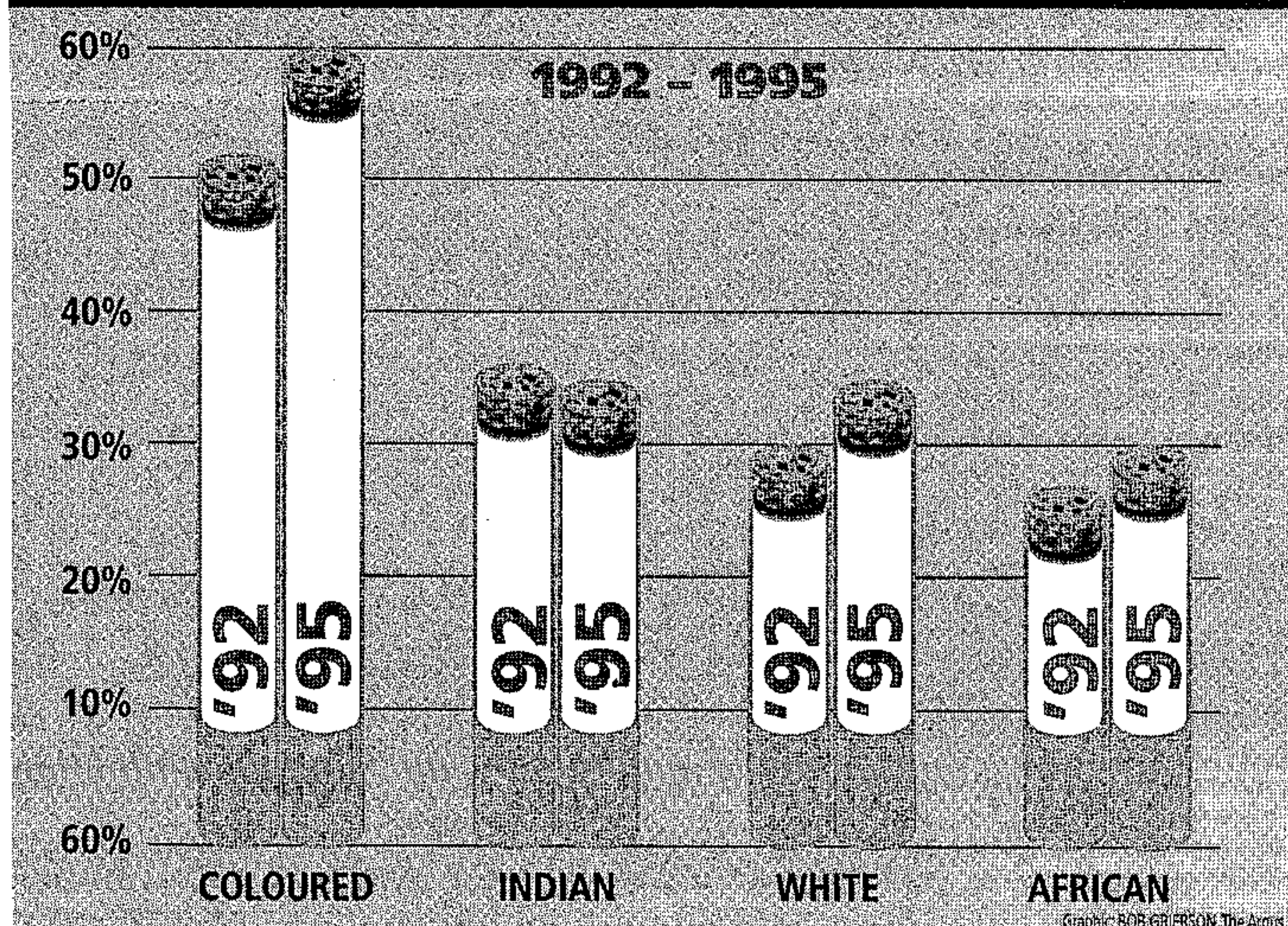
Comparison of trends in smoking prevalence from 1976 to 1990 indicated there had been an increase of 320 000 of new black smokers, 80 000 new coloured smokers and 40 000 new Asian smokers. There were 270 000 fewer White smokers than would have been expected if trends from 1976 continued.

"This decline in smoking among whites was for both men and women, with evidence of a decline among Asian men.

"In sharp contrast, smoking rates over the same period increased dramatically among coloured men and women and more slowly among black men. Less than 10 percent of black women smoke."

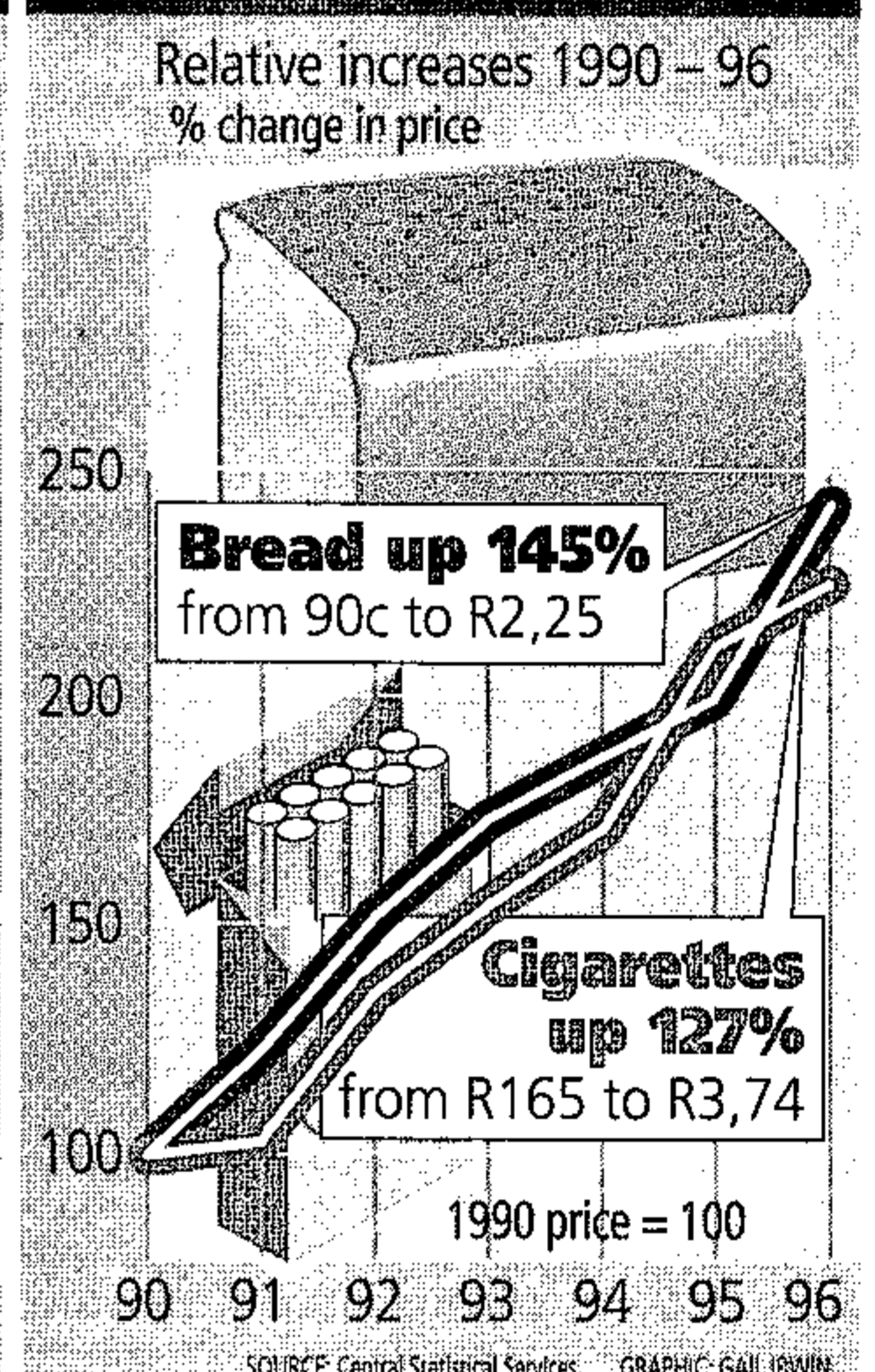
A disturbing trend was the increase in the number of pregnant coloured women who were smoking. Ms Tobias said there was a direct relationship between children who

## CHANGES IN SMOKING RATES BY RACE



Graphic: BOB GRILSON, The Argus

## BREAD v CIGS



SOURCE: Central Statistical Services GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN

had asthma and parents who smoked.

She said there was great concern that tobacco companies recently hit by controls on tobacco advertising would increasingly target disadvantaged communities through billboards and the print media and that greater emphasis would be given by the tobacco industry to supporting black arts, cultural and sports events.

Studies of schoolchildren in the Western Cape indicated that smoking was more common among boys over the age of 15 years. In a study carried out in an African township in Cape Town, 0,8 percent of girls and 23,7 percent of boys were smokers.

She said the increase in smoking was a public health concern for both smokers and non-smokers as well as the economy.

By 1990 over 25 000 tobacco-related deaths were being reported annually. The economic costs exceeded R2,5 billion in terms of lost productivity due to premature death and hospitalisation.

From 1968 to 1988 there was a 300 percent increase in lung cancer death rates in coloured women and a 100 percent increase with coloured men and white women.

## 'Price of bread rising faster than the price of cigarettes'

THE Ministry of Finance has been lambasted for ignoring calls to increase substantially the excise tax rate on cigarettes while increasing the price of bread at a faster rate.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Yussuf Saloojee said it was an "indictment" of the government's fiscal policy that the price of a staple food like bread had been allowed to increase faster than the price of a "harmful addictive drug like tobacco".

The retail price of bread, he said, had risen faster than the price of cigarettes in the past six years. Between 1990 and July 1996, the price of brown bread increased by 145

percent from 90 cents to R2,25 a loaf (this included the 10 percent increase in bread prices announced last week), while a packet of 20 cigarettes went up by 127 percent from R1,65 to R3,74 (retail price during May 1996).

Dr Saloojee said that in spite of recent excise tax increases, South Africa still has amongst the lowest tax rates on cigarettes in the world.

Taxes comprise 42 percent of the retail price of a packet of 20 cigarettes in South Africa compared to 86 percent in Denmark, 76 percent in the United Kingdom, and 73 percent in Germany.

"In fact, since the 1970's, the retail price of cigarettes has not kept up with inflation and

the real price of cigarettes has dropped in South Africa."

Dr Saloojee said, in view of this, it was not clear why the ministry of finance had repeatedly ignored calls from the Medical Research Council, the National Council Against Smoking, the Cancer Association of South Africa and other health organisations to make real and substantial increases in the excise tax rate on cigarettes.

"Making food more expensive and harmful substances more affordable is a doubly unhealthy public policy," he said.

Comment from the ministry of finance was not available at the time of going to press.

# Bread price rises outstrip cigarettes over last six years

(87) (1992)

Indictment of Government's fiscal policies, says anti-smoking chief

Star 22/7/96

By JAMINE SIMON  
Medical Correspondent

**B**read price rises have outstripped those of cigarettes by 18% over the past six years, yet the Government refuses to raise excise taxes on cigarettes, says Dr Yussuf Saloojee, executive director of the National Council Against Smoking.

Bread shot up 145% from 90 cents a loaf in 1990 to R2,25 now. Cigarettes rose 127% from R1,64 in 1990 to R3,74 now.

"It's an indictment of Government fiscal policy. The price of staple food has been allowed to

increase faster than that of a harmful addictive drug like tobacco," Saloojee said.

Despite recent increases, South Africa's taxes on cigarettes are among the lowest in the world, comprising only 42% of the retail price of a packet of 20, compared to 86% in Denmark, 76% in the UK and 73% in Germany.

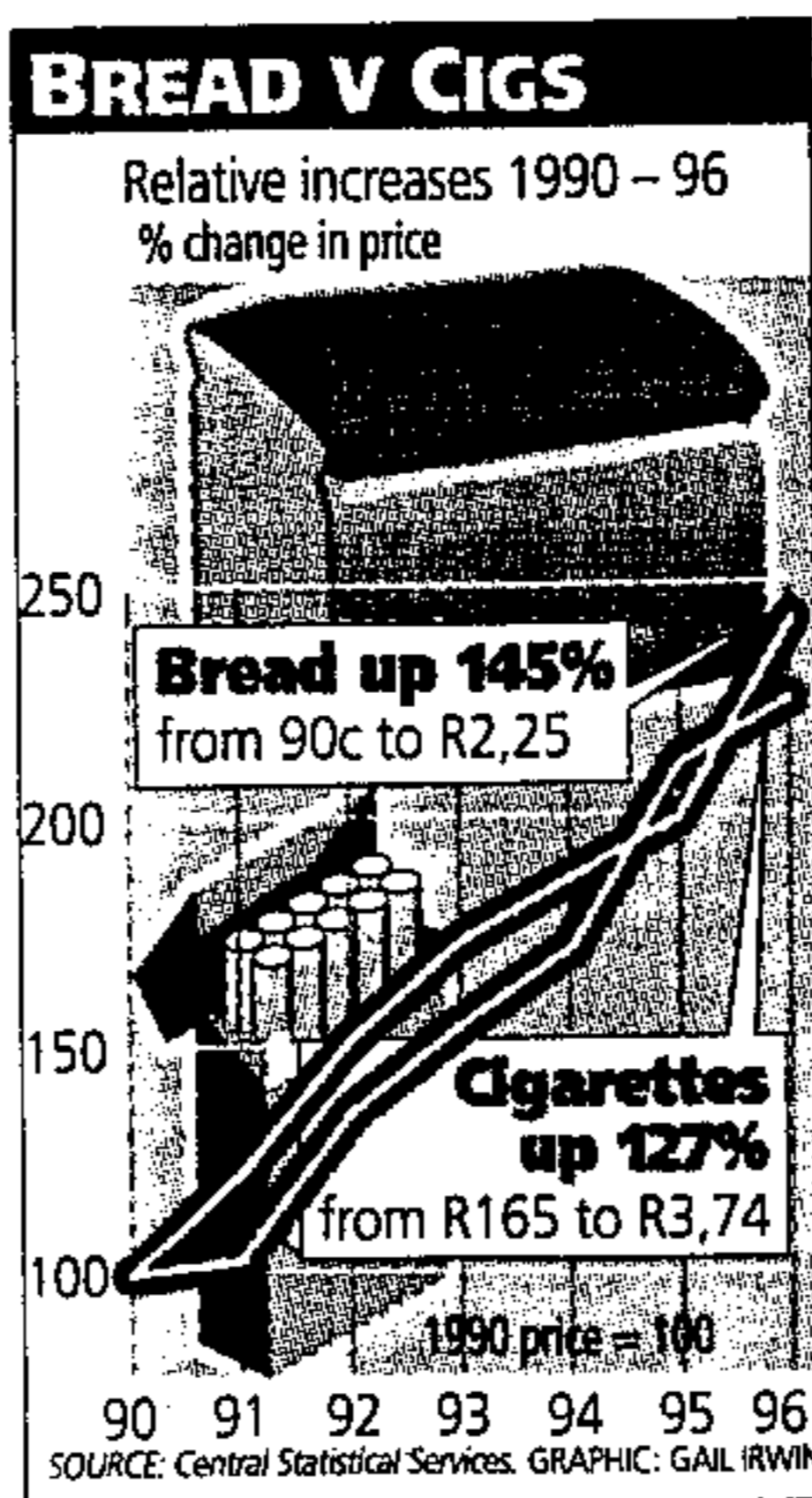
In 1960, excise taxes comprised 60% of the local retail price. Taking inflation into account, taxes comprised only 20% of retail price in 1990, Saloojee said.

Cigarette prices were directly related to consumption, he added.

In real terms the price dropped 37% between 1970 and 1989, while tobacco consumption rose more than 100% in the same period. The Government could raise R10-million for every one cent increase in excise tax, Saloojee said.

A 15 cent increase could set up a R150-million health promotion fund like that used in countries like Peru and Australia, and, for example, could easily take over the estimated R8-million tobacco companies currently spent on sports sponsorships.

The World Health Organisation estimates that by 2025, one in seven deaths will be caused by smoking-related illnesses. Seven million people will die in developing countries.



## Shops still sell ciggies to kids

(87) ~~88~~  
MOST shops and cafes sell cigarettes to children as young as 10 years — although it is against the law — without turning a hair, a Medical Research Council survey has found.

The survey found that although shops were banned from selling cigarettes to children under 16 years, 89% of retail outlets surveyed nevertheless sold cigarettes to children — most of whom were in school uniform. Of these, 88,7% sold the cigarettes without asking the children's age or whether the cigarettes were for their own use.

The results, published in the latest SA Medical Journal, said children between 10 and 12 years of age were recruited to carry out the experiment, visiting 200 cigarette outlets in greater Johannesburg.

The aim was to see whether retailers stuck to the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993, which makes it an offence to sell tobacco products to minors.

The survey sample included supermarkets, cafes, spazas and street vendors, and covered a wide range of racial and socio-economic groups. — Staff Writer

CT 20/8/96

# SADC cooperates on drug elimination

THE Southern African Development Community meeting in Maseru for its 16th summit will cooperate to ensure that the region does not become a producer, consumer, exporter, distributor or a conduit for illicit drugs destined for the international market.

SADC executive secretary Dr Kaire Mbuende said yesterday that protocol in the areas of trade cooperation, sharing of energy resources, improvement of trans-

port and communications, and combating drug trafficking, are expected to be signed by heads of state and government of the SADC at their summit to be held this coming weekend.

The aim of the trade protocol is to create an integrated regional market that will facilitate the economic development, diversification and the industrialisation of the region. - *Independent Foreign Service.*

*Sowetan 20/8/96*

# 'Tackle the drug industry financially'

*Expert calls for an economic war*

ART 26/8/96

DRUGS are at the heart of most of the crime and gang violence that has ravaged so many communities. The government – especially as a result of the ongoing conflict between Cape Flats gangsters and the organisation People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) – has developed tough measures to cope. But no plans have been announced to fight the bigger problem – that of the drug industry. Staff Reporter JOSEPH ARANES spoke to Daniel Nina, a human rights lawyer from Puerto Rico, who was involved in advising the George Bush administration during their drug war against Latin American countries.

THE battle to rid our society of the scourge of drugs and its related crimes must go beyond the arrests and prosecution of known drug lords and gangsters if there is to be a true and meaningful victory.

When declaring a war on drugs, the whole industry with its many faceless people, must be attacked, and the financial muscle it generates must be destroyed because more often than not, that blood money ends up in the country's mainstream economy.

The government recently announced a range of drastic measures to rid the streets of gangsters, drugs and guns: more policemen and army personnel were deployed and top detectives were assigned to investigate allegations of police corruption and crimes against the gangsters. But no plans were announced nor strategies identified on how the increasing traffic in narcotics would be fought.

The militant campaign led by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) has forced the government to seek urgent solutions to the crisis.

But were their responses well thought out or were they just more stop-gap measures to restore calm and settle the emotions that were running wild among ordinary citizens?

Daniel Nina, a human rights lawyer from Puerto Rico and academic manager of the Observatory-based Community Peace Foundation, said that from the government's response, he got the impression that they (the government) were more interested in appeasing communities than seriously tackling the drug problem.

Police figures showed that there were about 80 000 gangsters operating on the Cape Flats, most of whom were in some way connected to the drug industry. How effective would it then be to go around arresting known drug lords when there were thousands of others waiting in the wings?

Mr Nina said that in their efforts to clean up the streets, a serious effort must be made to crush the economics of the drug industry as there would always be more "little guys" to continue the operations.

He said while there were no simple solutions to the problem, serious consideration should be given to controlling the cash transactions taking place in the country.

The drug trade thrived on a solid cash flow. Drug dealers, like most people, aspired to improve the quality of their lives. Herein lies part of the solution, according to Mr Nina. Because drug lords seldom have cheque accounts or credit cards, they buy most of the goods they require with hard cash.

Rashaad Staggie had to pay a dealer at least R150 000 for a car. "The dealer did not question where the money came from and probably just accepted it. If, for example, there was legislation in place which forced the dealer to check on the source of the

finance through a state agency, the money would not have been allowed to enter the formal economy."

He said the country's drug industry was still small when compared to countries like Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, and if the right strategies were put in place, it could be contained and eventually destroyed.

"When tackling the problem, we need to define the parameters of the war and put into place an ideology about how destructive drugs are and outline all the negative aspects related to the issue."

The United States, for example, in their war against drugs in Latin America, used the term "narcotics" because it meant the same when translated from English into Spanish. They then built a vocabulary around it like narco-terrorism, narco-dollars and narco-guerrillas, all of which had negative connotations.

They involved all state departments in the war and even denied much-needed foreign aid to countries that failed to show a willingness to fight the problem.

But there were problems. There were no clearly identified enemies as the drug industry had too many players with a range of interests, and the countries had different ideas on dealing with the evil.

"In a country like Bolivia, during the early 1990s almost 80 percent of the economy was drug-related. Life tends to become very complicated when the drug barons have billions of dollars to spend and can buy just about anything – in some cases even governments.

"At the same time, they are always trying to legitimise their operations and entering into the formal legal economy to launder their money."

Mr Nina said most countries had systems in place to control and check cash deposits made at banks, but nothing in other sectors of the economy.

"This is what we need to look at. We need to have mechanisms making it very difficult for people to dispose of their ill-gotten money."

He said although South Africa was still quite a long way from the Latin American situation, it could go down that road if effective measures were not put in place.

Already the local gangsters had formed a cartel, The Firm, to control their interests in the industry. "The Firm are also moving away from their traditional drugs and are expanding the industry into other markets by supplying cocaine and other chemically produced drugs like ecstasy."

Mr Nina said short-term solutions like locking away drug dealers and gangsters would help but the only test to see whether the war on drugs was being won, was if the price of the drugs sky-rocketed.

"And unfortunately for Cape Town, the price of cocaine and ecstasy is becoming cheaper."



ET 29/8/96

## 68% in SA favour tobacco ad ban

PRETORIA: Altogether 68% of South Africans favoured a ban on tobacco advertisements, Department of Health director-general Dr Olive Shisana said here yesterday.

This was according to a recent survey commissioned by the department and conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

(87) (188)

promises are made to these people, but there is no direction. The Minister's answer today provided no solution to what is taking place. The Minister should start accepting responsibility and doing what must be done with regard to housing.

It is important that people have housing. If houses are not provided, we are always going to have the problem of squatting. [Interjections.] Members on the other side can make a noise, but they are the ones who made promises to the people. They have promised the people houses. Where are the houses? What about the promises they made during the election? [Interjections.] They are building luxury toilets for the people. [Interjections.] They are putting people in smaller and smaller houses, telling them that their demands are being met. They cannot put people in houses that are so small that they have to go outside to change their minds. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Would hon members please take their seats and stay in their seats. Could we have less noise, please.

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, it is a pity that the hon Mr Rabie and his colleague want to address issues which they are not quite familiar with. I would like to remind Mr Rabie that I amended the Housing Arrangements Act in February in order to empower local authorities to join us in the delivery of houses and also to take action around issues of landlessness and homelessness. He is part of the Portfolio Committee on Housing, and should remember that.

Secondly, it is a pity that people like to make grand stands in politics on issues which they themselves were unable to resolve. However, let me say to him that providing toilets is not the policy of this Government or my Ministry. The first thing I realised when I took over was that there were toilets that had been put up by policies which the hon member had supported. We are still trying to resolve that problem.

It is not true that my Ministry does not have solutions to the issues. I would like to invite him to follow the developments in my Ministry before he comes here and argues about issues that have been resolved long ago.

The local authorities and MECs have been given the power to make sure that illegal squatting is attended to within the rules and the terms of reference on illegal squatting. I hope that hon member of the national Parliament is aware of

that fact. Secondly, he should know—this is obvious to anybody with a mind—that one cannot allow people who are not on the list to go ahead of those on the list. He should know that by now, I also want to tell him that the serviced land that is available will be allocated to the rightful owners. [Time expired.]

Mr A E REEVES: Mr Speaker, I listened to the hon the Minister and, as normal and usual, that Minister is trying to pass the buck to someone else. She cannot accept responsibility. Look at the Naturena debacle that took place in Gauteng. Look at what is taking place there. What does the department do? It sits back, closes its eyes and says that the province must handle it. It is about time this department either became a department of sitting back and listening to people, or a department responsible for housing. It must decide what it wants to be, because it is definitely not handing down a clear-cut policy to the provinces on the problems with regard to squatting.

Mr J H MOMBORG: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I do not see a man in the Chair. [Interjections.]

Mr A E REEVES: Madam Speaker, it is typical of Jan Momborg to do this . . .

The SPEAKER: Order! May I rule on the point of order, please. I have allowed you to continue using the term "Mr Speaker". I would appreciate it if you showed courtesy to the Chair, and for you now to recognise who is in the Chair. You may proceed.

Mr A E REEVES: Madam Speaker, it is typical of Mr Momborg to do that and to waste people's time. It is also typical of those members, when one starts pointing out the correct or incorrect things that they are doing, to get up and make this type of interjection. [Time expired.] [Interjections.]

\*Mr J A RABIE: Madam Speaker, I am listening to what the Minister is saying and I am aware of what she is saying—the powers were devolved in terms of that Act—because I was part of that committee. However, she has not yet issued the criteria according to which local authorities must function. This is where we are reaching a dead end.

I want to quote further from my letter to the town council:

Om hulle hierdie langverwagte ideaal wat hulle

gekoeser het te onneem, is nie om geregtigheid te laat geskied nie. Ek versoek dus die stadsraad om nie met hierdie planne voort te gaan nie. Dit sal net onnodig gemoedere gaande maak.

Apart from the fact that I have not yet received an answer, it appears that the council is wilfully deaf and blind to the practical problem.

On 2 August 1996 the ANC made use of its voting power and forced this decision through, without being aware of any criteria that they had to apply which were derived from the national policy. The Minister must put an end to such haphazard decisions. I am in complete agreement. The Minister knows—I have been in her office—we know how to get people settled, but we are saddled with bottlenecks, because the national policy is not clear on the ground.

When Mr Reeves refers to luxury toilets, he is speaking about houses that are now being built—three metres by four metres—such as the old regime never built in its time. It built houses of 40 square metres and 54 square metres.

If we are now going to allow the people on the waiting list to be denied their privilege to make use of the subsidy through this type of robust decision, the Minister must intervene, because she must apply the national policy. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, I want to tell the hon member Mr Rabie that I respond to the Constitution. My duty is to deal with policy and to deliberate this policy with provincial MECs, and that has been done by my Ministry.

In terms of the implementation of policy, one has to go to the provinces with whatever queries one has. However, the monitoring of the policy and the policies are on the right footing, the MECs are implementing them, and as far as problems of administration are concerned, those are being taken care of.

Therefore I do not know what Mr Rabie's queries are all about, and if his party's policies and construction planning were so good, then we would not have had the backlog that we are dealing with at the present moment. [Interjections.] I am afraid that I have to come back to that issue, because it is very pertinent.

Debate concluded.

### Campaign against smoking intensified

2. Mr A ALLY asked the Minister of Health:

Whether the campaign against smoking is to be intensified; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? (87) (128) N2084E:INT

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Madam Speaker, before I start my interpellation I would just like to say that the interpellation which I received was not exactly the same as that on the Question Paper. The interpellation which I received said:

... whether the campaign against smoking is to be intensified, and particularly so in the precincts of Parliament. If not, why not; if so, what are the details?

I would therefore like to stick to the interpellation which I received, rather than to what is on the Question Paper today. May I start? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! You have the permission of the Chair to start, and members will do you the courtesy of listening.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker and hon members, why is there a need for an antismoking policy, which we are going to intensify, in the precincts of Parliament as well?

In its 1993 report the World Bank said that investing in health was an investment, and that the promotion of prevention-of-disease strategies was the most cost-effective way of improving the health of the world's people. Preventing disease through cost-effective strategies lowers health care costs and improves quality of life.

We have to realise that tobacco is a unique product. It is said to be the only product that can kill, even when it is used exactly as the manufacturers prescribe. According to the Medical Research Council, the use of tobacco in South Africa is costing us R3.5 billion a year in productivity lost to industry and in terms of health care costs.

Each year approximately 2.5 million working days are lost to the South African industry due to absenteeism caused by smoking-related illnesses. The majority of smokers become addicted as children. For example, by the age of 16 years, according to the study, 43% of primary school boys in Khayelitsha have become regular smokers. Given the present trends, between 2 million and 3 million of the 19 million children in South Africa today, will be killed prematurely by

tobacco. This is therefore the target population for our campaign. It is important for us . . . [Time expired.]

Mr A ALLY: Madam Speaker, the hon the Minister of Health has given her unqualified support for the campaign against smoking. I want to welcome this. I believe that the growing body of opinion worldwide no longer sees smoking as a pleasant social recreation. In fact, it is an insidious form of drug addiction.

My own research has helped me to discover the following facts. According to the World Health Organisation smoking will be the number one cause of death in the world by the year 2000. In fact, some doctors believe that future generations will look back on smoke-related deaths the way we look back on the Black Death of the Middle Ages. We ask ourselves: Why is smoking so dangerous? Here is a list of some of the diseases caused or made worse by smoking: heart attack, blood vessel disease, stroke, cancer, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

The diseases which smoking causes do not just kill one, but can make one's life miserable for many years. As an example, blocked blood vessels can cause pains in the legs when one exercises and even lead to amputation of a limb. Secondly, chest pains caused by emphysema can leave one bedridden for years.

Tobacco-related diseases kill over 25 000 South Africans every year. At present 31% of adults smoke. Over the next decade smoking rates are set to increase significantly among our rapidly urbanising population. The reasons for this likely increase include, firstly, the low cost of cigarettes; secondly, the clear targeting of the black community, women and the youth by the tobacco industry through advertisements and sponsorship of sports and cultural events; and thirdly, political lobbying by the industry and its allies.

I appeal to the Minister to impose extra taxes and levies on tobacco products. Cigarettes are taxed, but compared to other countries the percentage on the total price of cigarettes is very low—37% compared to 72% in the European Union. Raising tobacco prices through taxation is perhaps the single best way to reduce consumption. A R1 increase in the price of 20 cigarettes would not only raise about R1 billion extra in excise tax annually, but will also reduce the number of smokers by one million. In turn, this will eventu-

ally result in 250 000 fewer premature deaths. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Order! I must ask members to please curtail their private business in the National Assembly Chamber. The level of noise is unacceptably high.

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, before I start speaking, may I enquire on a point of order: Are we now discussing smoking in the precincts of Parliament, as the Minister said, or are we discussing the Government's antismoking campaign? I think that is a different story. You, as Speaker, are responsible for the rules with regard to smoking in Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Order! The interpellation is as on the Order Paper. We heard what the Minister said about the misinformation that she had been given. We have to accept what she said. I think members should address themselves to the interpellation on the Order Paper.

\*Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, the NP will support any attempt to intensify the campaign against smoking. I am a little careful to use the word "intensify" while this Minister is in office, because in her case it would not mean that she would use more carrots, but that she would rather use sjamboks to get this obstinate smoke-donkey on the move.

We are in favour of intensifying the campaign convincing smokers not to smoke, instead of forcing them to stop. I think that it is a good principle to empower people with knowledge, rather than to enforce punishment to force them to come to their senses. In any case it is a fact that this ANC Government always implements the wrong option, as in the case of abortion. They are complaining that the problem is pregnancy amongst teenage girls which is increasing dramatically, but what is the ANC's solution? Kill the babies! No, the solution is that we should start an improved information campaign at school level to empower young girls with the necessary knowledge and consequently prevent them from falling pregnant. This is the solution, and not to kill babies.

This also applies to smokers. Let us teach smokers rather not to smoke in public places, where they can prejudice other people with their smoking. Let us not implement ridiculous punishments. I am just afraid that if we support this Minister to intensify the campaign, she will wield the sjamboks. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Madam Speaker, I thank the interpellants, especially Mr Ally. Some of Mr Odendaal's comments are also welcome.

I would like to say that according to the recent survey done by the Medical Research Council, 72% of adult smokers regret that they ever started smoking; 63% have tried to quit; 78% support regulating smoking in public places; 68% of our population want a ban on tobacco advertising and 50% of the population would support a further increase in tobacco excise taxes, especially if the extra income were used for health promotion.

Now I would like to appeal to the Minister of Finance to take that into account, and the fact that the price of tobacco is the single largest factor determining the patterns of use of tobacco products. The tobacco excise duty in South Africa is at a very low level, when compared to that of other countries. This has resulted in a decrease in Government revenue from this commodity. Between 1981 and 1995 real consumer spending on tobacco increased by 20%, whilst real tobacco excise revenue fell by 32%. So we appeal to him to raise the tobacco excise duty. In South Africa the excise is only 32% of the price, whereas in other countries it is about 70% of the price.

Lastly, having listened to Mr Ally, and having heard what other members were saying, I think we should do something about smoking in Parliament as well. Parliamentarians must be role models, and young people are looking up to them. [Time expired.]

Mr M F CASSIM: Madam Speaker, I heartily want to endorse the sentiments expressed by the Minister. I would like to give her all the encouragement possible in order to make sure that special areas are designated in Parliament for those who wish to smoke, but that others are freed of the noxious fumes which we have to . . .

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I thought that you had given a ruling that we should not talk about smoking in Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Order! My ruling was that the subject of the interpellation was as it is on the Order Paper.

Mr M F CASSIM: Just as I have influenced my colleague Mr Ally, who is a chain smoker, to make a vow that he is never going to smoke again, I think the Minister of Health should also prevail

upon her companion the Minister of Transport to do a similar thing here today. [Applause.]

I think the Minister hit the nail on the head when she said that for the battle to be advanced and intensified, it has to shift to the Minister of Finance. For some strange reason the Ministers of Finance in this country have been very loath to keep the increases on levies at real-price levels. These have fallen very far behind. In Canada it is a proven fact that about 11.5% of all health care costs arise as a result of cigarette smoking.

I am afraid that the soft-soap ideas of Dr Odendaal will just not be adequate. If the time is right for taking out the sjambok and making people pay for costing the economy so much in loss of productivity, and in finding extra money to pay for the rise in cancer and related tobacco-induced diseases, then surely this Government should act with some degree of strength. I hope the Minister of Finance will be able to increase cigarette tariffs substantially and regularly. I also hope that this will be done on the basis of a quarterly review. [Time expired.]

Mr A ALLY: Madam Speaker, I honestly believe that the hon the Minister of Health, in consultation with the Speaker of the House, can, without a huff or a puff, bring about a smoke-free environment in Parliament. I would like to appeal to her to designate special smoking areas in Parliament. [Interjections.] It is very ironical that the law of the country demands . . .

Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I think it is the privilege of the Speaker to decide where we can smoke in Parliament and where we cannot. It is not the decision of the Minister to do that. [Interjections.] The SPEAKER: Order! I do not wish to enter into a territorial dispute with the Minister of Health, but I think that that is correct!

Mr A ALLY: Madam Speaker, it is very ironical that while the law of the country demands that cigarette manufacturers have the words "Danger! Do not smoke in front of children", in bold print on cigarette packets, on a daily basis, when hundreds of schoolchildren visit Parliament, they are confronted with stompies, cigarette butts, strewn all over the place in smoke-filled corridors. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Madam Speaker, let me please start with a point of order: Is it allowed for hon members to send a cigarette butt

in an envelope to the Minister of Health? [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order! I will have to take that into consideration and give you a ruling later! Will you now proceed with the interpellation? [Laughter.]

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, in conclusion, like you, I would not like to get involved in a territorial dispute over Parliament, except to say that the Minister of Health has the authority, under the present legislation, to introduce regulations to ban smoking in all public places. [Interjections.] But, I will not get into a territorial dispute. I will leave Parliament to Madam Speaker, but hopefully she will protect nonsmokers.

Lastly, I want to appeal to individual members of Parliament to take note that young people out there see the hon Tony Leon, for example, as a role model for all liberal democrats. Therefore they should not see him smoking in public. The revolutionary democrats also see Mac as a role model, so he should not be seen smoking in public. [Interjections.] I am sure that even the aspirant young Nats see the hon F W de Klerk as their role model, and should not see him smoking in public. Even the Azanians would not like to see the hon De Lille smoking in public. [Laughter.]

So I appeal to all hon members, eg those of the FF: The hon Gien Viljoen should not be seen smoking in public. And the ACTDP's Hallelujah, I am sure, would not want to be seen smoking. [Laughter.] And therefore, as parliamentarians, let us not encourage our young people to smoke. [Applause.]

Mr A ALLY: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I am going to stop. I have slashed my packet of cigarettes. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, I have listened to this debate with great interest, because the Rules Committee of the National Assembly, at its meeting this week, tabled the question of declaring Parliament, or large parts of it, a nonsmoking zone. [Applause.] The matter will be coming before you very shortly. I would also add something about the proceedings of the Rules Committee which may encourage more members to attend its meetings. We were informed by a Minister, whom I will not name, but who is known as a smoker, that the explanation for his very sombre demeanour was that he was trying to give up smoking. So there is hope yet for everyone else. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

3. Mr L M GREEN — Public Works. [Withdrawn.]

#### QUESTIONS

+ Indicates translated version.

*For oral reply:*

*President of the Republic:*

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, the hon the Deputy President asked that these questions stand over.

The SPEAKER: Order! Are you referring to the question to the President only, or also those to the Deputy President?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Madam Speaker, even those to the Deputy President.

\*1. Mr M J ELLIS—President of the Republic. *(See column 2456.)*

*Executive Deputy President:*

\*1. Mr M F CASSIM—Executive Deputy President. [Question standing over.]

\*2. Mr W A HOFMEYER—Executive Deputy President. [Question standing over.]

*Ministers:*

*Question standing over from Wednesday 18 September 1996:*

#### Reserve Bank: loan to certain banking corporation

\*29. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the Reserve Bank has granted a loan of R1.3 billion to a certain banking corporation, the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of this reply; if so,
- (2) whether the loan has been repaid; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it due to be repaid;
- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in respect of this loan and/or any other similar loans to banks; if not, why not; if so, what action?

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The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) I am informed that the Reserve Bank did not make a loan of R1.3 billion, but did grant a loan to Bankorp of R1.5 billion in September 1991. The loan was made for a period of five years, but the loan agreement would terminate before the expiry of this period when the accumulated yield on the investment of the loan amount reached a figure of R1.125 billion.

I am informed that the assistance had its origins in earlier assistance provided in 1985-86, when Bankorp first approached the Reserve Bank for financial assistance to enable it to cope with bad investments and other nonperforming assets. These were inherited upon its takeover of Trust Bank in 1977 and Mercabank in 1984. A low-interest loan of R200 million was extended by the Reserve Bank, but the amount was increased to R300 million in 1986. The repayment of this amount was rescheduled in 1990 and the loan amount was increased to R1 000 million. Based on subsequent reports of the external auditors on the bad debt situation, a new agreement was concluded in 1991 in terms of which the loan amount was increased further to R1 500 million.

- (2) I am informed that the total amount was repaid on or about 23 October 1995. The loan was repaid in cash; in other words from the proceeds of the redemption and the sale of government stock, as well as the liquidation of a deposit, which served as security for the loan.
- Questions (2)(a) and (b) fall away.

- (3) The Hoberman Commission is at present conducting an enquiry into the affairs of Tollgate Holdings Limited, in which the issue of the Bankor/Absa loan referred to emerged. A decision regarding possible action in the future will be taken only once the commission has concluded its investigation?

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's very full reply, for which I thank him—and I accept the point that he needs to wait until the Hoberman Commission has finished its work—I would like to ask him whether he would agree, given all the polemic, debate and publicity around this issue over a prolonged

period, that it has severely harmed the credibility of the SA Reserve Bank, and in fact the banking system as a whole, within South Africa. Will he therefore, unless the Hoberman Commission comes out with a definitive finding in favour of the procedure that was followed, take the matter further?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Madam Speaker, I think that it is certainly in the interests of the financial sector in South Africa, and in the interests of securing the continuing confidence of depositors with financial institutions, that we are able to put this matter to rest finally. So clearly we would look at the issue. We have those interests at heart, and we will give consideration to the matter on the basis of new information before us.

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he has any indication, at this stage, when the Hoberman Commission anticipates completing its work and submitting a report?

The MINISTER: No, Madam Speaker. The sitting of the Hoberman Commission is part of the intrigue that has unravelled over the past period. I have no information as to when it intends concluding the report, but I am told that Adv Hoberman is very keen to conclude this and have it behind him.

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, for which I thank him, one other matter is whether the bank or banks concerned paid tax on the benefits received as a result of this abnormal grant or loan from the SA Reserve Bank.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, there are two parts to the question. In terms of the Income Tax Act all taxation information is confidential between the Receiver of Revenue and the taxpayer. Firstly, I do not have the information at my disposal—I think it is a separate question—and, secondly, if indeed the hon Andrew wishes to put that question, I would ask that he consider that provision in the Income Tax Act.

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he would take the initiative—I do not want him to contravene the Income Tax Act—of drawing the attention of the SA Revenue Service to the fact that tax may have been payable as a result of this information which was not initially public information. If he would take that

# Smokers don't heed warning

(87)

*Sawetan 3/10/96*

**By McKeed Kotlolo**

A RECENT survey conducted by Technikon Pretoria students revealed that the warnings on cigarette packets, highlighting the dangers of smoking, have very little or no effect at all on smokers.

The survey, led by Johan de Jager, was conducted on about 400 people in the Pretoria and Mamelodi areas and involved both smokers (46 percent) and non-smokers (54 percent).

The research project found that even if 99 percent of the total number of those interviewed were aware of the warnings, it had no effect on the smoking habits of about 70 percent of the people.

About 50 percent of the non-smokers felt that very little would be achieved by the national anti-smoking campaign.

Eighty percent of smokers strongly believed that the anti-smoking campaign was justified.

Almost 70 percent of the smokers said they had tried to quit for economic and health reasons but had failed.

The average monthly spending on tobacco products ranged between R100 and R300 an individual smoker.

Sixty three percent of the smokers said they were average, 15 percent were chain smokers and 22 percent social smokers.

Forty three percent of the respondents said to them smoking was just a habit, 37 percent smoked for pleasure, 16 percent for stress. A total of 96 percent preferred to smoke cigarettes, 2 percent preferred a pipe and the remaining two percent smoked cigars.

Of the non-smokers interviewed, 35 percent had smoked previously, while the rest never smoked before. Of those interviewed 70 percent thought smoking in public should be regulated, while 21 percent said no and the remaining 9 percent were uncertain.

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PAPER/PULP 'Consider alternative sources'

## Asmal says dagga has high potential

CT (BR) 17/10/96 (87) ~~(87)~~  
STUART RUTHERFORD

Durban — Pulp and paper companies need to recognise the potential of alternative fibre crops like hemp, commonly known as dagga, which are readily produced by small farmers in many districts, Kader Asmal, the minister of water affairs and forestry, said yesterday.

Speaking at the eighth international conference of the Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Industry of Southern Africa, Asmal said high-fibre dagga crops with low resin contents, that were of no use to the narcotics trade, could produce yields of fibre equivalent to wood.

"Dagga is drought-resistant, pest-resistant and grows in a wide range of conditions and terrains," he said.

"I know that your technology is not geared to pulping such crops, but non-wood pulping plants require relatively little capital, and you could install non-wood pulping lines alongside your big pulping plants."

He said that would increase pulp volumes and accelerate local economic development by procuring non-wood fibres from local producers.

Spelling out challenges to the delegates, Asmal said the industry needed to publish information on environmental performance regularly, to increase the rate of recycling of paper and improve training.

"Unlike many other industries, you do not have an industry training board, you do not have an industry forum where you can meet with labour on training issues, and your worker training is not, for the most part, certified or portable."

Lastly, he called for a much greater, purposeful co-operation and flow of information within the industry to improve understanding and identify areas of common interest.

"I am not suggesting the type of collaboration that might provoke the further ire of the Competition Board, but rather that which would serve the industry, and the people of South Africa best," Asmal said.

# Tough-talking Zuma threatens to ban all cigarette adverts

87  
~~87~~

Mar 18/10/96

Minister says police are investigating charges against four tobacco companies for flouting advertising regulations

By **PATRICK BULGER**  
Cape Town

**H**ealth Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma has threatened to slap a ban on all cigarette advertising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies that consistently flouted strict advertising regulations.

Zuma told the Senate yesterday that the Rembrandt Group, United Tobacco Company, RJ Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco were "evading regulations" and were the subject of police investigations.

The total annual adspend on cigarette and tobacco products is R150-million, according to the executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, Yussuf Saloojee.

In December 1994 Zuma, who has earned a reputation for a strict anti-smoking stance, published regulations in terms of the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993.

These prohibit the sale of cigarettes to children under the age of 16 and compel companies to display one of eight health warnings on packs of cigarettes. They also call for the health warning on billboards to cover 10% of the surface area, for an additional 2% to be covered by the tar and nicotine content notice, and for the script of the health warning to cover between 60 and 70% of the surface area set aside for the warning as a whole.

Zuma, who was replying to a question from the Democratic

Party's Senator William Mnisi, listed the "evasions" as "importing cigarettes that do not have the prescribed warnings", "posting the billboards with warnings that are not visible at night or do not show the nicotine and tar content as per the regulations", and "advertising in newspapers and magazines with adverts that do not show warnings of the correct size and do not have the tar and nicotine content".

Zuma said the Department of Health had "submitted charges laid by individuals to the South African Police Service" and that the matter was receiving attention from the police.

She went on: "If they continue to violate the regulations, we may ban advertising."

Saloojee said he was visited by the police last week in connection with the charges. He alleged that tobacco companies were routinely flouting the regulations. They did this by clever lighting and by hiding the warnings within the advertisements so that they did not comply with the regulations.

One particular billboard on the roadside from Johannesburg international airport to the city centre was in clear contravention. This had been pointed out a year ago but the billboard remained unchanged.

Saloojee welcomed the minister's threat to ban advertising. Such a ban would be in line with recommendations by the World Health Organisation, which has ruled that the commercial freedom of expression enjoyed by

companies was not superior to the right of children not to have to face commercial pressure to take up the smoking habit.

The Tobacco Products Control Act does not stipulate exact penalties for contraventions but says offenders are liable to a fine and/or a prison sentence.

Tobacco companies reacted with surprise to Zuma's threat, claiming they adhered to the letter of the law, reports Stuart Kelly.

"We are extremely surprised by the statement as we are complying with regulations to the letter as far as we are aware," said United Tobacco Company spokesman Piet Botha.

"We can't comment further on such a vague and sweeping statement until our lawyers have had a look, but we will do so once the minister specifically points out where we are supposed to have erred," he added.

Martin Griffiths, marketing and sales manager for American-based company RJ Reynolds, said: "The regulations have been in place for some time and we are all aware of them. The minister must point to specific examples of where we have supposedly breached the law. We are not in the business of trying to get around those regulations."

Rembrandt communications officer Hans Knoetze said the company was unable to respond last night but would do so once it had scrutinised the statement today.

Imperial Tobacco could not be reached for comment.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

(87)

# Zuma tackles tobacco giants

CT 18/10/96

**ANGERED BY** the alleged flouting of cigarette and tobacco advertising regulations by tobacco companies, Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday that if the regulations were not strictly observed she might place a total ban on the advertising of tobacco products.

**H**EALTH MINISTER Dr Nkosazana Zuma threatened yesterday to slap a ban on all cigarette advertising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies that continually flouted strict advertising regulations.

Zuma told the Senate that the Rembrandt Group, the United Tobacco Company, R J Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco were "evading regulations" and were being investigated.

The amount spent annually on advertising cig-

arettes and tobacco products is R150 million, according to the executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, Mr Yussuf Saloojee.

Regulations under the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1993 prohibit the sale of cigarettes to people under 16 and compel companies to display one of eight health warnings on packs of cigarettes.

They also call for the health warning on billboards to cover 10% of the surface area, for an additional two percent to be covered by the tar and nicotine content notice and for the script of the health warning to cover between 60% and 70% of the surface area set aside for the warning as a whole.

Zuma listed the "evasions" as:

- Importing cigarettes that do not have the prescribed warnings.
- Posting the billboards with warnings that are not visible at night or do not show the nicotine and tar content as required.
- Placing newspaper and magazine adverts that do not show warnings of the correct size and do not show the tar and nicotine content.

Zuma said the Department of Health had submitted charges laid by individuals to the South African Police Service.

"If they continue to violate the regulations we may ban advertising," she said.

Saloojee alleged that tobacco companies were routinely flouting the regulations. They did this by clever lighting and by hiding the warnings within the advertisements in a way that they did not comply with the regulations.

Saloojee said a ban on advertising would be in line with recommendations by the World Health Organisation, which has ruled that the commercial freedom of expression of companies is not superior to the right of children not to have to face pressure to take up the smoking habit.


Tobacco companies reacted with surprise to Zuma's threat, claiming they adhered to the letter of the law.

"We are complying with regulations to the letter as far as we are aware," said United Tobacco Company spokesman Mr Piet Botha.


Mr Martin Griffiths, marketing and sales manager for American-based company R J Reynolds, said: "The minister must point to specific examples of where we have supposedly breached the law. We are not trying to get around those regulations."

Rembrandt communications officer Mr Hans Knoetze said the company would respond today after it had scrutinised the statement.

Imperial Tobacco could not be reached for comment. — Political Staff



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# Zuma's smoke signal - obey or face ad ban

## Tobacco firms warned

(87) (10/18/96)  
ARG 18/10/96

CLIVE SAWYER  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**Tobacco companies which continue to defy regulations on advertising could face an advertising ban, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma has warned.**

She disclosed in the Senate that police were investigating alleged violations by four companies - Rembrandt, UTC, Imperial and R J Reynolds. Rules on tobacco advertising include health warnings of specified size on packaging and advertising.

Dr Zuma said circumvention of the rules included the import of cigarettes which did not carry health warnings.

Other complaints against included health warnings on billboards not being visible at night, and failure to include warnings in print advertising.

Tobacco companies reacted with surprise to Dr Zuma's threat, saying they adhered to the letter of the law.

"We are extremely surprised by the statement as we are complying with regulations to the letter as far as we are aware," said United Tobacco

Company spokesman Piet Botha. "We can't comment further on such a vague and sweeping statement until our lawyers have had a look but we will do so once the minister specifically points out where we are supposed to have erred," he said.

■ South Africa has become a dumping ground for illegal gambling machines rigged to favour their owners and be less than generous to punters. Dr Zuma disclosed this in answering a question on behalf of Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin.

It was estimated there were about 40 000 illegal gambling machines in the country but there could be as many as 100 000.

In a case in Mpumalanga, gambling machines had been set so the percentage paid out was drastically reduced.

Dr Zuma said the only legal grounds by which a permit could be obtained for importing the machines was if they were said to be bound for a legal establishment, or if they were being imported for demonstration purposes.

## Scientists find definitive cigarette-lung cancer link

Washington - For the first time, US scientists have shown a direct link between smoking and lung cancer on the cellular level, adding to mounds of statistical evidence and animal studies done over the past 30 years.

Anti-smoking activists immediately hailed the study as a milestone which showed precisely how cigarettes caused lung cancer. The Tobacco Institute, the industry's main lobby, said it would have no comment until scientific experts reviewed it.

The study, which will appear today in the prestigious journal Science, identified a substance in the "tar" of cigarette smoke that directly trans-

formed human lung tissue. Cancer researchers call those damaged sites or mutations the "hot spots".

"Our study thus provides a direct link between a defined cigarette smoke carcinogen and human cancer mutations," the scientists wrote.

One of the researchers, molecular biologist Gerd Pfeifer, said he doubted the finding would end all public and political debate about tobacco, but "the more evidence you have, the better it is".

Critics of the smoking industry were buoyed. They believe the finding will be pivotal in many of the lawsuits pending against tobacco companies. - Reuter

# PUFFING WAR

## Tobacco tycoon Rupert comes out smoking against Zuma

By CAS St LEGER

THE giant Rembrandt empire has launched an unprecedented attack on the Health Minister, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, after she accused tobacco companies of flouting the law.

In an address to the Senate this week, Zuma threatened to ban all cigarette advertising if the country's largest tobacco companies refused to toe the line on advertising and continued to import cigarette packets that did not have the prescribed health warnings.

Johann Rupert, Rembrandt's chairman, returns fire in an irreverent open letter to Zuma in a full-page advertisement in today's Sunday Times.

At stake is an industry worth an estimated R6,56-billion a year to South Africa, on which 200 000 people depend for their livelihoods and which spends about R150-million a year on advertising.

Today's outspoken "I-told-you-so" response by Rupert is the first real salvo from the industry in a tobacco war launched by Zuma the day she took office.

He writes that he found her accusation of breaking the law to be "totally unacceptable and irresponsible" and suggests she has been misled by advisers.

Rupert says the industry had warned Zuma cigarette smuggling was out of control.

"Now that you have come to the same conclusion, you apparently accuse us of brooking the law, and use the privilege of the Senate to do so!" writes Rupert.

"What can we expect in a country where law and order is in danger of total collapse — and where the smugglers are probably car hijackers and murderers?" He says that a criminal can earn R4 000 from a carload or R1-million from a container of smuggled cigarettes.

The annual loss to the exchequer from cigarettes smuggled into South Africa is estimated at R20-billion a year. Customs and excise raids in September on street vendors in Johannesburg, Cape Town and



SWORDS DRAWN . . . Zuma and Rupert

Durban netted a million cigarettes in packs without warnings.

Zuma's current threat of a tobacco ad ban comes in the wake of reports in July this year — denied at the time by the Health Department — that draconian draft regulations based on World Health Organisation guidelines were being circulated. Among their proposals were a total ban on advertising, hiking the minimum age of those allowed to buy cigarettes and banning the use of cigarette brand names at public cultural or sporting events.

Zuma told the Senate on Thursday that the Health Department was taking action against defaulting companies.

She said police were investigating charges submitted by "individuals" against the Rembrandt Group, United Tobacco Company, R J Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco for consistently flouting strict advertising regulations.

Their "outrages" included importing cigarettes without health warnings, posting billboards with warnings of the dangers of smoking that were invisible at night or minus the compulsory listing of nicotine and tar content; and newspaper and magazine adverts where the warnings were of the incorrect size and did not carry nicotine and tar contents.

Zuma, who opened a clinic in Cape Town before flying to Durban yesterday, was not available for comment. Her spokesman, Vincent Hlongwane, said Rupert's letter would be attended to tomorrow.

# Tobacco boss hits out at Zuma

THE Rembrant Group has hit back at Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma who last week threatened to ban tobacco advertising because cigarette companies were not complying with the laws on health warnings.

Rembrant chairman Johann Rupert said it was a "totally unacceptable and irresponsible situation" when taxpaying companies were accused of breaking the law.

In a full page advertisement in the *Sunday Times*, Rupert told Zuma she had been misled by her advisers.

Entitled, "an open letter to Dr Zuma," the advertisement replies to the health minister's allegations in the Senate this week when she said tobacco companies were

ignoring the laws requiring health warnings on cigarettes.

Rupert blamed "cheap smuggled cigarettes" for the lack of health warnings on some brands and said his company had warned Zuma about this.

### Lose revenues

He said he had also warned that the Government would lose revenue because of the smuggling.

"Now that you have come to the same conclusion, you apparently accuse us of breaking the law and you use the privilege of the Senate to do so!" Rupert said. Rupert said cigarette smuggling into South Africa was

out of control because of high excise duties being charged and underpayment of customs officials.

"What can we expect in a country where law and order is in danger of collapse - and where the smugglers are probably hijackers and murderers? A criminal can earn over R4 000 from a carload and nearly one million rand from a container of smuggled cigarettes," Rupert added.

He said it was "sad and ironic" that a company which dutifully paid its taxes and went out of its way to comply with the letter and the spirit of the law had been accused of breaking it. - *Sapa*.

(87) ~~the~~ *Journal* 21/10/96

# Zuma, Rupert trade shots over cigarette ads

Star 21/10/96

(87) (10/10)

Cigarette baron angry over threat to ban advertising and the consequences: anti-tobacco lobby rallies to minister's defence

BY JUSTICE MALALA  
AND STUART KELLY

**H**ealth Minister Nkosazana Zuma will meet members of her ministry and other stakeholders today to hammer out a response to the blistering attack on her by Rembrandt Group chairman Johann Rupert yesterday, following her threat to ban tobacco advertisements.

Zuma's spokesman Vincent Hlongwane said the meeting in Cape Town would deal with the attack by the giant group, one of four which Zuma has accused of flouting tobacco laws.

While Zuma found herself in the firing line, the National Committee Against Smoking yesterday came out in strong support of the minister's threat.

The committee's chairman, Professor Harry Seftel of the University of the Witwatersrand, said all cigarette advertising should be banned.

"This latest controversy is only a minor point. It seems to me that these companies will fight tooth and nail against Minister Zuma

because she is the first health minister to get serious on tobacco.

"If these companies are violating the law, then the facts can be easily established. What really matters is that smoking has become a plague which is killing between two and three million people (worldwide) every year. Advertising must be banned outright," he said.

Rupert's letter, published in a full-page ad in a Sunday newspaper, marks the most serious attack yet on Zuma by the industry.

Zuma on Thursday threatened to ban all cigarette advertising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies that consistently flouted strict regulations.

She told the Senate that the Rembrandt Group, United Tobacco Company, R J Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco were "evading" regulations.

In his letter, Rupert said: "It is ironic and a sad fact of our society that a company which dutifully pays its taxes, and goes out of its way to comply with the letter and spirit of the law, is now being ac-

cused by you of breaking the law."

The total annual adspend on tobacco products is R150-million, according to National Council Against Smoking director Yussuf Saloojee.

Zuma said the evasions by the tobacco companies were "importing cigarettes that do not have the prescribed warnings", "posting the billboards with warnings that are not visible at night or do not show the nicotine and tar content as per the regulations", and "advertising in newspapers and magazines with adverts that do not show warnings of the correct size and do not have the tar and nicotine content".

In his letter, Rupert said the industry had warned Zuma and her colleagues on numerous occasions that substantial increases in excise duty would result in increased cigarette smuggling.

"What can we expect in a country where law and order is in danger of collapse? A criminal can earn over R4 000 from one car hijacking, (but) nearly R1-million from a container of smuggled cigarettes," he said.

# Zuma's 'smoke signals' out today

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma will hold a top-level meeting today to formulate a response to the blistering attack on her by Rembrandt Group chairman Mr Johann Rupert yesterday following her threat to ban tobacco advertisements.

Rupert's letter, published in a full-page advertisement in a Sunday newspaper, marks the most serious attack by the industry yet since Zuma declared war on smoking.

The National Committee against Smoking's chairperson, Professor Harry Seftel of the University of the Witwatersrand, supported Zuma's call, saying that all cigarette advertising should be

banned regardless.

"What really matters is that smoking has become a plague which is killing between two and three million people every year," he said.

Seftel added that the laws were far from sufficient and need to be brought into line with the far more stringent regulations of Europe where advertising was totally outlawed, even to the extent of removing billboards that find their way onto television screens.

The total annual adspend on cigarette and tobacco products is R150-million, according to the executive director of the National Council Against Smoking, Mr Yusuf Saloojee.

Zuma on Thursday threatened to slap a ban on all cigarette adver-

CT 21/10/96  
(87) (100)  
tising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies — the Rembrandt Group, United Tobacco Company, RJ Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco — that consistently flouted strict advertising regulations.

In his letter, Rupert said that on numerous occasions the industry had warned Zuma and her colleague that substantial increases in excise duty will result in increased cigarette smuggling.

This means there would be cigarettes on the market without health warnings and that the government would lose tax revenue.

"What can we expect in a country where law and order is in danger of collapse — and where the smugglers are probably car hijackers and murderers?" he asked.



TO REPLY: Dr Nkosazana Zuma

Star 22/10/96

## Zuma cites WHO in fight against tobacco industry

(87) (88)  
BY POLITICAL STAFF  
AND SAPA

Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma yesterday hit back at Rembrandt boss Johann Rupert, citing the World Health Organisation's recommendations to back up her war against the tobacco industry.

Zuma is also set to call a meeting of health industry stakeholders to discuss her proposed banning of tobacco adverts.

Zuma said a study by the Harvard University School of Public Health found that within 25 years cigarette smoking would be the largest cause of death and disability in the world.

She said the WHO had recommended a ban on tobacco advertising

and promotions, strict regulation of smoking in public places, reducing the access of youths to tobacco and regular increases in tobacco taxes.

On Thursday Zuma threatened to slap a ban on all cigarette advertising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies that "consistently flouted advertising regulations".

In response, Rupert published a full-page letter in the Sunday press saying, among other things, that cigarette packets without health warnings had been smuggled into SA by criminals.

► Tobacco stocks survive the heat  
*Business Report*

# Zuma defends stand on tobacco

(87) CT 22/10/96

HEALTH Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma hit back at Rembrandt boss Mr Johann Rupert yesterday, citing World Health Organisation recommendations to back up her war against the tobacco industry.

Zuma, who was savaged by Rupert in newspaper advertisements at the weekend, drew on a five-year study by the Harvard University School of Public Health.

The study had found that within 25 years cigarette smoking would be the largest cause of death and disability in the world.

She said the WHO had recommended a ban on tobacco advertising and promotions, strict regulation of smoking in public

places, reducing the access of youths to tobacco and regular increases in tobacco taxes.

She said tobacco advertising glamorised smoking and undermined health messages.

"Making cigarettes less affordable to children and banning advertising are important elements of the strategy to reduce smoking substantially among South African children," she said.

Last Thursday Zuma threatened to ban all cigarette advertising and said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies that flouted advertising regulations. — Political Staff, Sapa

# Zuma set to act on tobacco ads

*Dispensing ban averted*

(87) (44) ART 22/10/96

HEALTH REPORTER AND SAPA

Health minister Nkosazana Zuma is set to call a meeting of health industry representatives to discuss her proposed ban on tobacco advertising.

Dr Zuma said that a five-year study at the Harvard University School of Public Health had suggested that cigarette smoking would be the largest cause of death and disability in the world within 25 years.

She said the World Health Organisation had recommended a ban on tobacco advertising - which last week she threatened to enforce in South Africa - limits on smoking in public places and regular increases in taxes.

Dr Zuma has meanwhile done an about-turn on the issue of doctors dispensing medicines, withdrawing pro-

posed regulations that would have stopped them doing so.

The Medical Association of South Africa (Masa) has welcomed the decision, saying the controversial regulations would have caused severe hardship for many patients, and contradicted the objective of broadening access to health care.

The Department of Health received more than 300 submissions on the proposed regulations.

Dr Zuma said the principles on which the regulations were based stood, and that her department would publish revised regulations soon.

Masa chairman Ivan McCusker said the association applauded Dr Zuma's decision and would throw its full weight behind all initiatives to provide comprehensive quality health services in South Africa.



## Investigation launched to blitz ghost workers

Farouk Chothia

~~21/10/96~~  
BD 22/10/96

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal director-general Otty Nxumalo would spearhead an investigation to bring to an end the estimated payment of R1,5bn a year to non-existent public servants in the province, finance MEC Ben Ngubane announced yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting attended by Ngubane, Nxumalo, treasury secretary Siphon Tshabalala, auditor-general Chris Foster and members of the legislature's public accounts committee, in response to widespread concern over "ghost" payments.

Ngubane said Nxumalo and Foster had been requested to employ a consortium of auditors to conduct the first phase of investigations. It would have to complete its work by the end of next month.

ANC MP Mike Sutcliffe said the consultants would identify problems in the personnel salary system. This would include names of public servants appearing more than once and people of retirement age listed for payment.

The consultants would report on a weekly basis to Nxumalo and committee members, Sutcliffe said.

Ngubane said the problem had arisen as a result of the amalgamation and rationalisation of departments. He said both the executive and legislature were committed to finding solutions.

Foster said at the weekend that public servants who had resigned were still drawing salaries. Sutcliffe said there were reports of teachers who drew salaries but were never at school.

A second phase of investigations would identify culprits and legal steps would be taken against them.

## Zuma vows to intensify fight

Kathryn Strachan

(87) (87)  
SA HEALTH Minister Nkosazana Zuma vowed yesterday to intensify her anti-smoking campaign in the wake of a scorching attack by Rembrandt Group chairman Johann Rupert.

She would do everything in her power and within the confines of the constitution to ensure that ever fewer children smoked in SA. Making cigarettes less affordable and banning advertising were important elements of her plan to do this, she said.

The World Health Organisation had recommended banning tobacco advertising and promotions, but she stopped short at announcing any plans to put that recommendation into effect.

Rupert's attack came after Zuma said police were investigating charges against four tobacco companies flouting advertising regulations.

BD 22/10/96

# Council comes out smoking

## Rembrandt's statements about cigarette smuggling and health regulations challenged

BY JAMINE SIMMON  
Medical Correspondent

The National Council Against Smoking has written its own open letter to tobacco magnate Johann Rupert, contesting his claims that the Rembrandt Group has stuck by the law on health regulations and that higher excise taxes have opened the way to greater cigarette smuggling.

In the letter, to be published tomorrow, the council says that, contrary to Rupert's claims, recent increases in tobacco excise taxes have resulted in higher government revenues, and reduced smoking.

In the first nine months of 1995, compared with the same period in 1994, government cigarette revenues increased by 32.5% while cigarette consumption dropped by 2.2%.

Cigarette smuggling had increased in South Africa, along with smuggling of other items such as TVs, hi-fi sets, drugs, tyres and other products, says the letter, signed by executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee and chairman Dr Harry Seftel.

The tobacco excise tax rate was already among the lowest in the world. Lowering it would not end smuggling as smugglers would switch to other goods.

It would, however, result in a loss of government revenue and a rise in tobacco industry sales and profits.

87

Star 24/10/96

## Ad ban 'a responsible policy'

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Banning tobacco advertising would be responsible government policy, not some kind of punishment or infringement of human rights, says Professor Judith Mackay, director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control.

Mackay, who was recently in South Africa and drew parallels between African and Asian experiences in tobacco controls, said that around the world, the tobacco industry used the argument of an increase in smuggling to dissuade governments from raising taxes.

### Call to step up ways to protect health

In response to the fracas between Rembrandt chief Johann Rupert and Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, Mackay said cigarette smuggling posed a considerable threat to government attempts at tobacco controls, but that the answer was to protect not back off, measures to protect health.

Zuma has threatened to ban tobacco advertising, saying tobacco companies are flouting the law regarding health warnings.

Rupert denied the claim, saying the Government had failed to crack down on cigarette smuggling.

Mackay said the Government should not have an either/or approach to banning tobacco advertisements.

Smuggling activities meant tobacco companies circumvented import taxes and restrictions on sales outlets for legally imported ciga-

rettes, she said.

Companies sold their legal cigarettes at the normal price, but the Government lost revenue and more children smoked because there were cheaper, more affordable cigarettes on the market.

The Hong Kong government had employed a 40-person customs and excise squad specifically to deal with cigarette smuggling and this activity had been considerably reduced, she added.

## Banning of tobacco (87) ads 'good policy'

ARG 24/10/96  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Banning tobacco advertising is responsible government policy, not punishment or infringement of human rights, says Judith Mackay, director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control.

Professor Mackay said that around the world the tobacco industry used the argument of an increase in smuggling to dissuade governments from raising taxes.

In response to the fracas between Rembrandt chief Johan Rupert and Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, Professor Mackay said cigarette smuggling posed a considerable threat to government attempts at tobacco controls.

But Hong Kong had employed a 40-person customs and excise squad specially to deal with cigarette smuggling and this had considerably reduced it.

## Anti-smoking council challenges Rupert

(87) (S)  
Kathryn Strachan

BD-24/10/96

THE National Council Against Smoking has entered the "open letter" tobacco war, contesting Rembrandt Group chairman Anton Rupert's claims that his company has not broken the law.

In an open letter, to be published tomorrow in various newspapers, council chairman Harry Seftel and executive director Yussuf Saloojee said they could substantiate numerous cases where the health warning regulations had been contravened.

The council challenged Rupert's statements — made in his open letter to the health minister earlier this week — on how the increased excise tax had resulted in government losing tax revenue and in greater cigarette smuggling.

Recent increases in tobacco excise duties

had resulted in higher government revenues and reduced smoking, it said. In the first nine months of last year, compared to the same period in 1994, government cigarette tax revenues rose 32,5%, while cigarette consumption dropped 2,2%.

"Lowering tobacco taxes would, however, result in a loss of government revenue, and a rise in tobacco industry sales and profits. So the main beneficiary will be the tobacco industry and the main loser public health," the council said.

Cigarette smuggling had increased in SA as had smuggling of many other products, and decreasing the excise tax on cigarettes would not end smuggling, it said.

The real long-term solution to tobacco smuggling was to reduce public demand for it, and the best way of doing this was to ensure children did not start smoking.

# Zuma denies

## ~~CTAAG~~ 25/10/96 agreement

~~(87)~~ (87)

HEALTH MINISTER Dr Nkosazana Zuma had not reached any agreement with Rembrandt Group chairman Mr Johann Rupert following Sunday's open letter in which the tobacco magnate attacked the government on its anti-smoking and policing policies, health spokesman Mr Vincent Hlongwane said last night.

He was commenting on an unsigned statement on a Rembrandt Group letterhead faxed to Sapa which read: "A joint agreement has been reached between government and the Rembrandt Group not to continue in public the debate on the issues raised by Johann Rupert."

Hlongwane said: "From our side there is no agreement. The minister has not met anyone from the tobacco industry. "We dissociate ourselves fully from that statement."

Hlongwane, who earlier confirmed a meeting between Zuma and Rupert, said yesterday the meeting had not taken place.

Rupert had asked for the talks to be rescheduled because of a previous engagement and the two would probably meet today instead.

The meeting has been prompted by Rupert's attack on Zuma in a full-page advertisement in the Sunday press in response to the minister telling Parliament tobacco companies were flouting the law on health warnings.

Zuma also threatened to slap a ban on all cigarette advertising if tobacco companies failed to adhere to health warning regulations.

Hlongwane said that Zuma, instead of reacting to the attack, had merely recommitted her ministry to its anti-smoking campaign and promoting of healthy lifestyles. — Sapa

# IWAZUWU IWOYI may nawe met its match

(87) M+G 26-31/10/96

Battle-scarred Zuma has some strong support in her Health Ministry's latest war, reports **Stefans Brümmer**

**H**EALTH Minister Nkosazana Zuma may have a reputation for tilting at windmills, but for once her opponent — the fabulously powerful tobacco lobby — may have met its match. Zuma is backed by a strong body of international opinion and by signs that her anti-smoking measures are paying off.

Zuma is still smarting from a recent defeat by pharmaceutical companies, who threatened court action unless she dropped plans to force the prescription of cheaper generic medicines. Zuma withdrew the "offending" parts of her draft legislation, saying they would be redrafted.

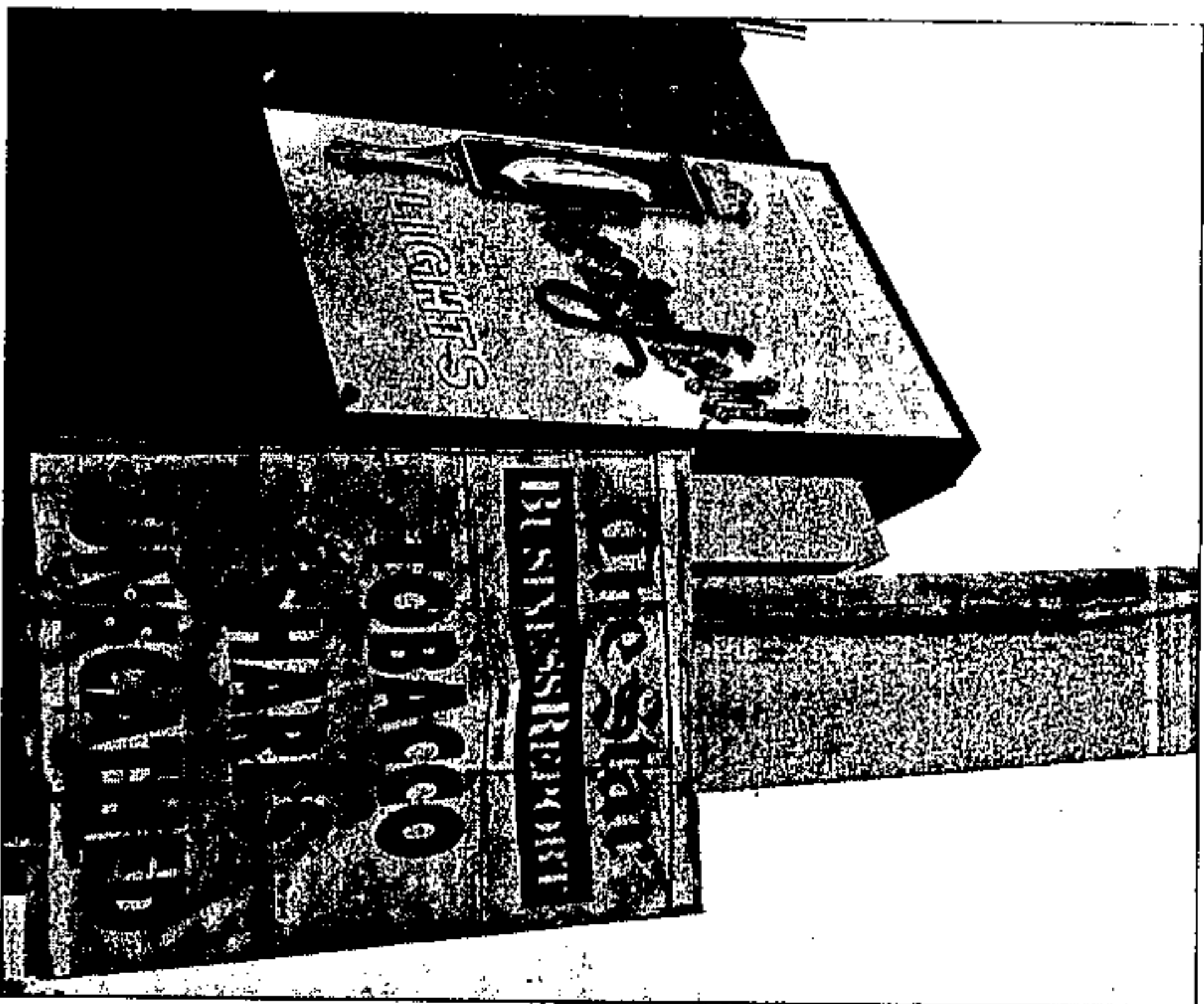
But last week she did it again, starting a small war by provoking tobacco magnate Johann Rupert to an unprecedented attack.

What Zuma did was tell the Senate that cigarette companies were flouting her Tobacco Products Control Act regulations on cigarette health warnings. Zuma named the offenders as the Rembrandt Group, of which Rupert is chair, as well as United Tobacco Company, RJ Reynolds and Imperial Tobacco — and said she was considering a complete ban on tobacco advertising.

Zuma listed the violations as the importation of cigarettes without the prescribed health warning, advertising on billboards where the health warnings were not visible at night or inadequate, and ads in the print media where the warnings were too small or did not show tar and nicotine content.

Zuma already had the tobacco lobby complaining that their "freedom of speech" was being infringed when she brought out her health warning regulations in December 1994 — warnings which anti-tobacco groups pointed out merely brought South Africa in line with many developed countries. But this time, by threatening to ban tobacco advertising altogether, she made a frontal assault on one of the most powerful interest groups in the country.

The tobacco industry is reportedly worth more than R6-billion to the South African economy and supports about 200 000 South Africans. The National Council Against Smoking (NCAS) says R150-million is spent annually on tobacco advertising. The South African Revenue Service estimates government coffers will be swelled by about R1.16-billion by



Now you see it, now you don't: A billboard whose health-warning sign is not visible at night



PHOTOGRAPHS: STEFANS BRÜMMER

excise duties on locally manufactured tobacco products alone in the current financial year.

The Rembrandt Group last year ranked eighth on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) in terms of market capitalisation, while its Swiss-registered sibling Richmond ranked fourth on the JSE (after Anglo American, De Beers and South African Breweries). Both are controlled by the Rupert/Hertzog dynasty, headed by Rembrandt founder Anton Rupert — one of the select group of businessmen who serve on President Nelson Mandela's "Brenthurst" advisory group. Richmond boasted a R28.7-billion capitalisation last year (Rembrandt R18.3-billion) and a pre-tax profit of R4.6-billion (Rembrandt R1.4-billion).

Stockbroking analyst Carel Oosthuizen was quoted this week as saying Rembrandt/Richmont tobacco associate, the Rothmans Group, generated R35-billion in excise duties worldwide. "This is roughly 25% of this country's Budget. If you were to cut this figure out of certain countries' budgets, it could add as much as 1% to their deficit."

So it was not surprising that Rupert went on the counter-offensive with a full-page open letter to Zuma in the Sunday press, saying: "It is ironic and a sad fact of our society

that a company which dutifully pays its taxes, and goes out of its way to comply with the letter and spirit of the law, is now being accused by you of breaking the law."

Rupert said Zuma had been warned often that cigarette smuggling would increase as a result of increased excise duties. He went on to say that in 1993, "in a law-abiding country like Canada, smuggled cigarettes increased to over 40% of the total market. As in South Africa, this was due to high levels of excise duties. The Canadian government lost tax revenues and, due to the availability of cheaper smuggled products, consumption did not decrease."

There is, however, a considerable body of evidence which appears to contradict much of what Rupert said — and which appears to support Zuma's argument that the best way to decrease smoking is to discourage new smokers, especially teenagers, by banning advertising and further increasing excise taxes on tobacco products.

About 22 Western countries have complete or near-complete advertising bans, in line with a May 1990 World Health Organisation resolution. And South Africa, in spite of increases in excise and import duties

in recent years, still levies lower taxes than most. South Africa's 1995 cigarette excise of 38% of retail value compares unfavourably with, for example, Zimbabwe's 50%, the United Kingdom's 76%, Denmark's 85% and Brazil's 74%.

And government statistics appear to make nonsense of Rupert's argument that higher taxes will lead to more smuggling to the extent that state coffers will suffer and smoking will increase.

In a retaliatory open letter written this week to Rupert, the NCAS pointed out that in the first nine months of 1995, compared to the same period in 1994, wholesale cigarette sales dropped by 2.2%, while cigarette tax revenues increased by 32.5% — from about R825-million to about R1.09-billion, according to Department of Finance figures.

The NCAS says in the letter: "Yes, cigarette smuggling has increased in South Africa, as has smuggling of televisions, hi-fi sets, drugs, tyres and other products. Decreasing the excise tax on cigarettes will not end smuggling. The smugglers will simply switch from tobacco to other goods. Lowering tobacco taxes will, however, result in a loss of government revenue, and a rise in tobacco industry sales and profits."

The *British Medical Journal* in May

agreed that cigarette smuggling into Canada increased with increased taxes, but said total consumption (including of smuggled cigarettes) decreased by 40% between 1982 to 1991 as taxes increased. When the taxes were lowered again in February 1994 to curb smuggling, smoking increased immediately and tobacco tax revenues dropped.

Although Rupert said Rembrandt had gone "out of its way to comply with the letter and the spirit of the law", there is little doubt that the law on health warnings in advertising is often breached. The *Mail & Guardian* this week photographed a Chesterfield (one of Rupert's brands) billboard advertisement in Johannesburg where the warning is not lit up at night, while the "Chesterfield" neon lettering is clearly visible.

The Department of Health supplied the M&G with details of a number of cases which have been reported to police about breaches of the law on billboards, in print media and in point-of-sale advertising material. A Cape Town state prosecutor of this week said she had knowledge of a number of cases where offenders had paid admission of guilt fines before it came to trial. She said offenders could also still get off with warnings, as the rules were "relatively new".

## Smoke clears between Zuma and Rembrandt

ANDREW SMITH  
STAFF REPORTER

(87) ARG 25/10/96

The air has cleared between Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma and Rembrandt Group chairman Johan Rupert after their war of words over inadequate health warnings on cigarette packets and advertising.

Dr Zuma earlier insinuated that the Rembrandt Group had not adhered to the law and had failed to carry adequate health warnings.

In a scathing reply, Mr Rupert said smuggling rackets were the major cause of cigarette packs which appeared without adequate warnings. He blamed this on high excise duties.

At a meeting between the two today, Dr Zuma explained that her department's policy was "to discourage children from smoking". In turn, Mr Rupert assured Dr Zuma that his organisation "had at all times tried to act within the letter and spirit of the law and would continue to do so".

# US findings fuel SA 'tobacco war'

Kathryn Strachan

A MAJOR US study released last week, which shows for the first time the direct link between cigarette smoke and cancer, has fuelled the local "tobacco war".

The case against smoking has until now rested largely on the evidence that 90% of people in the US with lung cancer are smokers.

While this is a very strong indication tobacco

causes cancer, the exact chemical in the smoke which causes cancer and its precise process has eluded scientists.

And it was this "missing link" the tobacco industry had latched onto in its case for smoking.

The Californian study, published in leading US journal Science, found a chemical in cigarette smoke damages a gene in lung tissue which normally prevents uncontrolled cell growth. The study reports that benzo(a)pyrene — found in cigarette smoke tar — is directly involved in transforming normal lung cells into cancer cells.

Researchers at the

City of Hope, a leading cancer research and treatment centre in California, found that the gene damage caused by benzo(a)pyrene matches exactly with several mutational "hot spots" specific to lung cancer, indicating the chemical systematically damages lung tissue.

The study came at an opportune time for SA's anti-tobacco campaign, which has wasted no time in using it in its battle against the industry.

The stock of US cigarette manufacturers Phillip Morris and RJR Nabisco fell last Friday, after news of the study was released.

**SAB**

THE

BD 25/10/96



# Cuts could kill mums and babies

ST(CM) 27/10/96 (87)

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

**MOTHERS and children will die in greater numbers if the budget for obstetrics services is cut further, some of the Western Cape's top obstetricians and gynaecologists have warned.**

The cuts would severely jeopardise safe motherhood in the Western Cape in the name of equity elsewhere, 17 doctors and professors attached to Groote Schuur Hospital's obstetrics and gynaecology unit have said in a letter to the Sunday Times.

They emphasise that they support the transition process.

However, they say the slashing of a third off teaching hospitals' budgets and the closure of about 500 beds will harm the Western Cape's exemplary obstetrics services.

For 25 years, the province's maternity services have been tiered.

Only high-risk pregnancies are referred to Groote Schuur, which means it handles only 15 percent of the annual 28 000 deliveries.

This system has proved efficient and cost-effective and has ensured

safe motherhood.

"The obstetrics service in the Peninsula is a prime example of a community-based service that now faces inappropriate rationalisation," the doctors write.

The government's macro-economic plan to redress past inequalities dictates that 800 academic hospital beds must close over the next five years in the Western Cape.

These cuts are being applied pro rata to the obstetrics services — and if this continues, the safety of pregnancy and childbirth in the province will be compromised severely, the doctors warn.

"An increased death rate seems inevitable."

The director-general of health care in the Western Cape, Dr Faried Abdullah, recently said that the health plan would upgrade primary and secondary levels of care and downgrade tertiary levels.

Almost 40 primary centres had been established in two years and several secondary hospitals had been developed, opening nearly 400 beds, he said.

However, the doctors note that

these hospitals do not have facilities for high-risk maternity patients.

Asked about a new secondary hospital, G F Jooste, which opened last month and was reportedly taking over about 60 percent of Groote Schuur's emergency patients, the doctors said the hospital did not have a maternity service.

"These changes make a complete mockery of primary health care-based medicine and will end in denying the population of Cape Town a decent minimum standard of midwifery care.

"We believe the maternity services of the Western Cape are a model for the rest of the country, rather than an over-funded relic of a discredited regime.

"We also believe that although certain aspects of women's health might be more appropriately managed at second-tier hospitals, sensitivity dictates that women (who already carry a disproportionate burden of society's ills) should not be summarily dispossessed of a decent minimum standard of care in the name of equity-driven macro-economic planning."

# Warning on SA's looming cocaine crisis

(87)

About 150 000 addicted to the drug in Gauteng, says doctor

Star 28/11/96

BY RODNEY VICTOR

South Africa faces a crisis if nothing is done about the rampant cocaine problem, says Dr Sylvain de Miranda, director of the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Johannesburg.

Rates of cocaine addiction were reaching the levels experienced in America, he told guests at the annual meeting of Sanca Johannesburg this week.

There were probably about 150 000 cocaine addicts in Gauteng alone, and by next year it was expected there would be 500 000 cocaine addicts in the country as a whole.

"People are beginning to react. The angry parents down in the Cape are not some sort of sinister plot - they're people who have been watching the destruction of their communities and of their children," he said.

Drugs were destabilising society, and were a major contributor to the crime problem, De Miranda said.

Cocaine addicts could never afford to pay the hundreds or thousands of rands a day needed to sustain their habits, and they inevitably became involved in crime.

The problem was spread throughout society, from unemployed teen-

agers involved in muggings and housebreakings to businessmen involved in white-collar crime.

Drug dealers were intimately involved in car hijackings and transporting stolen vehicles outside the country to be exchanged for drugs.

And much of the mindless aggression and violence in the country could be linked to crack cocaine and other drugs.

Even the most peaceable people became extremely aggressive under the influence of crack.

While the problem was continuing unchecked, the Government was cutting its subsidies to rehabilitation agencies, De Miranda said.

The subsidy to Sanca Johannesburg had been cut by 33% last year.

Many of its centres were in the red and were being forced to curtail their services.

The Department of Welfare had said it was channelling the funds to the rural areas, which was ridiculous, De Miranda said. Drugs were a feature of urban life, not of the rural areas.

"The problem is getting worse and the addicts are getting younger.

"If nothing is done about this mess, the country is going to go one way," De Miranda warned.

# Criticism of tobacco control project a smoke screen, say researchers

87  
MAM 13/12/96

The Tobacco Institute's criticisms of a new project on the economics of tobacco control are a smoke screen, say the project authors.

The project was conducted by the University of Cape Town's department of economics in collaboration with the Medical Research Council's

tobacco control research programme.

Iraj Abedian, project leader and UCT professor of economics, says the Tobacco Institute is trying to protect its interests, but that it is ridiculous to cast doubt on the project reports without engaging them at the technical level.

The institute has described the reports as so seriously flawed that they could not possibly serve their intended purpose of influencing government policy on tobacco taxation and advertising.

The institute, which represents the major tobacco companies as well as tobacco farmers,

has told Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel and Minister of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma, that the reports are "unworthy of consideration".

But Abedian says the institute's criticisms, for example, of the estimates of cigarette consumption, are "sheer nonsense". The study group used a tight

methodological process as well as public statistics, which it had attached to the report.

He also challenged the institute's analyst - Daniel Leach of Wits University's department of business economics - to a public discussion on competent economic research. - Medical Council respondent.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

# Increased tobacco excise duty in focus

**T**HE battle between the tobacco industry and anti-smoking lobbyists is heating up in SA, and there is increasing evidence that government is succeeding in its bid to use taxes to curb cigarette consumption.

However, there is also the possibility this might end up a hollow victory, with more cigarettes smuggled into the country and the threat of substantial job losses.

SA's official strategy is part of an international trend towards strengthening measures to discourage smoking. Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's stated preference for a ban on all cigarette advertising, the introduction of health warnings on cigarette packaging and higher customs and excise duties on tobacco products is a signal of solidarity with other anti-smoking governments.

Between 1994 and last year government imposed stiff duty increases on cigarettes — a move that resulted in the excise and VAT on cigarettes sold in SA rising to 41% of the retail price in April. Percentages in other developing countries include Zimbabwe's 39,9%, Malawi's 41,2% and Malaysia's 29,9%.

Meanwhile, customs and excise figures show a 5,4% decline in legitimate cigarette sales between March 1994 and February last year, a slump of 7,5% in the six months from April to September compared with the same time the previous year.

However, while government and the anti-smoking lobby may congratulate themselves on the apparent reduction in cigarette consumption, the tobacco industry warns that this trend is only an indication of an increase in illegal imports.

Tobacco industry spokesmen say the number of smokers as quoted by the All Media Products Survey rose from 7,2-million in 1994 to about 8-million last year. The figures also show that not only the number of smokers, but also

Do increased duties on tobacco products achieve their aim of improving the health of the nation, or will they have significant undesired economic effects? **Samantha Sharpe** reports from Cape Town

the number of cigarettes consumed a day increased.

They say the shortfall between official consumption figures (although these exclude a small contribution from imports) must to some extent be attributable to the public's substitution of "legitimate" cigarettes with contraband.

The industry warns that Canada's attempts to curtail tobacco consumption through drastic increases in the taxes levied by the federal government — about 150% in the five years to 1991 — led to a dramatic increase in smuggling that peaked in 1993.

"After 1991 the total tax incidence (federal, provincial and sales taxes) on a pack of cigarettes in some provinces approached 75%. An enormous black market for cigarettes developed with criminal gangs, including the Mafia, Asian Thads and outlaw biker gangs, buying Canadian cigarettes in the US that had been exported duty-free, and then smuggling them back to Canada.

"Faced with increased lawlessness and national tax losses that exceeded \$2bn in 1993, the Canadian government announced massive tax cuts on cigarettes in early 1994. What happened in Canada is a model for any other jurisdiction that increases taxes on cigarettes to levels that the public perceives as unreasonable," says one industry source.

"Contraband cigarettes are at this moment available in cities like Cape Town and East London at prices as low as 99c and even 60c a pack, which is less than the current excise duty alone."

It is understandable the industry would use the Canadian experience to try to justify lower

duties, but it is also clear that high duties could have a negative impact on SA's economy in other ways.

The Tobacco Board's latest annual reports show a significant decrease in industry employment levels in the 1994/5 financial year — to 34 854 from a previous 52 440 in 1993/4.

These losses can be directly attributed to the decline in cigarette sales during the past five years, with the estimated 63 000 retailers who derive some income from tobacco sales also likely to be affected by illegal trade.

The economic "loss-up" between potential job losses and health costs is not unique to SA. The European Commission was expected to propose earlier this month that the European Union strengthen measures to discourage smoking while keeping and reforming its controversial tobacco subsidy programme.

EC social affairs commissioner Padraig Flynn is planning a last-ditch effort to convince his colleagues to end the tobacco subsidies programme that channels more than \$1bn a year to tobacco farmers, arguing that it compromises the EU's effort to curtail its 500 000 smoking-related deaths each year.

But detractors, including agriculture commissioner Franz Fischler, argue that 135 000 farmers plus 65 000 seasonal workers and tobacco processors would be put out of work without curbing smoking, since consumers would simply buy imported products. Tobacco farmers would have a hard time diversifying to other products

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ZUMA

since they work on small patches of land not suitable for anything else, they say.

University of Cape Town economics professor Iraj Abedian, who has conducted research into the economics of tobacco control, says smoking carries with it economic, social and moral costs that outweigh the employment benefits and economic stimulation of the tobacco industry.

"The social and fiscal costs of the smoking industry in the form of hospitalisation and early deaths are immense and ultimately it is the taxpayer that ends up bearing the cost. The fact that gov-

ernment's attempts to curb tobacco consumption bearing fruit shows that they have the ability to control these economic costs and, while there might be some increase in smuggling activity, this is really a smoke-screen offered by the industry to blur the real issues," he says.

"A striking feature of the cigarette industry is the decline in the real retail cigarette price over the past 24 years," he says.

"In 1990 prices, the real price a packet in 1971 was about R2,58. In 1995 this had declined to R2,03 after a low of R1,48 in 1991."

The industry has levelled criticism at Abedian's methodology, which it alleges uses inaccurate consumption data.

Abedian says it is government's overwhelming responsibility to ensure that prices do not encourage consumption. He says the Canadian experience is matched by other examples pointing to the economic benefits of implementing higher excise duties.

"The key issue in the Canadian experience is not that government

lost revenue because of increased smuggling, but that it lost revenue because of reduced consumption. That reduction in cigarette consumption vindicates implementing higher taxes," he says.

On government's move in 1995 to include health warnings on cigarette boxes — a move which cost the tobacco companies associated with the Rembrandt group R47m — and its warnings of a possible ban on all cigarette advertising last year, the tobacco industry says the decision to take up smoking is dominated by various factors.

The tobacco company officials say it is difficult to see how advertising in a well established market could have the effect of convincing smokers to go out and buy more cigarettes than they actually need.

"Contrary to what the tobacco industry is accused of worldwide, our total marketing effort is aimed at encouraging brand switching among existing smokers. Non-smokers in any event appear to be oblivious to tobacco advertising, a trend supported by several scientific studies," the industry says.

Abedian disagrees strongly, saying there is increasing international evidence that advertising has a positive effect on cigarette consumption. He points to research published in the American Economic Review which seeks to demonstrate that the effect of advertising is positive. "Increasingly, competent international professional journals show this; and this literature is especially relevant to the current debate."

Whatever the view on increased government interference in the tobacco industry, it is clear that increased taxes and health warnings do have some kind of effect on the consumption of legally acquired cigarettes. Whether the perceived benefits to smokers outweigh the damage to a labour-intensive industry and the creation of a smuggling culture remains to be seen.

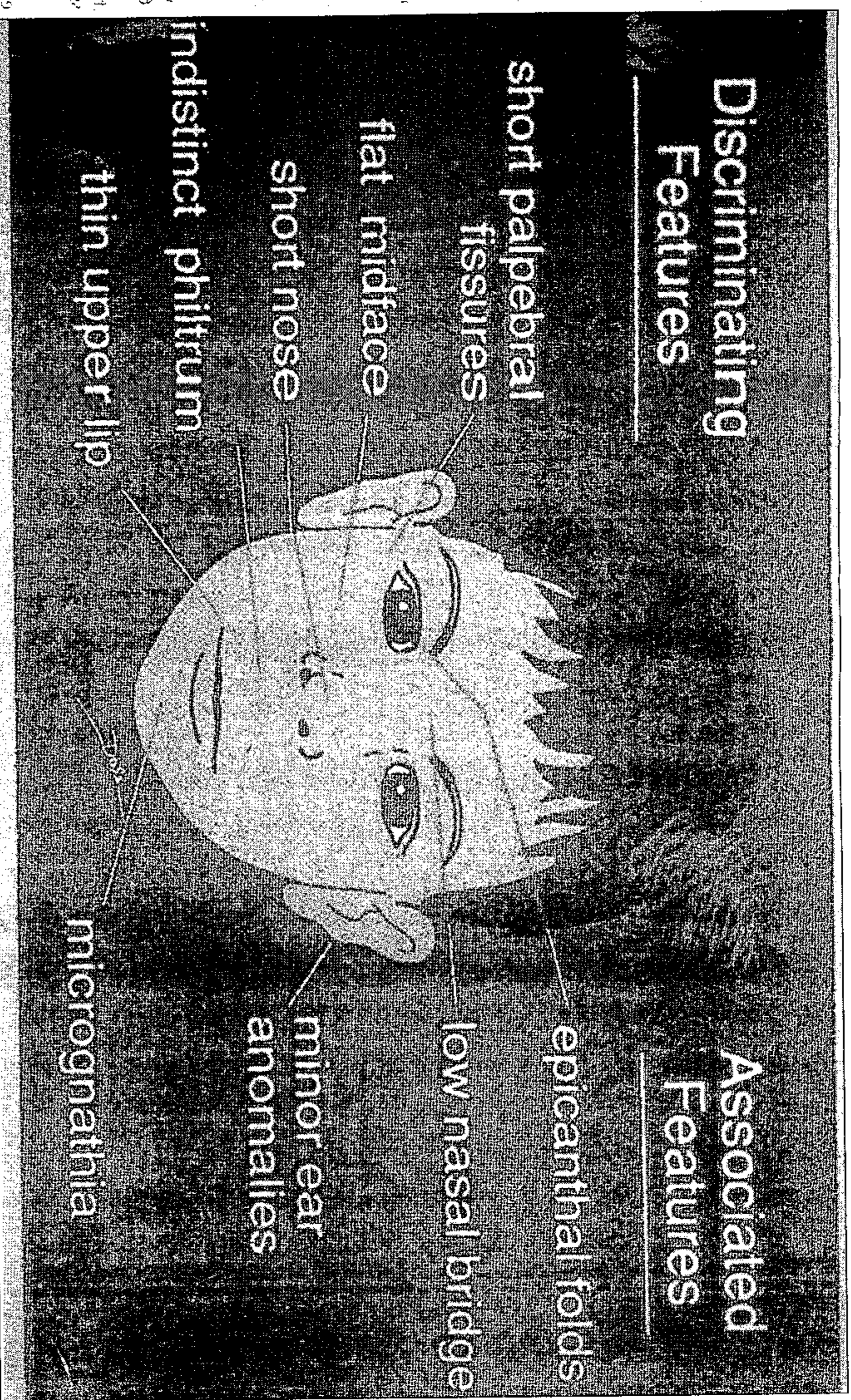
## Facing the damage

### Discriminating Features

short palpebral fissures  
flat midface  
short nose  
indistinct philtrum  
thin upper lip

### Associated Features

epicanthal folds  
low nasal bridge  
minor ear anomalies  
micrognathia



**TELLTALE SIGNS:** The classic characteristics of a child who has Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). The epicanthal fold is the fold of skin covering the inner corner of the eye. A micrognathia is a small chin; an indistinct philtrum is a deformed jaw; palpebral fissures are the eye openings. **PICTURE: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS, UCT**

## 10 000 BABIES AFFECTED IN W CAPE EACH YEAR

# Drunk babies: shock study

CT 21/2/97 (87)

**EVEN** small doses of alcohol during pregnancy can cause physical and mental handicaps in unborn babies. **CYNTHIA VONGAL** reports.

**D**RINKING is so rife in the Western Cape that a study has shown that more than half the babies born in the region suffer from Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

A study conducted by the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town (UCT) into poorer communities in the Western Cape has found that about 5 000 to 10 000 babies every year are born with FAS.

FAS has now been identified as one of the main causes of growth and mental retardation in babies.

Professor Denis Viljoen, associate professor at the Department of Human Genetics, said in an interview yesterday that women did not realise that alcohol — even taken in small doses — could lead to physical and mental handicaps in their unborn children.

Viljoen stressed that drinking in the first three months of pregnancy could lead to organ

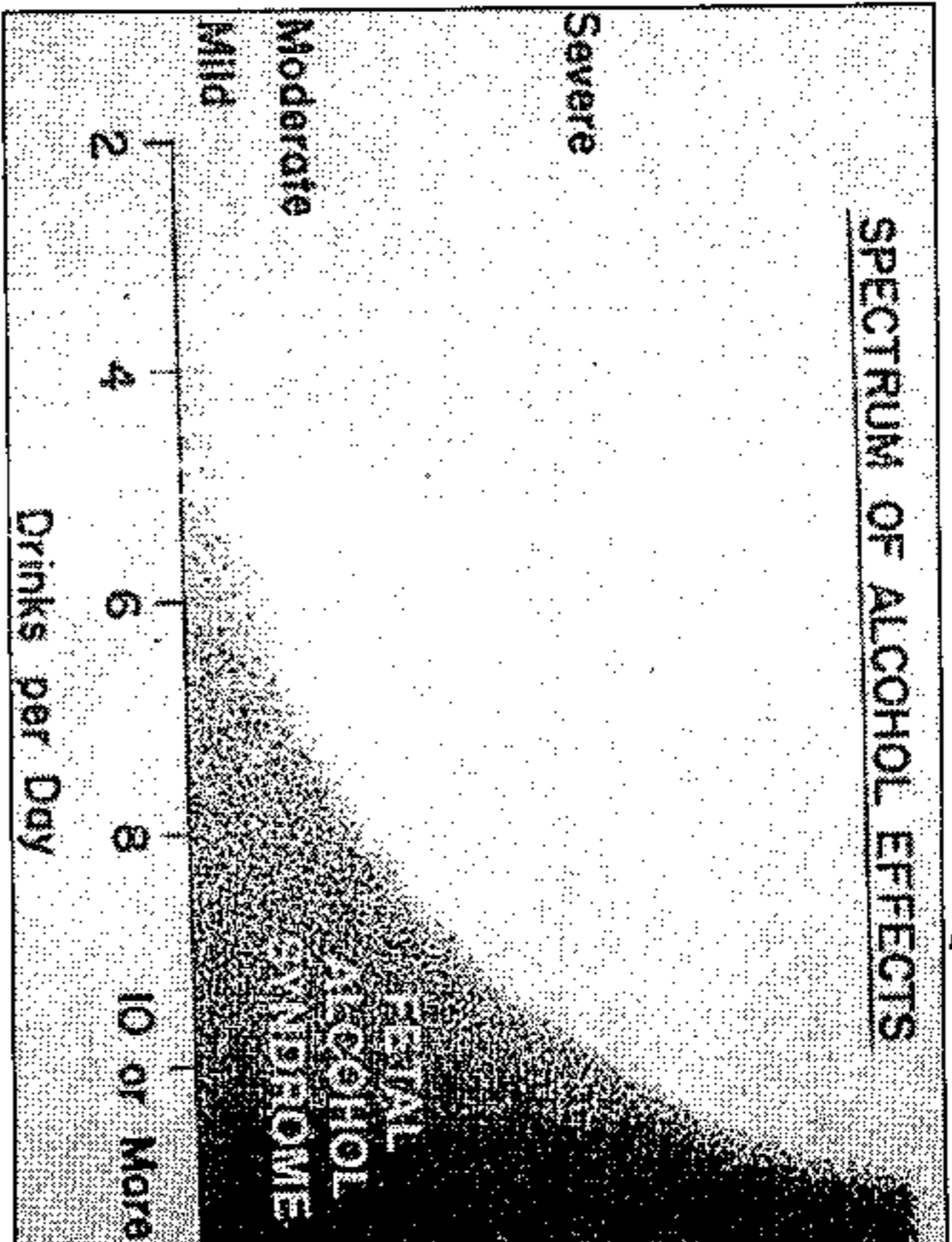
damage, as this was the crucial stage when a baby's organs were developing. There is a 50% chance that if a woman drinks during the first three months of her pregnancy, her child may be born with FAS.

Alcohol abuse could lead to defects of the heart, arms, eyes, legs, teeth, ears and external genitalia. At about six months, drinking could lead to nervous system problems, including brain damage.

There is no cure for FAS, except to try to rectify growth problems by improving the child's diet, but brain damage cannot be rectified.

The only way to prevent FAS is for women to stop drinking during pregnancy.

FAS can be determined by visible deformities of the face. The middle part of the face is usually contracted and the baby will also have a short nose with upturned nostrils, narrow eyes and sometimes a cleft palate. Generally, babies



**THE RISKS:** As few as two drinks a day can lead to FAS in babies. **GRAPH: DEPT OF HUMAN GENETICS, UCT**

are smaller than they should be because of retarded growth.

Viljoen said there was no biological test to determine during pregnancy whether or not a foetus had FAS, but a gynaecologist could get an indication from the baby's growth patterns.

"Babies with FAS have retarded growth. An ultrasound (scan) may show whether the baby is not devel-

oping properly," he said.

Most children born with FAS cannot learn within the normal education system because they have some sort of brain damage.

They also sometimes show alcohol withdrawal symptoms such as the "shakes". Sometimes these are so bad in babies soon after birth that mild sedatives are administered in serious cases to calm the babies.

# SA warned about the dangers of smoking

By Mokgadl Pela

**A** LEADING cardiologist has cautioned South Africans about the dangers of smoking and urged people to quit the habit.

Professor Harry Seftel of the Wits Medical School said: "There is no part of the body that smoking doesn't destroy. It mainly targets the lungs and heart." He said smoking also caused cancer of the lips, throat and voice box.

Seftel said smoking resulted in over two million deaths annually worldwide. Tobacco smoking, he said, was as addictive as cocaine, mandrax, opium and dagga.

"It's tragic therefore, to see young ladies increasingly adopting the habit. For the first time in 1996, the number of female smokers exceeded that of men in the Western world. In the African population, more than 50 percent of men smoke. In the white population, over 60 percent of men smoke while 40 percent of females also smoke," he said.

## Ruin the lives of millions

He labelled smoking the "plague" of the 20th century. "At a time when we are still struggling with tuberculosis and other preventable diseases, the tobacco moguls ruin the lives of millions of people".

He urged adults to be exemplary in their lifestyles. He singled out parents, teachers, doctors and politicians among those who should not smoke as it sent wrong signals to teenagers.

Seftel said there was an overwhelming case for the total ban of tobacco advertising. "There's a difference between freedom and chaos. It's strange that tobacco advertising is often associated with sport. Is it not funny considering that sport has to do with health and performance while smoking has to do with death?" He added that for one to be a good sportsperson, one needed good muscles

*Sowetan 21/2/97*  
Cigarettes far cheaper in South Africa than elsewhere in the world (87)



Prof Harry Seftel

and arteries.

He called on the Government to raise tobacco tax as a way of discouraging smoking, particularly among teenagers. "The price of cigarette is very low in comparison to other countries. We can use tobacco tax for good purposes".

Addressing a workshop on tobacco control in Pretoria last year, director-general of health Dr Olive Shisana said South Africa needed the cooperation of all sectors in combating tobacco.

"Tobacco is a major problem in our society for three reasons: It is harmful, it is addictive and it is an important economic commodity. If tobacco were not harmful, there would be no reason to stop smoking. If it were not addictive there would be no problem in stopping. If the trade in tobacco was not large there would be little opposition to the regulation of this product. It is the concurrence of harmfulness, addictiveness and economics that aggravates the problem," Shisana said.

## Major threat

"If current smoking trends continue, health authorities will have to siphon scarce financial and human resources into dealing with smoking-related diseases. The international community has warned that tobacco is a major threat to sustainable and equitable development."

She said the tobacco industry's success was rooted in its continued ability to mass market a cheap product that was addictive. "It only has to get children to start smoking, and nicotine dependence will ensure they continue to smoke for the next 30 to 40 years".

Turning to the youth, Shisana said: "Preventing smoking among young people depends upon changing the attitude of society as a whole. Children will not stop smoking simply because adults tell them to do so. Adults must set the example and quit the habit themselves to provide positive role models and create a social environment that promotes health by making the healthy decision of kicking the habit."

# 'Rave' drug culture takes root in schools

(87)

Children as young as 12 years old caught in web of peer pressure as lethal concoctions become common currency

BY STUART KELLY

With a lucrative market having been created by the current "rave culture", Johannesburg's high schools are becoming prime targets for teenage drug pushers.

Members of the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab) say it is spiralling out of control. Children as young as 12 years old, caught up in a web of peer pressure and easy pocket money, are pushing "trendy" designer drugs on to their friends in class.

David Bayever of the national drug organisation Drug Wise believes the problem has now reached epidemic proportions, with as many as one in four pupils having experimented with drugs. Drugs such as Ecstasy, LSD - and even a new lethal but rare concoction of Ecstasy and heroin called Fantasy - have become common currency on school grounds.

While reluctant to name specific schools or incidents, police say there is hardly a single high

school in Johannesburg which can boast that it is drug free.

"It all starts in the rave clubs where age restrictions are barely enforced," says Bayever. "Rave fashions often make it hard to tell their ages anyway. We've had girls as young as 10 involved with the rave scene. Alcohol is shunned in favour of drugs, and from there it's only a short step to the schools, where more peer pressure is brought to bear."

Sanab superintendent Gillian Ehlers says syndicates are using schoolchildren as pushers who sell Ecstasy pills for between R80 and R120 each, and LSD at about R50 - inside school grounds.

"The problem appears to be greater among schools in the wealthier northern suburbs," Ehlers says. "Pupils pool pocket money and share a pill between them. There's no stigma attached to drug use at all."

Without the co-operation of the school authorities, the police's task becomes even tougher.

"Some school principals are still in a phase of denial and don't

believe the problem exists on their campuses at all," says Bayever.

He adds that many schools have faced up to the problem, even identifying specific pushers and users, but are afraid of the bad publicity that goes with it.

"They often refer these children to us, some of whom come to their senses," he says.

Because the initial effects of designer drugs aren't as overt as alcohol, parents, too, have been duped and fail to apply pressure on the school authorities.

Bayever believes the problem is aggravated by disinformation, unwittingly perpetuated by the media, which suggests that Ecstasy is preferable to alcohol.

"Programmes on rave culture, such as the one produced by *Beckett's Trek*, gave teenagers the wrong idea. The message which came through in many reports suggested that Ecstasy was somehow okay - a complete falsehood. The effects of these designer drugs are every bit as bad as alcohol or any other drug in the long term."

Star 10/3/97

# Action plan to combat alcoholism

*Sowetan 13/3/97*  
*(87)*

Designers believe strategy can decrease harmful effects of drink

By Mokgadi Pela

**T**HE Medical Research Council has unveiled a 10-point action plan to combat the abuse of alcohol and its deleterious health effects for South Africans.

The package, which was designed by the MRC's National Urbanisation and Health Research Programme, will hopefully have a positive impact on both public and socio-economic development.

The plan recommends that:

- Drunk driving be addressed through a high-profile effort aimed at punishing drunk drivers. This should involve more random breath testing, mandatory breath or blood alcohol testing in the case of road-related injuries and increasing sanctions for those caught drinking and driving;

- Encouraging workplace interventions to address alcohol misuse by

advising businesses to develop and implement interventions. This includes developing workplace policies, training supervisors in policy application and awareness programmes;

- Strengthening activities at the primary health care level. PHC workers should involve themselves in detecting and managing patients with drinking problems, setting up day-care programmes for alcoholics, supporting families and self-help groups;

- Implementing and enforcing coherent strategies for licensing of liquor outlets;

- The excise tax on malt beer and brandy should be increased by 20 to 25 percent to bring it up to 1985 levels; and

- Rigorously enforcing the minimum drinking age, consumption of alcohol in certain public places and public drunkenness (particularly by commuters and pedestrians).



# Dope and booze abuse 'rife' in W Cape schools

## *Shock survey findings*

ARG 4/4/97 (87) (87)

**SABATA NGCAI**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

**Standard 6 pupils have told of large-scale drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse at Western Cape and Gauteng schools, with dagga abuse particularly prevalent in the Western Cape.**

This emerged at a Cape Town workshop organised by the Independent Order of True Templars, which opposes drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The workshop, which involved 10 schools from both provinces, heard that a survey of 420 pupils conducted in September found that many standard 6 pupils drank heavily and smoked dagga and tobacco.

The research was conducted by Jason Tibbs, a Cape Town research psychologist.

He found that 10 percent smoked dagga, seven percent used injectable drugs or inhalants, 35 percent smoked tobacco, 27 percent believed drugs were safe and 24

percent thought they could not control their drug use. He also found 58 percent agreed to a programme that would fight drug abuse.

The Western Cape findings were:

- Nineteen percent of boys and 14 percent of girls drank alcohol;
- Eighteen percent of boys and two percent of girls smoked dagga; and
- Forty-eight percent of boys and 37 percent of girls smoked tobacco.

The findings for Gauteng were:

- Thirty-five percent of boys and 20 percent of girls drank alcohol;
- Eleven percent of boys but no girls smoked dagga; and
- Eighteen percent of boys and six percent of girls smoked tobacco.

The project focused mainly on coloured and black schools but may be extended to white schools.

Erica Faure of the Templars said it was necessary to instil confidence in youngsters to refuse drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

(2) The implications of all higher education being a national competence in terms of Schedule 4 of the Constitution, requires important shifts in policy, governance and funding for colleges, as described in the draft White Paper on Higher Education. The implications for student financial aid are an important element in this process and are under study.

\*3. Mr D H M GIBSON – Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]

**Bail administration: B priority list**

\*4. Mrs S M CAMERERER asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether, with reference to recent allegedly controversial decisions in magistrates' courts awarding bail, the programme on bail administration in terms of the re-engineering of the criminal justice system is listed on the National Crime Prevention Strategy's B priority list; if so, why;

(2) whether he intends transferring this programme to the A priority list; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?  
N1107E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) and (2) Bail administration in terms of the re-engineering of the criminal justice system was placed on the B priority list of the National Crime Prevention Strategy on the recommendation of consultants who were assisting with preparing the various business plans under the programmes of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

This took place shortly after the bail law had been amended (Criminal Procedure Second Amendment Act, No. 75 of 1995 which came into effect on 21 September 1995).

Generally speaking, the amended bail law has worked satisfactorily and Magistrates have done an excellent job in handling bail applications. This is one of the reasons that there has been such a dramatic increase in the prison population in respect

of awaiting trial prisoners. However, as time went on, certain weaknesses were experienced. Whatever the reason, some persons who had committed very serious crimes were being released on bail in circumstances which outraged communities.

Whilst therefore the A and B listing has not been tampered with, in fact the issue of bail administration is being treated on a priority basis.

(a) The A and B listing represent a guideline and the NCPs Ministers have the right to re-prioritise at any time.

(b) There is no need to take formal steps like passing resolutions or adopting a minute to transfer bail administration from one list to another. The reality is that it is being treated as a high priority area. For this reason a number of steps have been taken:

(i) Government has made it clear that in its view bail should be refused in serious cases, especially where the security and safety of individuals and communities are at stake.

(ii) Under the NCPs, a project management team to investigate the bail system and make recommendations has been set up. A final report of this team is expected at the next meeting of the NCPs Ministers Committee.

(iii) Legislation is pending to compel courts to refuse bail in certain serious cases wherever appropriate and necessary to protect the public. Representatives of various parties have been consulted in this connection. The bail law has been drafted and will be made available soon.

(iv) The Department of Justice has secured the assistance of the Vera Institute of Justice, an United States based institution, to commence pilot projects on pre-trial services. This includes a service to assist the court to distinguish between serious and non-serious cases where bail applications are pending before courts. The pre-trial service is being introduced in 5 centres at present and if successful

will be extended especially to the major centres in the country.

These measures are an indication that bail administration is regarded as a priority matter, especially insofar as the Justice Department is concerned.

**NCPs Directors-General: Committee meetings**

\*5. Mrs S M CAMERERER asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) On how many occasions has the Directors-General Committee established under the National Crime Prevention Strategy met;
- (2) whether the Committee has developed any performance measurement mechanisms for the NCPs; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what mechanisms;
- (3) whether the Committee has implemented any programmes; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what programmes?  
N1108E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) The Directors-General meet jointly with the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPs) Minister. During 1997 these meetings have taken place monthly.

(2) Yes. A work programme which lists milestones and outputs has been approved. This will be tabled at the Joint Meeting of Portfolio Committees on 2 June 1997.

Performance measures for NCPs programmes in respect of outcomes will be developed jointly with the departments. The monitoring group of the Secretariat for Safety and Security will assist. When the Project Management Service Team is appointed, it will have as a primary responsibility, the monitoring of all NCPs projects.

(3) Yes.  
The Committee has implemented the following programmes:

Integrated Criminal Justice Information Management

Vehicle Crime

Investigation of the Administration of Bail

Escapes from Custody

Commercial Crime

National Anti-Corruption Programme for the Criminal Justice System

Border Control

Firearms

Automated Fingerprinting Identification System

Fencing of Prisons

Provincial Summits

Community Safety Centres

Safer Cities (with Johannesburg Metro and United Nations)

Victim Empowerment

Awaiting trial prisoners

Support to SDI Co-ordinating Committee

Secure care facilities

Training of offenders

Witness Protection

Court Management

Human Resource Training (Justice)

Upgrading of infrastructure (Justice)

These programmes are at different stages of implementation. Details will be given in the presentation to the Portfolio Committees on 2 June 1997.

**Legislation on smoking** (87)

\*6. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health:  
Whether she intends introducing legislation on smoking in 1997; if not, why not; if so, what will be the nature of such legislation?  
N1109E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

The question is extremely appropriate given that Saturday, May 31 is WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY.

Tobacco is a uniquely dangerous product which deserves unique treatment. It is the only consumer product that can kill when used exactly as the manufacturer intended. And there is no longer any doubt that tobacco causes death and disease on a very large scale.

Since the middle of the twentieth century, tobacco products have killed more than 60 million people. The death toll is also increasing not decreasing, with the bulk (70%) of future deaths from tobacco expected to occur in the developing countries which have become the focus of the multinational tobacco company's marketing efforts.

The World Health Organisation has labelled the tobacco epidemic a "global public health emergency" and has called upon governments, communities and individuals to "Unite for a tobacco-free world" and take concerted action to beat the epidemic.

Further, in 1992, President Mandela issued the following message:

"On May 31, World No-Tobacco Day, I appeal to smokers to quit for one day, as a first step to conquering their habit. They say the hardest part about stopping smoking, is making the decision to do it. Make that decision for one day on May 31."

I call upon all members of the National Assembly who smoke to heed the President's words and not smoke on May 31. Take the first step to beating your addiction.

The Department of Health is in the process of discussing and consulting about further legislation. It will probably be in Parliament next year.

#### Mentally handicapped patients sent home

\*7. Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister of Health:

Whether any hospitals are sending home mentally handicapped patients who still require care; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?  
N1110E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

No, psychiatric Hospitals and Care and Rehabilitation Centres are undergoing a process of restructuring so as to render a more cost- and treatment effective service. Wherever possible, people have the right to live in communities rather than in institutions.

In line with this, certain hospitals have had patients assessed by multi-disciplinary teams, and where appropriate, people have been discharged to their families or other community facilities. In the majority of cases patients have been discharged to "half-way" facilities where rehabilitation programmes will continue, rather than being sent home.

#### Local authorities bankrupt/nearly bankrupt

\*8. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

(1) Whether any local authorities are (a) currently bankrupt or (b) facing bankruptcy during the course of 1997; if so, how many in each case;

(2) whether his Department has (a) allocated any funds and/or (b) developed any management plans to cope with the situation facing such bankrupt local authorities to ensure that services continue to be rendered in the areas of such local authorities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1111E

#### The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No. My Department is not aware of (a) any bankrupt local authorities or (b) any local authorities facing bankruptcy during the course of 1997.

(2)(a) No, my Department did not allocate, or budget, for any funds to cope with any bankruptcy which could occur.

(b) Yes, at a joint Finance and Local Government MINMEC on 19 September 1996, a Framework for Intervention Programme was approved. In terms of the above intervention framework, it is the responsibility of the MEC's for Local Government in the Provinces to appoint Management Audit Teams. These Teams conduct management audits in those local authorities who seem to have financial difficulties as identified by an ongoing quarterly survey conducted by the Department of Constitutional Development through Project Viability. On the basis of the findings of these management audits, the particular MEC is empowered in terms of Section 10(G)(2)(m) of the Local Government Transition Act to take corrective steps. This is an ongoing process which is being conducted in all provinces simultaneously.

(3) I have issued a comprehensive press release regarding the Framework for Intervention Programme on 30 September 1996. A comprehensive document known as "The Present State of Municipal Finance and Action Steps taken by Government to Manage the Situation" has been distributed widely. A press briefing was held in Cape Town on 18 March 1997 where above report was released.

#### Brigadier involved in hitsquad activities

\*9. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Safety and Security:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 6 on 6 March 1996, the investigation into allegations that a certain brigadier was involved in hitsquad activities in KwaZulu-Natal has been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that it will be completed; if so, what were the findings;

(2) whether any action has been taken as a result of the findings; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action?  
N1112E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Investigations have been completed in all cases;

Murder (7 cases were investigated) - The Attorney-General decided to prosecute.

Defeating ends of justice - Case docket currently with the Attorney-General for his decision.

(2) No, actions have been taken as yet as this office is still awaiting the Attorney-General's decision in the matter as mentioned above.

#### Doctors sent to SA at expense of Egyptian government

\*10. Mr A G EBRRAHIM asked the Minister of Health:

(1) Whether Egypt has offered to send doctors to South Africa at the expense of the Egyptian government; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether this offer has been accepted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether the Egyptian government will pay the travel costs and salaries of such doctors; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?  
N1113E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

(1) The Egyptian government has initiated a discussion with the South African government on this issue and the matter has not been finalized.

(2) and (3) fall away.

# Cigarette packs packing a punch

Star 10/6/97  
HEALTH REPORTER

Warnings on cigarette packs and television and radio adverts seem to be succeeding in getting smokers to stamp out the habit.

Analysis of the public's response to health warnings on tobacco products shows that up to 40% of smokers said the warnings made them want to quit or at least cut down.

The research was conducted by Priscilla Reddy and Jonathan Levin of the Medical Research Council and Anna Meyer-Weitz of the Human Sciences Research Council, and was based on a survey of 2 228 adults.

The Tobacco Products Control Act, passed in 1993, allows for health warnings on tobacco products and advertisements to increase public



Trevor Manuel ... urged to direct taxes to health.

knowledge of the health risks associated with smoking.

Reddy said the warnings had provided the impetus for 7% of smokers to quit altogether.

At least 81% of the respondents agreed it was a "good thing" to have the health warnings, 77% thought the warnings were easy to understand and 75% believed the warnings provided children with information which would prevent them smoking.

About 58% of smokers said the warnings made them think about giving up, smoking less or changing to a lighter cigarette, while 38% of the non-smokers said warnings made them glad they had never started.

The top three warnings recalled by the respondents were "Smoking can kill", "Danger: Smoking causes cancer" and "Smoking damages your lungs".

Heart Foundation executive director Robert de Souza has called on Finance Minister Trevor Manuel to direct a portion of the increased tobacco tax to health promotion.

De Souza also urged Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to make urgent representations to the Cabinet to make money available to fund health promotions.

RANDOM BLOOD TESTS FOR PUPILS

CT 26/6/97

# City school adopts new radical anti-drug policy

PUPILS enrolling at Western Cape high schools in future may only be accepted on condition that they agree to controls such as random blood tests. Education writer **TROYE LUND** reports.

IT'S known that three-quarters of high school pupils in the Western Cape have been exposed to hard drugs by the time they reach matric — and that half of all matriculants have experimented with drugs.

But what is new is a hard-line, groundbreaking drug policy that has been adopted by Table View High School.

And now as a result of a groundswell of support from parents and teachers for this radical departure in dealing with the problem, pupils enrolling at Western Cape high schools in future may only be accepted on condition they agree to new anti-drug policies that may bind them to controls such as random blood tests, contracted rehabilitation as well as police and sniffer dog searches.

"Traditional Calvinistic denial in schools and among parents must stop. This disease (drug usage) exists and is pandemic. Ordinary school policy is not enough, a specific drug policy is vital. If society is going to control this problem and if it hopes to rip young people's drug habits in the bud and give them a chance at life," said rehabilitating addict, Ms Sarah Fisher who founded Bridges, an anti-drug organisation that has been invited to run two, three-week drug programmes at Table View High School.

According to the experiences and client lists of drug counselling groups, it would be conservative to estimate that 75% of the province's 900 000 school pupils would have been offered hard drugs by the time they reached matric.

Half of Table View's 56 matrics admitted to having experimented with drugs, when asked last week.

Instead of expelling young addicts and sweeping the problem under the carpet to avoid scandal, the provincial

education department and SA Narcotics Bureau have encouraged educators to take the strongest stand that the new Constitution would allow against this "social disease".

Table View's teacher Ms Ora Molenaar, who oversees the implementation of the new drug policy, said: "As educators we are not in the demoralising business but in the panel beating business. Educators these days have a responsibility to help kids survive according to the rule book of the 90s. School is no longer just an academic institution, especially as parents rely more and more on schools to bring up children."

Parents and teachers of Table View High have thrashed out a drug policy that allows Molenaar to call parents if their child is suspected of drugging. To avoid expulsion, pupils that test positive for drugs, sign a contract in which they agree to go for rehabilitation, to stay clean and be subjected to random drug tests.

Organisations like Bridges are also invited into the school on a regular basis. Instead of spending a couple of hours at the school, the group bases itself at the school for three weeks at a time. No teenager can know too much about drugs and the more explicit the information available to them, the better equipped they will be to make an informed decision, when confronted with drugs, the group insists.

Rehabilitating addicts who work for Bridges give accounts of their experiences, share the "good" side of drugging, the horror into which their lives degenerated and the undignified depths they sank to in their quest for drug money.

An ex-Fish Hoek High pupil, who was expelled for drugging and who asked not to be named, said: "Four of us started with dagga. Then it was

acid twice a week. Then it was pooling our pocket money to buy one tablet of ecstasy, and then taking it in turns was not cool — we got money at all costs."

Sacs High School headmaster, Mr Gordon Law was not sure that a severe approach such as Table View's was warranted saying that schools were educators first, not magistrates.

He was satisfied that annual drug school awareness weeks, which included talks by addicts and rehabilitating addicts, had sufficient impact on his pupils.

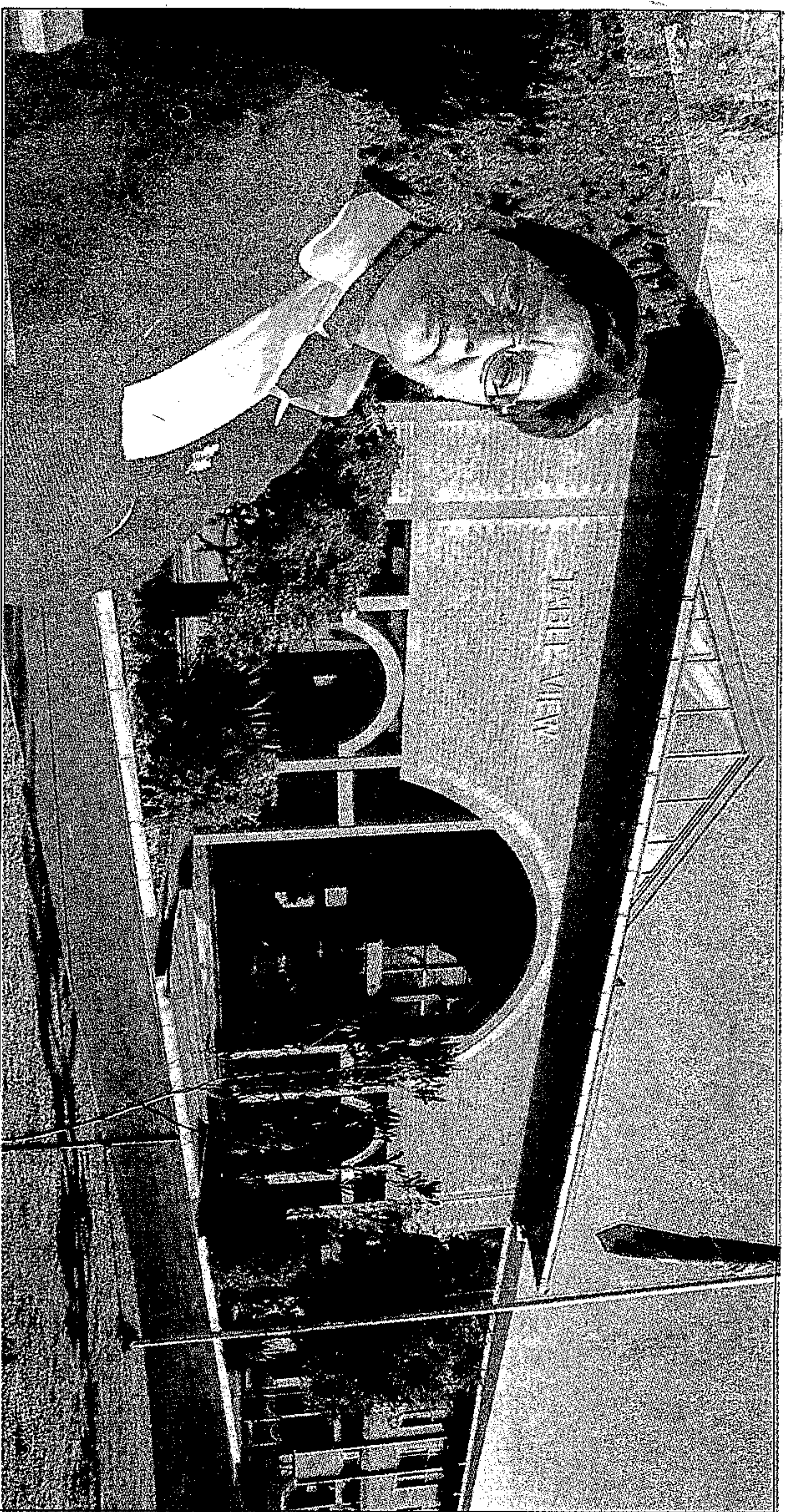
Bergvliet High is one of the schools that has been encouraged to formulate a similar drug code to Table View's.

Bergvliet teacher, Ms Lesley Watson said that although introducing random testing could prove tricky if seen to be infringing on pupils' constitutional right to freedom and privacy, such a code was exactly what was needed to deter "curious or peer-pressed" teenagers from trying drugs.

Pupils from high schools in Fish Hoek High, Table View, Milnerton, Bergvliet and Rondebosch described getting drugs as easier than buying a pizza — one could either have them delivered, go to dealers or go to any rave party, metal bars, certain post offices and even the local supermarkets.

Table View High's Edwin Swart, 16, said he had a friend who had been on rehabilitation for the past seven months. And, in line with what the Cape Drug Rehabilitation Centre has found, his friend's addiction to hard drugs grew out of the occasional joint of dagga.

The Drug Counselling Centre's latest records show that more than 60% of every 650 new clients that approach the centre for rehabilitation started smoking dagga in their teens and then progressed to stronger, harder drugs like LSD, crack, cocaine and acid. Most addicts lead a drugging lifestyle for more than a decade before seeking help.



**TOUGH ACT:** Ora Molenaar of Table View High is implementing a radical new drug policy that has broken with traditional school attitudes and is likely to become the norm in schools throughout the province.

PICTURE: MASIEF MANIE

# '70% of children exposed to smoke'

87

80 3/7/97

~~88~~

**Kathryn Strachan**

SEVEN percent of five-year-olds in SA have tried smoking, a newly released study by the Medical Research Council and Wits University reports.

The study shows 19% of five-year-olds wanted to smoke when they grew up and 29% could identify cigarette brand names. More than 70% were exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

The research forms part of the birth-to-10 study of the health and development of more than 4 000 children born in Johannesburg and Soweto in 1990. Researchers found children ap-

peared to have well-developed beliefs about tobacco and smoking well before they had direct experience of it.

Wits researcher Thea de Wet said that by understanding why and when children decided to smoke, interventions could be undertaken to discourage them from smoking and to prevent tobacco companies from targeting children as potential smokers.

Another Medical Research Council project, being conducted at the University of the Western Cape, has shown that if a mother smokes during pregnancy and breastfeeding, the baby's lung growth and development are per-

manently impaired.

In its annual report, the council said the testing of a new vaccine against viral diarrhoea would begin soon.

The viral diarrhoea strain is responsible for about 28% of deaths from diarrhoea among SA children. Studies in Venezuela showed the new vaccine protected nearly 90% of children against this strain, but work in Africa with the original vaccine failed.

The link between TB and HIV/AIDS is another focus of the council's work. Researchers have calculated that, with the HIV epidemic, the incidence of TB could increase fourfold in 10 years.

Taking a break ... smokers brave the cold to congregate outside to enjoy a cigarette. Many businesses and banks have banned smoking in the workplace.



## Fresh air a fag for forlorn and shivering city smokers

Star 3/7/97

By Cecilia Russell

Standing on street corners is taking on new meaning in Johannesburg as big business clamps down on smoking.

As stricter smoking controls are implemented in banks and businesses, smokers are leaving buildings in their hundreds and congregating on street corners just to get their hourly fix.

Businesses say it's for the "greater good", but grumbling workers argue it's ridiculous, affecting productivity and making smokers feel like pariahs.

"We look like a bunch of prostitutes sitting outside smoking; it's not doing the image of the banks any good," said Linda, a bank employee who objects to shivering in the weak winter sun to have a cigarette.

"They should at least give us a smoking room. This fresh-air business is designed to kill off smokers," she added.

The no-smoking policy is not helping addicts cut down either, the smokers say.

Each smoker is now spending at least 15 minutes in every hour on smoke breaks.

Absa's human resources spokesman Nanetta Morrison said the bank did not have an overall non-smoking policy, but banned smoking at its head office in Johannesburg.

Standard Bank human resources general manager John Verster said it banned smoking in all its banks on May 31.

While productivity may be affected, the overall benefits for the workforce was significant and many chronic smokers were giving up, Verster said.

# Puffers barely have a leg to stand on

Star 4/7/97 (87)  
BY CECILIA RUSSELL (48)

As more smokers find themselves out on the streets as the result of businesses and banks' "clean-air" policies, it's unlikely they would get a sympathetic hearing if they tried to enforce their right to smoke.

Technically, smokers are protected by the constitution in its equality clause, but so are people's rights to a safe, healthy and clean environment, said Kate Savage from the Legal Resources Centre.

Savage said there had not yet been a case in the Constitutional Court in which one right was tested over another, but the environmental clause demanded that practices which would not harm present and future generations be entrenched and, while people had a right to smoke, they did not have a right to do so to the detriment of the health of fellow workers.

Savage said smokers could possibly have a case if they were unceremoniously turfed out of the building without consultation.

"This would be unreasonable administrative action," she said.

National Council Against Smoking director Yusuf Saloojee said non-smokers' rights were protected by both the constitution and the World Health Organisation, which upheld the right of the non-smoker to clean air.

The council suggests that businesses implement "sensible tobacco policies" which would both guarantee the right to clean air but, wherever possible, the need of smokers too.

Saloojee said, however, there was little point in having a smoking room which shared the air-conditioners and ventilation system with the rest of the building as this would defeat the purpose of a smokers' corner.



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# Smokers feel cornered by clampdown in workplace

JOHANNESBURG: Standing on street corners is taking on new meaning in South Africa as big business clamps down on smoking in the workplace.

As stricter smoking controls are implemented in banks and businesses, smokers are leaving buildings in their hundreds and congregating on street corners just to get their hourly fix.

While businesses say it is for the "greater good", grumbling workers argue it is "ridiculous", affecting productivity and making smokers feel like social pariahs.

"We look like a bunch of prostitutes sitting outside smoking — it's not doing the image of the banks any good," says Linda, a bank employee.

"They should at least give us a smoking room. This fresh-air business is designed to kill off smok-

ers," she adds.

Each smoker is now spending at least 15 minutes in every hour on smoke-breaks, the smokers estimate, affecting productivity.

"We are more outside than inside," said one.

Absa's human resources spokeswoman, Ms Nanetta Morrison, said the bank did not have an overall non-smoking policy, but had banned smoking at one of its head office buildings in Johannesburg.

Standard Bank's human resources general manager, Mr John Verster, said the bank had, under its "clean air policy", banned smoking in all its banks on May 31.

He said that while productivity of some employees might be affected, the overall health benefits for the workforce were significant and many chronic smokers were giving up. — Own Correspondent

CT 317/97

# Alcohol syndrome study to focus on rural Cape kids

## Experts examine impact of drinking in pregnancy

PIETER MALAN

The most comprehensive study yet undertaken to determine the prevalence of foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in the Western Cape will start next week with the help of world experts.

Among them are Professor Kenneth Jones, one of the first medical experts to have described the syndrome in 1973. Preliminary research shows the Western Cape - especially the wine-growing rural areas - has an extremely high incidence of the syndrome which can cause growth deficiencies, mental retardation and facial and organ abnormalities in children whose moth-

ARG 19/7/97

ers misuse alcohol during pregnancy.

Incidence rates for First World countries vary between 8,5 and three in 1 000 births, while the figure for the Western Cape could be as high as 50 in 1 000.

The study, a joint project of the University of Cape Town-based Foundation for Alcohol Related Research and the Washington-based National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Addiction, will centre on school children in the Wellington area, while children from two Cape Flats schools will also be examined.

Denis Viljoen, associate professor at the human genetics department at UCT, said the study would centre on 13 schools, examining all children of school-going age. By studying

the facial features of young children dysmorphologists - experts at detecting abnormal facial features - can diagnose the syndrome.

Professor Viljoen said the American experts would train eight South African pediatricians and school doctors to diagnose the syndrome using the latest techniques.

"But this study will also for the first time give us real figures to work with. It will tell us how prevalent FAS is among this community," he said.

He said the Americans were also very keen on the South African study, because social conditions favoured a better understanding of the exact causes of the syndrome. "We have found that most mothers in the

Western Cape with FAS children don't lie about their drinking habits during pregnancy," he said. "Although they are still shy about their habit, researchers can more accurately determine how much they drank during every stage of pregnancy."

Professor Viljoen said the abuse of other drugs was not as rife, which meant researchers could more accurately assess the effects of alcohol on the foetus.

"Having identified children with FAS in the Wellington area, it will also enable us to work with these kids and provide them with the specialist care they need, whether it was speech, physio or occupational therapy or other specialist medical care."

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# Two litres of wine a week, but Judith's a proud mum

PETER MALAN

AKG 19/17/97

(87)

Jason's mother drank up to two litres of cheap wine a week until she was about seven months pregnant.

"By then the heartburn was getting to me, so I switched to beer. Two big bottles every Saturday."

"Some days I would not even eat, I would only drink."

"When he was born he looked a bit abnormal with pointy ears," she said about her son, now three years old.

"When I asked the doctor what was wrong he said it was because I had been drinking while I was pregnant."

Judith Hendriks is one of hundreds, if not thousands of mothers in the Western Cape rearing children with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

In spite of fact that it can be prevented - all you've got to do is not drink during pregnancy - the region might have one of the highest incidences of the syndrome in the world.

Mrs Hendriks doesn't make any secret of her drinking habit, saying she hopes that being candid and open about her habits will be a warning to others not to do the same.

"I get so angry if people say my child looks like a bobbeantjie (little baboon). Then I say to them, just wait until you get pregnant. With them drinking heavily as they do, I wonder what their children will look like."

She looks around at the surrounding farmland and the simple brick houses of her neighbours. Most houses have only two rooms and are dark, clammy and grimy.

"Why do the people on the farm drink so much?" I ask.

"I don't know," she says, but offers an explanation anyway. "You see, over weekends there is not much to do around here. So people drink."

"When I am sober I won't walk into somebody else's house for a visit. But when I've got a glass of wine in my hand, then I walk all over, doing huisbesoek" (house visit). By the end of the day you walk home falling."

She said of the 12 adults living on the farms, only two women did not drink.

"I did stop drinking in the past. Then I sat at home reading a Huisgenootjie. But very soon some of your friends come in for a visit and before you know you ask them to pour you a dop as well. Why should they have all the fun, you think to yourself."

She said before she fell pregnant she knew nothing about Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. "If I had known, I would not have drunk as much."

Her eyes wander off in the direction of the road leading to her house.

"Jason should be coming home any minute now."

Then her eyes light up as she sees him, having just returned from the pre-school he attends.

"He's so clever. When he learnt a song at school in the morning he would come and sing it to me."

She gives him a welcome home hug and he proudly introduces himself.

"When he was small he looked a bit strange. You know, around his ears and mouth."

"But now he looks fine. Maybe I will have another child - I will just see how it goes while he grows up."



Pucky lad: foetal alcohol syndrome sufferer Jason Hendriks, 3, with his mother Judith in front of their house on a farm near Phillipi

ANDREW INGRAM

# US joins fight against growing problem in schools

(87) ARG 12/11/97

HANEEM MALIET  
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town drug counsellors and the United States government have joined forces in new drug prevention and awareness programmes in the city's schools, with Jan van Riebeeck High in Gardens earmarked as the first. An agreement has been signed by US ambassador to South Africa James Joseph, director of the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre Scott Lindsay and Western Cape Education Minister Martha Olickers.

The programme was devised by the Drug Counselling Centre and will be funded by the US government.

"What we could have done is bring all the material straight from America, which is okay, but this programme is specially tailored for Cape Town," said Ron McMullen, acting US Consul General.

The US government funds many projects around the world and has recognised that the Western Cape has a significant drug problem.

It is funding the project to help counter narcotics generally. The programme will run in 25

schools selected by the Department of Education for six months.

"This programme could not have come at a better time," said Mrs Olickers. "I've had parents cry in my office, desperate for their children. This programme will also help them."

The schools identified are in the Cape metropole, and include 12 primary and 13 high schools.

"They range from schools in the township and on the Cape Flats, to those in more affluent areas," said education department director of para-educational services Robbie Francis.

"The drug problem is not confined to Manenberg," he said.

"It's a problem for all of us, reaching all communities and cultures."

Jan van Riebeeck High was chosen for the pilot project because of its position in the city centre, catering for children across the spectrum.

"The programme should begin somewhere, so why not here," said school principal André Viljoen.

Head boy Jacob Wiese said he did not think the school had a particularly big drug problem, and that anybody caught with drugs was expelled immediately.

The Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre sees 650 people annually, 26% of them adolescents.

"The future and the success of the Western Cape economy will not rest on the number of young people we can treat at this centre, but on the number of young people we can prevent from coming here in the first place," said Mr Lindsay.

The programme would be extended to the other 24 schools from next February.

And the schools' progress would be monitored by education department psychologists.

# Gauteng plans own set of anti-smoking laws

Josey Ballenger

GOVERNMENT's national anti-smoking campaign had resulted in a drop in tobacco sales, and Gauteng would introduce legislation next year to ban smoking in public areas, provincial health MEC Amos Masondo and department officials said yesterday.

"National legislation to enforce health warnings on tobacco advertising, together with the steep increases in tobacco tax, have probably been the most effective anti-smoking measures this country has seen," Masondo said at the launch of Gauteng's Health Promotion Week in Johannesburg.

Officials said a recent study by

Market Research Africa showed that national tobacco sales had dropped 2% since the tax increase and warnings on advertising.

Masondo said the Gauteng legislature would consider its first health legislation next year and would become "increasingly involved in national debates".

Gauteng health department communications director Jo-Anne Collinge later said the legislation would complement the National Health Bill and other expected national legislation.

Masondo's spokesman, Popo Maja, said a proposal to prohibit smoking in public places would supplement the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill.

Masondo also said the "gap" between what South Africans knew about HIV and AIDS, and their sexual behaviour, had to close: "The tragedy is that this gap is fatal — not only in a handful of cases, but for millions".

He said Gauteng had taken the lead in introducing a life skills programme in schools. "We believe that information is but one of the tools in the fight against social inequality".

The Gauteng legislature's health portfolio committee chairman, Mondli Gungubele, said it was in government's and the public interest to prevent illness, as "unfit" people were unable to contribute to society.

(108) (87)

*CSS figures show 20% decline in retail cigarette sales*

# Tobacco losing sales war <sup>(87)</sup>

**CHRISTO VOLSCHENK**

ECONOMICS EDITOR

Cape Town — Government's efforts to nip smoking in the bud are bearing fruit, with figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Service showing real sales of cigarettes and tobacco declining by 20 percent in the third quarter this year from the same time last year.

The centrepiece of government's anti-smoking campaign was a decision in 1994 to gradually increase the tax on cigarettes to half the retail price. This was achieved in March this year, when the excise duties on cigarettes and tobacco were increased by 52 percent, or 27c a pack of 10 cigarettes.

George Kershoff, an economist of the Bureau for Economic Research at the University of Stellenbosch, ascribed the huge

drop in cigarette and tobacco sales to the increase in the excise duty and other aspects of government's anti-smoking lobby, including advertising campaigns.

"Illegal sales of cigarettes are not included in the official sales figures, but this would not have affected the sales figures materially," Kershoff said.

The sales of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages dropped by 8 percent in the third quarter from the same quarter last year. Kershoff said big hikes in the excise duties in the March Budget also cut product demand.

Excise on sorghum beer rose by 35 percent and on unfortified, fortified and sparkling wines by 25 percent after the Budget.

"Large-scale switching to cheaper liquor products after the price increase might have pushed sales of more expensive products down," Kershoff said.

<sup>(87)</sup>  
ET(BR) 4/12/97 (~~88~~)  
The service said total retail sales (seasonally adjusted) dropped 1,5 percent from August to September this year, while third-quarter sales were 0,7 percent lower than in the same quarter last year.

Total sales were reduced by a 7,4 percent decline in the real sales of food and groceries (including cigarette, tobacco and liquor) in the third quarter from the same quarter last year.

Other products with weak sales were toiletries and cosmetics (4,1 percent down, quarter on quarter) and books and magazines (7,4 percent down).

The bureau expected retail sales to remain weak until the middle of next year. "The positive effect of ... (an) interest rate cut in the first half of next year is only expected to be reflected in stronger retail sales in the second half of next year," Kershoff said.

# Old daggga laws not suited to new SA

ET 4/12/97 (87)

**THE VOICE** of the movement in support of the decriminalisation of dagga has been growing louder and the law suit brought recently by a Rastafarian lawyer candidate against the Cape Law Society has highlighted the issue. **PIERRE DE VOS** takes an off-beat look at the matter.

**N**AIVELY, I had thought that smoking dagga was not going to be a big deal in the new, freedom-loving South Africa. Well, that was until I recently read of the refusal by the Cape Law Society to accept a self-confessed dagga-smoking Rastafarian into the attorney's profession.

I would have thought that the attorney's profession would welcome with open arms a person so honest and principled that he was prepared to admit to breaking the law in order to fulfil his religious beliefs and practices, despite the possible adverse consequences to himself.

Now the Rastafarian lawyer candidate, Gareth Prince, is challenging the decision in court, claiming that it is an infringement of his constitutional right to freedom of religion. After all, he uses a drug — dagga — in his religious rituals in much the same way in which Christians use another drug — alcohol — in their holy communion ceremonies. The only difference is that possession and use of dagga is a criminal offence, while alcohol can be purchased

in liquor stores and shebeens on every second street corner.

I am not an expert on the Rastafarian religion, despite the fact that as a teenager I developed a huge crush on Bob Marley, so I am not sure whether the claims of the religious use of dagga are accurate.

I have, however, taken the odd puff on a dagga zol — and, unlike US president Bill Clinton, I must admit that I did inhale.

I am baffled by the law which allows people to consume unlimited quantities of alcohol and cigarettes — two highly addictive drugs known to seriously damage one's health — while criminalising a substance which seems fairly harmless and rather pleasant.

I suspect the answer to this riddle may be found in our colonial history.

The fact is, of course, that alcohol and cigarettes were the drugs of choice for the colonialists who came to South

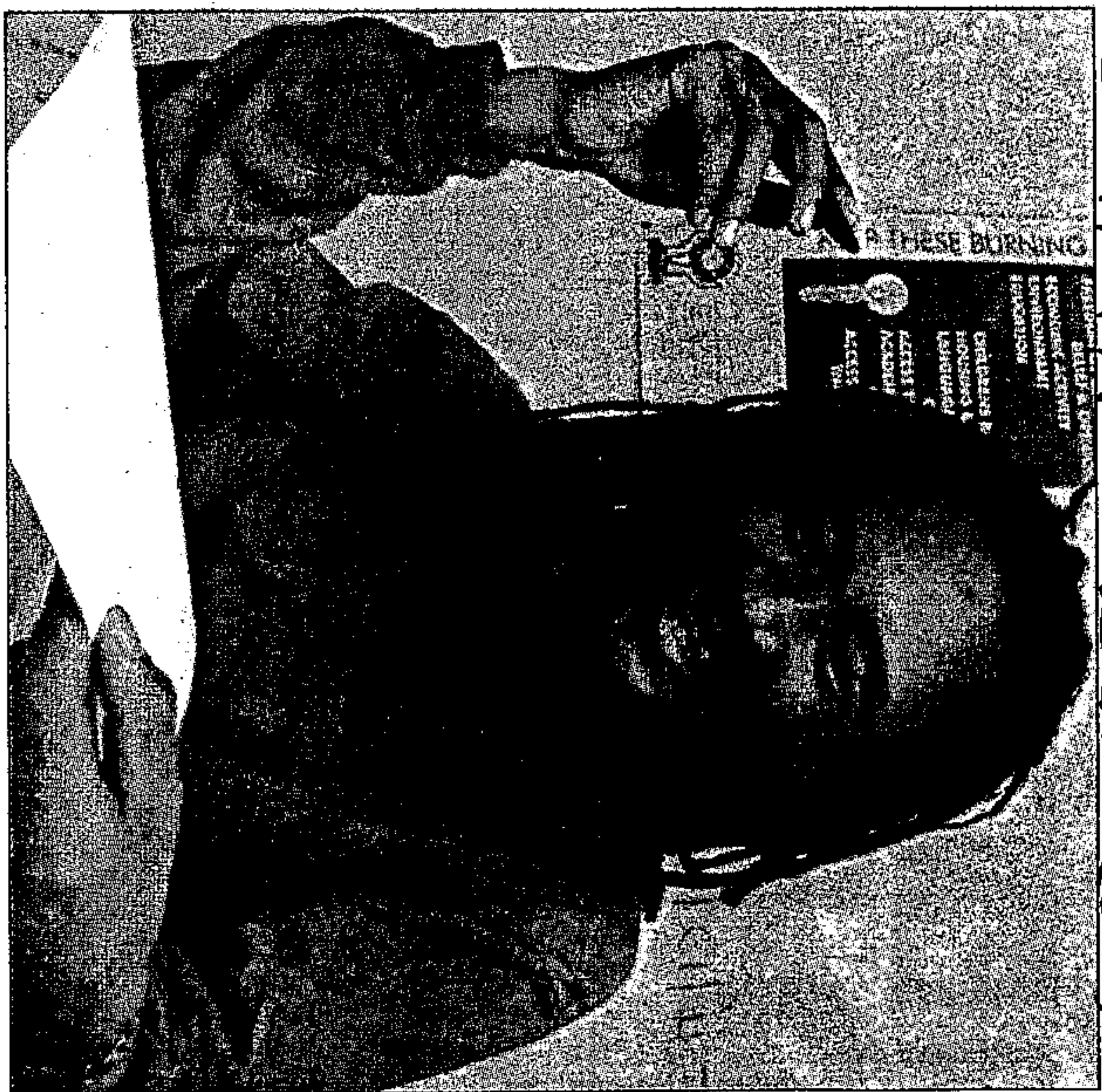
Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries.

These drugs were also highly profitable commercial commodities which could be sold to the indigenous population.

However, at that time it was and had been part of the culture of many indigenous groups living in Southern Africa to smoke the locally grown dagga.

Given this background, it is rather surprising to discover that dagga was only criminalised in South Africa in 1928. The drug was apparently criminalised for two related reasons. Firstly, it was outlawed for the advancement and protection of so-called "Western civilisation".

*I am baffled by the law which allows people to consume unlimited quantities of alcohol and cigarettes — two highly addictive drugs known to seriously damage one's health — while criminalising the use of dagga.*



**STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS:** Rastafarian lawyer candidate Gareth Prince.

This much was admitted as late as the 1980s, when the then National Party Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr C D van der Merwe, warned that dagga was "the assassin of Western civilisation".

These days, when the idea of an "African Renaissance" is gaining credibility, I find it strange that those in power are continuing to enforce criminal laws that were put in place to advance the values of so-called "Western civilisation". Isn't it time that we cast a critical eye

our cultural right as Africans to smoke dagga just like others have the right to drink brandy and Coke or smoke Anton Rupert's cigarettes?

The second reason for the criminalisation of dagga in 1928 can surely be pinned to the religious ideology of those in power at the time.

As strict Calvinists not well disposed towards the pleasures of life, they developed the ideology of pharmacological Calvinism still so prevalent in our society today. According to this ideology, it's OK for somebody to pump him or herself full of drugs for medical purposes, but it becomes a sin and a crime as soon as the person begins to enjoy the drugs. It is the same kind of Calvinistic impulse which made the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education allow Volkspele on its campus — after all, who but an ironic anthropologist on a visit to Orania could ever enjoy it — but banned any dancing for fear that it might lead to happy times.

It therefore seems like a strange anomaly that we have rejected so many other rules associated with the Calvinistic rule of the National Party — these days students are even allowed to dance at Potchefstroom — but yet, allow laws criminalising the use of dagga to prevail.

I can only hope that the present government will do away with this colonial law as soon as possible.

They owe it not only to the many loyal and honest South African Rastas, but also to those people who live in traditional communities and who can trace their cultural use of dagga back more than 200 years.

WETTE VAN BREDA

**P**RIMARY school children in Cape Town have admitted to frequently using drugs, alcohol and cigarettes in a survey that has sent shock waves through the local drug counselling community.

At one school, one in three Standard 5 pupils admitted having tried alcohol, while one in 10 admitted getting drunk and one in 20 said they had taken drugs.

One in five admitted knowing someone under the age of 18 who had a drink or drug problem and one in five said there was a substance abuse problem in their family.

The one-year survey was conducted by Bridges Community Programmes, a project set up by recovering alcoholics and addicts as well as clinical psychologists to deal with drug problems in schools.

Head of the Bridges programme, Sarah Fisher, said they found that alcohol was the worst problem facing school children, and several primary school children admitted to taking drugs and being drunk.

"The incidence of alcohol use is far greater than nicotine and it appears that instead of puffing on a cigarette, they're having a drink," she said.

The survey found that on average, 70 percent of Standard 6 pupils had tried alcohol and 50 percent had been drunk. By the time they got to

# Drink and drugs rife in schools

## Cape survey reveals a shocking picture of abuse

Standard 9, 90 percent had tried alcohol, and 70 percent had been drunk.

In a recently released report, the South African National Council for Alcoholics (Sanca) found the increased variety and quality of drugs available in the country meant the experimentation age was decreasing to between nine and 13 years old.

Drugs are sold on many a school playground by pupils, the report said.

It also found that young people who previously avoided drugs were now prone to experimentation and that peer pressure to try drugs was very strong.

The report also said that parents and teachers found that many young people are aggressive, rebellious and undisciplined with little or no regard for authority.

Bridges programme was run at his school.

"People shouldn't take drugs and alcohol because it's bad for their health," said another pupil.

At one school, well over half the 238 Standard 6 pupils had tried cigarettes, while four out of five had tried alcohol. Forty percent had been offered drugs, with one in 10 succumbing to drug abuse.

"The only way you can get us to listen is to shock us hard," said a Standard 6 pupil when asked for ideas on improving the Bridges drug awareness programme.

"The government should put in a lot more money because we are losing the battle," said another Standard 6 pupil.

As the pupils got older, more of them said they drank and took drugs.

Among Standard 7 pupils at one school, seven out of 10 had tried cigarettes, with more than half con-

fessing to have been drunk, and 15 percent admitting to having tried drugs.

"Drugs are serious and lots of us are taking them," said a Standard 7 pupil.

A pupil who admitted to having stopped drugs said: "I'm thinking of starting smoking dagga again to get rid of my problems. My mom and dad are divorced and both live in the same house, but I live at another house."

Matrics showed the highest rate of substance abuse. The survey found that almost half the matrics surveyed had tried drugs while three quarters had been drunk.

A quarter of them said there was a substance abuse problem in their family.

A spokesman for the Drug Counselling Centre, Ingrid von Stein, said the centre had selected 50 schools at which to launch an educational project from January next year.

"The programme was 'workshop-based' and aimed at giving the children life skills to use their right of choice.

The centre will train a teacher from each school in counselling, and at the same time pupils and teachers will work with parents and equip them to communicate better, said von Stein.

She said the project had been endorsed by the Cape Education Department and they hoped to eventually launch the programme at every school in the Western Cape.

"We never say don't do drugs," said Von Stein. "We want the kids to look at all the options. We want to give them the ability to say no and dare to be different and not succumb to peer pressure."

Fisher said people had to help in a proactive way. "It's a community issue, it's there and it's not going to go away. We have to admit it's there and then do something constructive about it.

"In the schools we need to have policies because at the moment policy is non-existent or ill defined, so when they catch a kid it's a major panic and very damaging for everybody involved."

She said a programme needed to be adopted which slotted into a support package for the child, parent and school.

"And at this time of year especially, we need to tell people not to get high and hectic, but to get help," Fisher said.



CLASSROOMS OF CRISIS: The Cape survey found that drugs are sold by pupils in the school playground. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

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# 'Let doctors and patients discuss use of dagga'

ARG 11/12/97

Dallas - The American Medical Association has proposed that doctors be allowed to discuss with their patients the potential benefits of using marijuana to treat some diseases without risk of criminal charges.

Delegates at the AMA's biannual policy-making committee in Dallas approved a resolution that recommends allowing free discussion between doctors and patients about marijuana use for treatment of diseases such as AIDS and multiple sclerosis.

"The AMA believes that effective patient care requires the free and unfettered exchange of information on treatment alternatives and that discussion of these alternatives between physicians and patients should not subject either party to criminal sanctions," the resolution said.

It also recommended that "adequate and well-controlled studies of smoked marijuana" be carried out to measure the possible benefits for patients with a range of serious illnesses or injuries. Those listed included AIDS, wasting syndrome, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and neuropathic pain.

But the AMA delegates made no recommendation on whether doctors should actually be allowed to advise their patients to use marijuana or whether medicinal marijuana use should be legalised.

A spokesman said there was still no clear scientific evidence showing that marijuana did help such patients and he urged further research. - Reuters

# More laws against smoking

Health Minister plans legislation  
that will stop tobacco advertising

By Mokgadi Pela

**P**LANS are afoot to further tighten tobacco legislation in South Africa as the Department of Health intensifies its battle against smoking and its deleterious health effects.

According to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma the department held a workshop early this year with a range of stakeholders which identified gaps in current legislation that allows tobacco companies to advertise their products indirectly through sponsorship of sporting and cultural activities.

The workshop recommended that legislation be amended to ban advertising and promotion of tobacco products, raise the legal age at which a child can buy tobacco to 18, restrict the use of vending machines and smoking in work and public places.

Zuma said research showed that many people started smoking before

they were 20 years. "Our target therefore, should be young people who are daily bombarded with enticing messages which suggest that it is macho to smoke," she said.

Zuma said the health warning labels on cigarette packets had been well received by the public.

A survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) indicated that 81 percent of adults believe that it was a "good thing" to have the health warnings and 77 percent said the warnings were easy to understand.

About 58 percent of smokers said the warnings made them want to quit, cut down or change to a lighter brand, while 38 percent of nonsmokers said they made them glad they never started.

Zuma said she was glad that the department and other organisations had introduced new anti-tobacco advertisements on radio.

87  
SOWETAN  
17/12/97

HEALTH & DISEASE

- DRUG ADDICTION -

1998 - 1999

# Masterplan on way for SA's war on drug menace

## Booze tops list as substance abuse grows

ART 23/1/98 (87)

**LENORE OLIVER**  
STAFF REPORTER

Although police have confiscated illegal drugs with a street value of R220-billion in just five years, alcohol remains the most abused drug in South Africa.

And indications are that the abuse of alcohol is growing, especially in informal settlements and rural areas.

In the meantime South Africa's flourishing drug trade shows no signs of abating, according to trends identified by the SA Narcotics Bureau (Sanab) and discussed at a public hearing on the framework document for a national drug masterplan.

According to Sanab, for the five years from the beginning of 1992 to the end of 1996, 1.8 million kg of dagga, 12.9 million Mandrax tablets, 420kg of cocaine, 30kg of heroin and 6 750 Ecstasy tablets were seized.

In a recent paper Sanab stated: "These seizures represent only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the actual volume of illegal drugs which are being produced and sold but evade the attention of police."

"It can be safely concluded that the drug menace is a more significant threat to civilised societies than

### Mum helps son beat addiction

**LENORE OLIVER**  
STAFF REPORTER

Moerida Hendricks of Tafelsig peacefully these days.

No longer does she lie awake at night waiting for the knock at the door which could bring the news that her drug-dependent son, Omar, now 19, has been shot.

Omar's addiction lasted a harrowing three years and Mrs Hendricks, who has six other children, remembers every minute of it.

He has now been drug-free for four months and is undergoing counselling.

"I was suspicious when Omar

disappeared for hours at a time and then either avoided me or waited till the family was asleep before coming home," she said.

She nagged Omar, but he dodged her questions.

Omar left home saying he could not handle his mother's nagging and lived on the streets for about six months.

Then Omar started coming home for the occasional meal. "I told him I was prepared to take him back but under my conditions." The decision to change had come from Omar himself. He has been attending drug-counselling sessions for four months and has two sessions to go.

The final document, which is being drawn up by the Drug Advisory Board, will be tabled in Parliament later this year and will serve as a government policy document on substance abuse.

Hearings are being held throughout the country to test public opinion,

and people have until the end of February to comment before the document goes to the Cabinet.

Although alcohol abuse is probably the biggest problem, the South African drug market is also dominated by dagga, mandrax and cocaine. Glue-sniffing is also common.

A report by the Drug Advisory Board, headed by Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, says drug abuse stimulated crime. Drug-related problems ranged from shoot-outs between drug-dealers to absences from work, road accidents, family violence and child abuse.

The report said research had shown the costs of untreated addiction - violence, crime, poor health and family dysfunction - far exceeded the cost of treatment.

The draft document was being publicised because of some contentious issues such as the possible decriminalisation of certain drugs.

Consultation was needed on the provision of detoxification and medical care services at all provincial hospitals.

A master plan for action will focus on three main areas: drug-related crime, young people and the promotion of community health.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL BILL

# Where there's smoke there's fire

(87) ~~FM~~  
FM 13/2/98

Zuma plans to tighten the screws on tobacco advertising

The tobacco industry's multimillion rand sponsorship for sport could be banned along with all tobacco advertising if parliament passes a new Bill to be tabled shortly by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill gives Zuma the discretion to impose stricter controls on the tobacco industry, including a total ban on advertising.

It aims to bring SA in line with the European Union and other developed countries with stringent antismoking policies.

The Bill promises to be one of the most fiercely contested on the parliamentary calendar. Zuma and the industry first locked horns two years ago over her initiative to have compulsory health warnings on cigarette advertisements and packets.

If the Bill bans sports sponsorship as well as all tobacco advertising, the Professional Soccer League stands to lose more than R20m over three years in Rothmans sponsorship, and the media industry about R256m annually (5% of total adspend in 1996).

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee has given substantial input to the Bill, including the suggestion that sports and the media be compensated for lost revenue out of the Excise tax on cigarettes.

This has worked well in Australia over the past 10 years, where Excise tax has replaced tobacco sponsorship of sports and the arts and has been used to buffer the media against the loss of tobacco advertising revenue.

Saloojee says a health promotion body funded out of the Excise tax could easily underwrite the R20m-R30m spent by the tobacco industry annually on sports promotion.

Zuma's case is backed by research from the Economics of Tobacco Control Project, housed in the University of Cape Town's school of economics, which says curtailing tobacco advertising would discourage growth in demand for cigarettes.

"Our econometric estimates show that a

1% increase in the growth of advertising expenditure would increase growth in consumers' demand for cigarettes by 0,18%-0,24%," says project head Prof Iraj Abedian.

"Limiting advertising by cigarette manufacturers and promoting anticigarette awareness are both effective weapons in discouraging growth in demand for cigarettes."

His findings are disputed by the Tobacco Institute, which represents major tobacco companies and farmers. It has denounced the Project's research as "seriously flawed" and cites international evidence of its own

sponsorship of sport and cultural events does not have the same impact as product advertising. "I've never heard of anyone taking up smoking or smoking more because of sports sponsorship."

He was seeking an urgent meeting with Health Department officials this week ahead of Zuma's press briefing in parliament on Friday, where he fears she will divulge details of the Bill on which there has been no consultation with the tobacco industry.

About 30% of SA adults smoke. Official figures show cigarette consumption has declined considerably since 1992.

But the Tobacco Institute denies that consumption has fallen, arguing that the figures have been distorted by an increase in the consumption of smuggled cigarettes.

However, the Project's principal researcher, Rowena van der Merwe, says the decline is largely due to increases in the Excise tax on cigarettes — from 32% of the retail price in 1996 to 50% last year. She expects further hikes in the 1998/1999 Budget. She argues that another 50% (52% when Vat included) increase in the tax is

possible and would bring SA in line with other developed countries. Taxes account for only 30% of the retail price of cigarettes in the US, compared with 64% in Canada, 65% in Australia and 77% in the UK.

Van der Merwe disputes the tobacco industry's claim that more stringent tobacco control policies would harm employment.

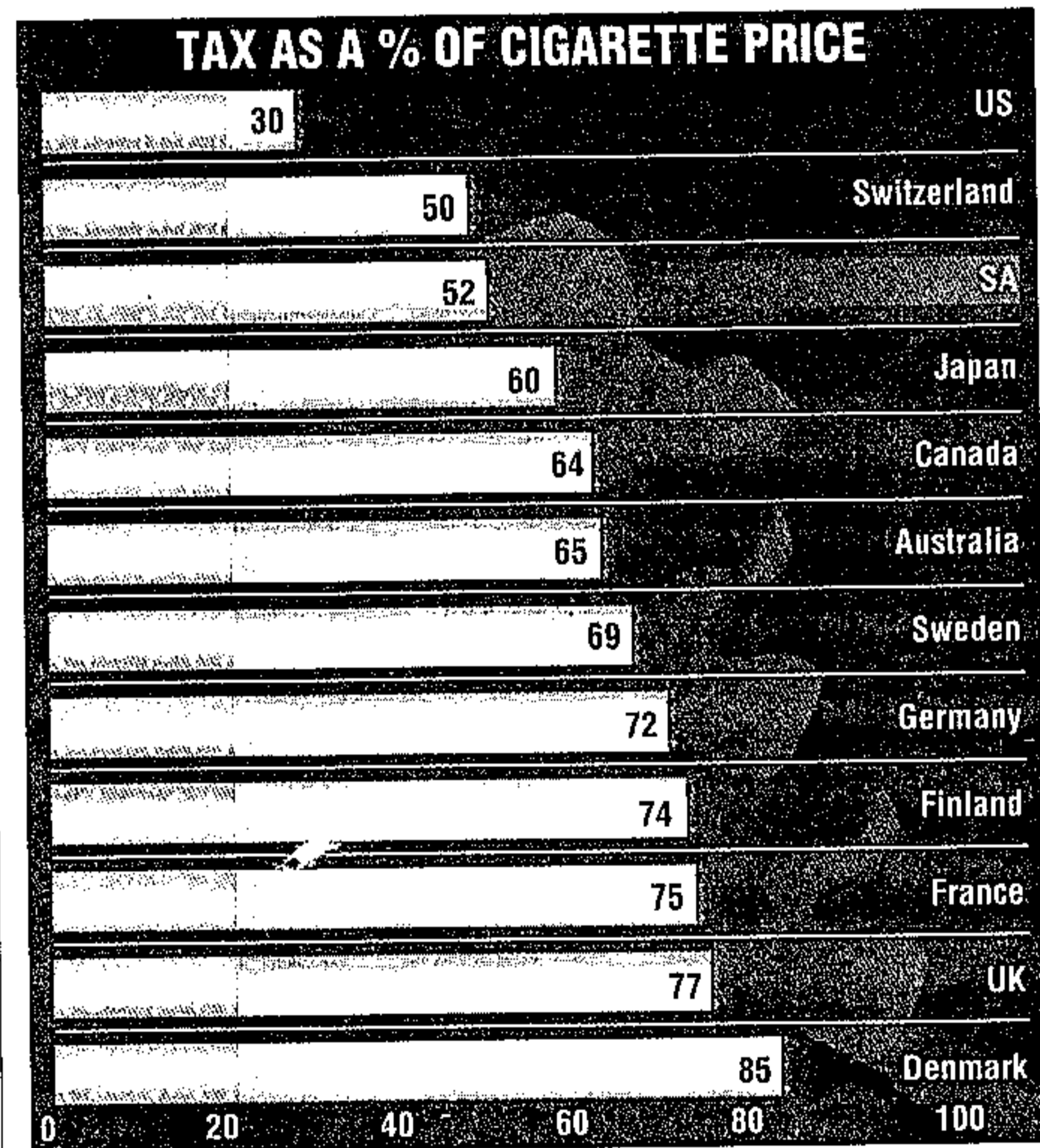
The Project claims that between 10 000 and 34 000 (net) jobs could have been created in SA in 1995 if all smokers had kicked the habit.

This is because smokers who quit usually spend their cigarette money on recreational goods, clothing, transport, communication and educational services.

Thus, in theory, a job lost in the tobacco industry is counteracted by a net increase of jobs in other sectors.

Independent researchers monitoring the tobacco industry say no research has been done to gauge the effect of a near or total ban on tobacco advertising on the fiscus, jobs, sporting sector or media industry in SA.

Claire Bisseker



that advertising restrictions have had little or no effect on aggregate cigarette consumption.

If this is the case, then the tobacco industry has little to fear from the pending legislation.

Rothmans International SA public affairs director Abri du Plessis says the spon-

# Zuma turns up the heat in her war on smoking

## A ban on lighting up in public and at work is on the cards

HENRY LUDSKI

**T**HE Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, is considering banning smoking in public and in the workplace to protect children and non-smokers.

She is also weighing up a ban on all cigarette advertising.

Zuma said this week she would amend the Tobacco Products Control Act this parliamentary session to further protect public health.

"Why shouldn't I impose an outright ban on smoking in the workplace and in public places? Why should I have to stand in passport queues and inhale the smoke of other people?" she asked.

"And why shouldn't the non-smoker be protected at work, on public transport and in public places? If we

can protect the rights of smokers, why shouldn't we protect the rights of non-smokers?" she asked.

Zuma's anti-smoking sentiments have put the multibillion-rand tobacco industry on its guard.

But the Tobacco Institute of South Africa has chosen to wait and see, saying it will be in a position to comment only once Zuma makes available particulars of her proposed changes to the Act.

South Africans smoke about 25 billion cigarettes annually, generating an estimated R3-billion in taxes.

In 1997, the Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, imposed a 52 percent tax on cigarettes. Smokers are likely to be forced to cough up even more when the Budget is announced on March 12 — if Zuma has her way.

She said the main thrust to legislative changes would be to protect children. Steps had to be taken to

prevent them from being "bombarded" with pro-smoking messages.

If there were a way to protect children without imposing a ban on cigarette advertising, she would consider it, she said.

She urged the public to get involved, saying the debate on tobacco controls should be stimulated by the media and other sectors.

"Why do people always have to wait for me to come with all the answers? I want the public to determine what steps I should take to protect them," she said.

South Africans will get a chance to air their views on the matter later this year when the parliamentary portfolio committee on health holds public hearings on the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill.

The committee's chairman, Dr Abe Nkomo, himself a heavy smoker, said on Friday that the amendments were

part of the "armoury" open to the ANC to deal with the issue of substance abuse.

The issue of an "optimal mix" of control measures will also come under the spotlight at a conference in Cape Town this week due to be attended by key players in the formation of tobacco control policy.

A spokesman for the Department of Health, Gonda Perez, said this week police were investigating several cases of contraventions of the legislation on displaying health warnings and nicotine and tar contents.

Last week, in the first case of its kind in South Africa, the comedian Mel Miller demanded R2.5-million from the cigarette company Benson & Hedges, claiming his vocal cords had been irreparably damaged.

● **Comment, Page 20;**  
**Letters, Page 26**

ST 15/a/98 (87)



Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma called on South Africans yesterday to change their benign tolerance of cigarette smoking. She told a three-day conference hosted by the University of Cape Town and the Medical Research Council that about three million people died worldwide each year from tobacco-related illnesses. But the man in the picture is one of millions who are ignoring warnings that smoking is the major cause of cancer.

# Time to fight smoking habit - Zuma

Researchers say about 30 million people will be killed by smoking this decade

**T**HE time has come to change society's relatively benign tolerance of tobacco and to correct mistaken impressions about the importance of tobacco to the economy, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

Addressing a conference of international tobacco control experts at Sea Point, Cape Town, Zuma said the seriousness of health problems caused by tobacco needed urgent attention.

The three-day conference - titled Economics of Tobacco Control - is being hosted by the University of Cape Town and the Medical Research Council and has drawn delegates from 17 countries.

It aims at sharing research findings with scientists worldwide, invites debate with researchers from the tobacco industry and intends to formulate policy proposals for tobacco control.

"We all know about the three million deaths worldwide each year from tobacco-related illnesses," Zuma told delegates.

"Researchers (now) tell us that an estimated 30 million people will be killed this decade by smoking," she said.

She said while fewer people were smoking in

industrialised countries, there were an estimated 800 million people who smoked in the developing world and the number was increasing.

"Lung cancer is the most common cancer in the world and 85 percent of cases in men and 46 percent in women are due to tobacco."

Tobacco use in South Africa was declining, with consumption falling at a rate of three percent a year since 1990.

She said surveys showed the number of smokers had dropped from 30,2 percent of the population in 1996 to 28,4 percent in 1997.

The tobacco epidemic was an entirely self-imposed one but was not spread by deadly viruses and bacteria.

"This epidemic is sustained by the search for profit: it is all about money," Zuma said.

The tobacco industry repeatedly emphasised the importance of tobacco to the economy; the number of jobs it created and the tax revenue it generated.

Yet a recent international conference had highlighted the health and social costs of tobacco as a major threat to sustainable and equitable development.

The best weapon the Government had to deter smoking was taxation - the price at which cigarettes were sold. - Sapa.



Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma called on South Africans yesterday to change their benign tolerance of cigarette smoking. She told a three-day conference hosted by the University of Cape Town and the Medical Research Council that about three million people died worldwide each year from tobacco-related illnesses. But the man in the picture is one of millions who are ignoring warnings that smoking is the major cause of cancer.

# Time to fight smoking habit - Zuma

Researchers say about 30 million people will be killed by smoking this decade

**T**HE time has come to change society's relatively benign tolerance of tobacco and to correct mistaken impressions about the importance of tobacco to the economy, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

Addressing a conference of international tobacco control experts at Sea Point, Cape Town, Zuma said the seriousness of health problems caused by tobacco needed urgent attention.

The three-day conference - titled Economics of Tobacco Control - is being hosted by the University of Cape Town and the Medical Research Council and has drawn delegates from 17 countries.

It aims at sharing research findings with scientists worldwide, invites debate with researchers from the tobacco industry and intends to formulate policy proposals for tobacco control.

"We all know about the three million deaths worldwide each year from tobacco-related illnesses," Zuma told delegates.

"Researchers (now) tell us that an estimated 30 million people will be killed this decade by smoking," she said.

She said while fewer people were smoking in

industrialised countries, there were an estimated 800 million people who smoked in the developing world and the number was increasing.

"Lung cancer is the most common cancer in the world and 85 percent of cases in men and 46 percent in women are due to tobacco."

Tobacco use in South Africa was declining, with consumption falling at a rate of three percent a year since 1990.

She said surveys showed the number of smokers had dropped from 30,2 percent of the population in 1996 to 28,4 percent in 1997.

The tobacco epidemic was an entirely self-imposed one but was not spread by deadly viruses and bacteria.

"This epidemic is sustained by the search for profit; it is all about money," Zuma said.

The tobacco industry repeatedly emphasised the importance of tobacco to the economy; the number of jobs it created and the tax revenue it generated.

Yet a recent international conference had highlighted the health and social costs of tobacco as a major threat to sustainable and equitable development.

The best weapon the Government had to deter smoking was taxation - the price at which cigarettes were sold. - Sapa.

*South African 19/2/98 (87)*



# Relegate smoking to 'privacy of home'

BD 19/2/98 (37) (148)

CAPE TOWN — Smoking in SA should be relegated to the privacy of the home or to the great outdoors, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

She told an antismoking conference that developing countries like SA were increasingly at risk from aggressive international cigarette makers, squeezed out of industrialised markets.

"In many respects tobacco companies are on the retreat, but this has only fuelled their determination to expand into new markets. They are on the offensive in developing countries," she told the Economics of Tobacco Control conference.

Zuma said 3-million people around the world died each year from smoking and the toll was rising; an estimated 800-million people smoked in the third world, which would see 70% of all future deaths from tobacco. The highest rates of lung cancer in the developing world were in countries where smoking was an established habit, such as SA, Zimbabwe and China.

Zuma said SA had made little progress to curb smoking with measures taken in other countries, with smoking still freely allowed at work, in restaurants and on public transport.

"To overcome these problems the health department proposes to amend current legislation so as to effectively

ban smoking in public and in the workplace," she said.

"We are considering banning tobacco advertising, sponsorships and promotions and raising the age at which minors can legally buy cigarettes to 18." Following the lead of others in the US, an SA man is suing a tobacco company for allegedly promoting his smoking habit.

She said opinion polls showed overwhelming support from smokers and nonsmokers for a ban on smoking in public places and for the regulation of tobacco advertising.

**Josey Ballenger** reports that the Cancer Association of SA said it supported Zuma's imminent legislation to curb tobacco advertising and sponsorship, which targeted particularly young people.

The SA Institute for Medical Research's national cancer registry has estimated that if there is no change in current smoking patterns, 1,8-million of SA's 21-million people aged up to 19 will die prematurely over the next 40 years from tobacco-related diseases.

"A ban on advertising and sponsorship will, as it has done in other countries, reduce smoking rates ... and ultimately save lives and enormous health care costs for the government," the association said.

WS

# Smokers may face another price shock

(87) (87) ET (198) 19/2/98

CHRISTO VOLSCHENK

ECONOMICS EDITOR

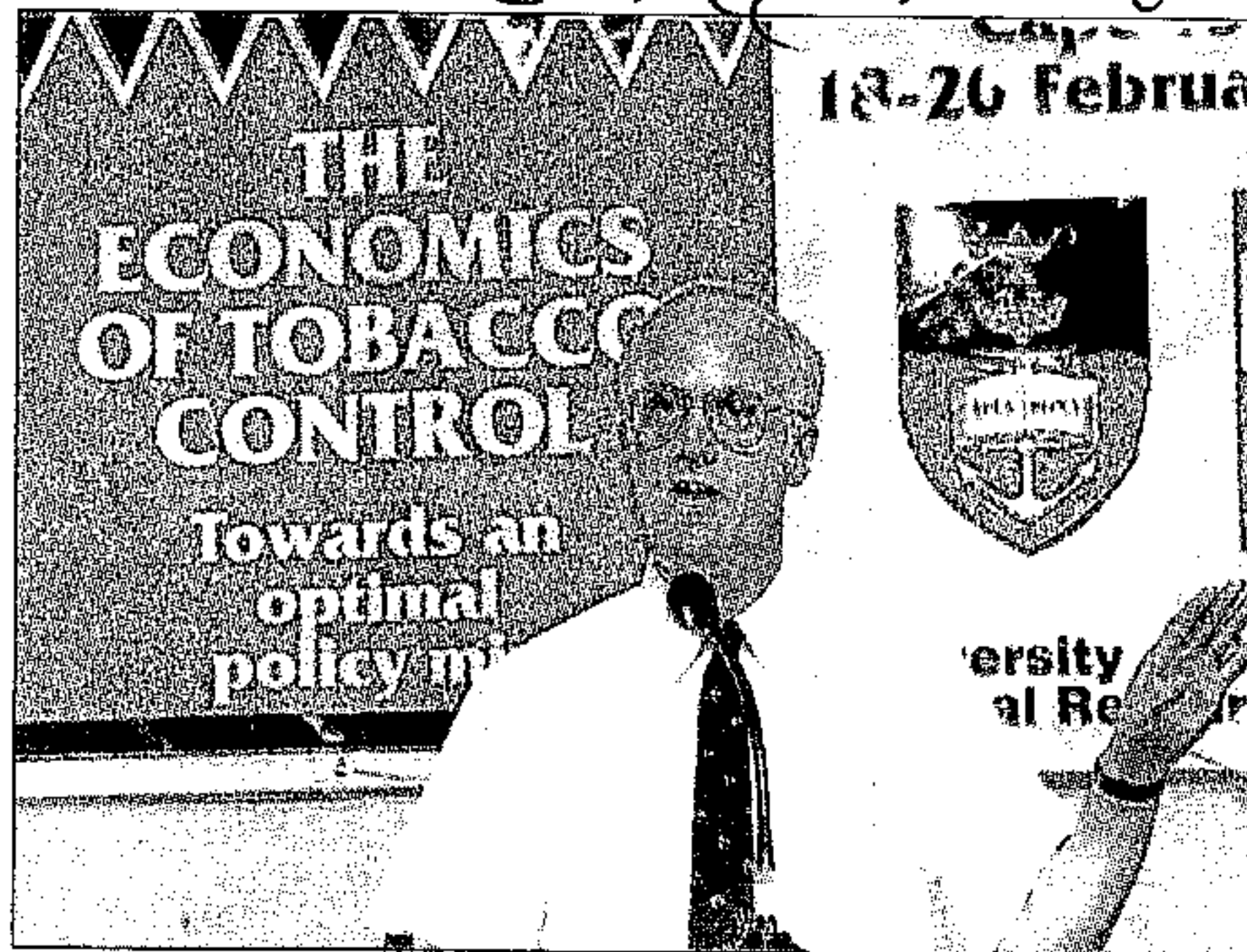
Cape Town — Smokers could be in for another cigarette price shock if Nkosazana Zuma, the health minister, accepts a suggestion by a team of researchers to raise the excise duty on cigarettes by 50 percent in the coming Budget.

The team forwarded the proposal yesterday at a Cape Town conference on smoking organised by the World Bank.

The excise duty on cigarettes was increased by 54c a pack in last year's Budget, which brought the excise duty on tobacco products to about 50 percent of the retail price of cigarettes including VAT.

The price increase cut cigarette consumption by price-sensitive smokers in the months after the Budget.

A team of researchers based



**BREATHING EASY** Ken Warner, a US anti-tobacco researcher, addresses yesterday's conference

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

at the University of Cape Town said a 50 percent increase in excise duty in the next Budget "would increase government revenue substantially and de-

crease consumption of cigarettes without affecting the profitability of the tobacco industry in any major way".

The conference will con-

clude tomorrow with policy suggestions to the government on how to reduce smoking.

Delegates to the conference expected a big rise in the excise duty to be among the proposals.

After the conference Zuma's spokesman said the minister would take her cue from the policy proposals generated by the conference and "it would not be too late to include its proposals in the Budget on March 11".

The researchers said in developing countries such as South Africa, a rise in excise duties was a "more potent tool for reducing smoking than in developed countries, because consumers were more price-sensitive".

Last year the government collected about R1,8 billion in excise duties from smokers. If the researchers get their way, 50 percent more (R2,7 billion) will be "extracted" from smokers in the next financial year.

ZUMA GUNS FOR TOBACCO MERCHANTS

# Smoking under fire at city conference

CT 19/2/98

(87)

**WILL THERE COME** a time when smokers have to register as addicts to get prescribed cigarettes like heroin junkies getting their dose of methadone? Health Writer **JUDITH SOAL** reports.

**B**Y 2025 cigarettes will only be available in regulation black-and-white boxes; nicotine will be licensed as an addictive drug and its distribution and sale controlled by health authorities; all tobacco advertising and sponsorship will be banned and sports and arts bodies will look back "incredulously" at their predecessors who accepted money from tobacco companies.

This prediction was made by Professor Judith MacKay, director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, at an international conference on the economics of tobacco control that started in the city yesterday. She said this situation would be attained by countries that were taking tobacco control seriously now.

And South Africa certainly is taking tobacco control seriously now, thanks to the efforts — some say crusade — of Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma.

Zuma said at the conference opening she was preparing for a "titanic battle" in the next few months over the introduction of new laws to control tobacco. She planned to "effectively ban smoking in public places" and was "considering" banning tobacco advertising, sponsorships and promotions.

Clearly Zuma was among friends.

"I have been accused of all sorts of things in the press, they say I am 'Nanny Zuma' and that I make the deputy-president (smoker Mr Thabo Mbeki)'s life hell, but my primary guide is not a dislike for tobacco but a steadfast concern for public health."

She said tobacco was responsible for three million deaths a year and that this toll was rising.

"While fewer people are smoking in industrialised countries, in the developing world there are 800 million smokers, and this is increasing. Seventy percent of future deaths from tobacco will be in developing countries.

"All but four African nations import more tobacco than they export, using precious foreign exchange. The profits go to transnational tobacco manufacturers, while only a small amount goes to tobacco growers. The profits go to Wall Street and shareholders in Britain, but the harm stays in Africa."

Zuma said tobacco companies were also targeting women: "This problem is greatest in the Western Cape (where) in some communities about 40% of women smoke, compared to the national average

of 12%."

Other smoking-related facts to emerge included:

- The Western Cape has the highest rate of smoking-related deaths in the country — one in five of the 25 000 reported annually by 1990.

- The smoking rate among the coloured population is on the rise — as are deaths from lung cancer.

- About 34% of South Africans — 7,6m people — smoked in 1995.

- The tobacco industry spent R256m on advertising in 1996.

- The economic costs of smoking, due to lost productivity because of hospitalisation and death, exceed R2,5bn.

- The direct treatment costs for smoking-related diseases in the public sector alone are about R1,5bn a year.

The conference is the culmination of a research project into the economic effects of tobacco use. Tobacco companies are increasingly using economic arguments to justify their existence, saying jobs will be lost and sponsorships will suffer if further tobacco controls are implemented. The research team set out to test these claims.

"Initially we tried to work with the tobacco companies," said conference chairperson Professor Iraj Abedian, "but they refused. They guarded their data with their lives — or some might say, profits."

- See Business Report, Page 21

# High taxes and advert controls drag cigarette consumption down

(87) (878) Ed. 20/2/98

20%

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — There was an estimated 20% decline in cigarette consumption between 1994 and last year because of higher taxes and more stringent advertising controls, University of Cape Town economist Rowena van der Merwe said yesterday.

Despite this, there was still scope for a further rise in excise duty, Van der Merwe said at a conference on the economics of tobacco control. The excise duty was increased to

52% from 32% in last year's budget. A rise above this would generate more revenue for the state and reduce the demand for cigarettes. Even with an excise duty of 52%, consumption had not fallen to such an extent that revenues suffered.

Excise revenue collected from tobacco last year was about R1,7bn compared with R1,2bn in 1995 — an increase in real terms of almost 5%.

Van der Merwe said between 1970 and 1988 the real price index of cigarettes declined from 100 to 63,

while excise duties fell from 46% of the total price in the 1970s to 20% in the early 1990s. This meant a higher profit margin for cigarette companies and represented a failure on government's part to optimise revenue from cigarettes, thereby effectively encouraging consumption.

Van der Merwe estimated that government lost about R1,9bn in revenue in 1995 alone as a result of excise duties not keeping pace with inflation.

"In a developing country like SA, taxation is a more potent mechanism

to reduce consumption than in developed countries because consumers of cigarettes tend to be more price sensitive in developing countries," Van der Merwe said. "High excise duties are therefore strongly synonymous with a reduced consumption."

Regarding advertising, research showed that a 1% rise in the growth of advertising expenditure translated into a growth in cigarette demand of between 0,18% and 0,24%. In 1996, the industry spent R256m on tobacco advertising. This suggested limiting ad-

vertising could curb smoking.

In 1995, about 34% of SA's population, or about 7,6-million people, smoked, spending about R1,6bn on their habit. In 1996, 27,5-billion cigarettes were consumed in SA.

Van der Merwe also said that about 2-billion cigarettes were smuggled into SA annually, representing between 5% and 7% of the total market and a loss of R100m in government revenue in 1995. SA-manufactured cigarettes had been exported and then smuggled back to avoid customs duties.

# Mixed feelings over plans to ban puffing billys in public places

SHARKEY ISAACS  
Star Reporter

City workers have mixed feelings about plans by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to effectively ban smoking in public places, including workplaces, in the next few months.

She is also considering banning tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotions.

Some people, like Edwina de Gee of Mitchell's Plain, says her smoking has not affected her productivity at work. A ban on smoking in buildings would mean workers would have to be given breaks to smoke outside, reducing productivity.

"I don't feel smoking should be regulated by law. It should be left to the building's lessee or owner and, in my case, to my employer."

Louise Botha said she could see herself and her colleagues standing outside smoking and stubbing out the cigarette ends on the pavement.

"It's a habit we just can't give up so we shall need treatment to help us give it up. Dr Zuma will have to be

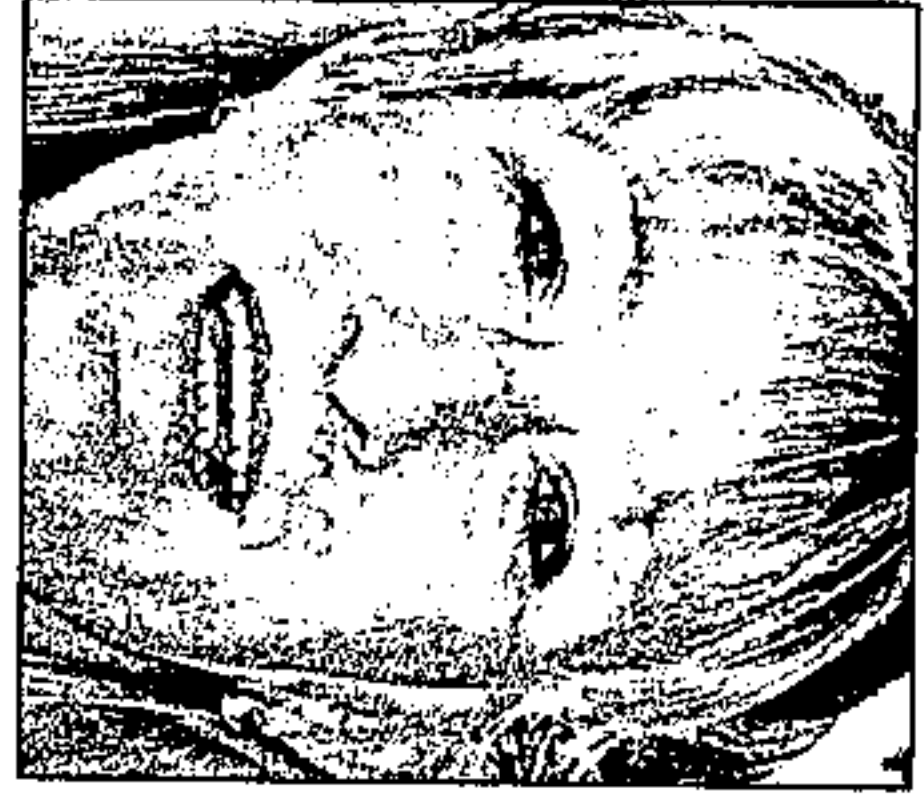


Edwina de Gee of Mitchell's Plain: 'productivity will diminish'

put us on some sort of medical aid to treat us."

Pat Cheminails of Cape Town said smoking was a bad habit but she was unable to give it up.

"Why must laws be introduced to stop us smoking inside buildings? At present restaurants have zones for smokers and I will have to quit going



Louise Botha of the Northern Suburbs: 'picture all the cigarette butts'

to restaurants the day they adopt the new laws," she said.

"Alcohol is more dangerous than smoking and causes many crimes so why don't they control the sale of alcohol?"

Non-smoker Emanuel Scott, a visiting Libertain soccer player, said he had no objection to smoking.



Pat Cheminails of Cape Town: 'provision should be made for smokers'

"People should be allowed to smoke when and where they like."

Jacob Mpetswa of Nyanga East said he had been smoking for 13 of his 31 years. "How long will such laws last before they again change?"

Non-smoker Francois Fredericks of Mitchell's Plain said he sympathised with colleagues who



Emanuel Scott: 'people should be allowed to smoke where they like'

asked to move away from smokers.

"Smoking is a health hazard and a law controlling smokers would be a good thing."

Pat Mampama of Sea Point said while she did not smoke, she did not object to others smoking.

"So I don't think it should be controlled by a law."



Jacob Mpetswa of Nyanga East: 'laws should not be introduced'

Washington - House commerce committee chairman Thomas Bliley has ordered tobacco companies to turn over to Congress more than 39 000 secret documents containing information on the industry's marketing and scientific research.

Mr Bliley said the companies had been served with subpoenas requiring the documents be turned over by March 12.

"This will put in the public eye all of the secrets of the tobacco industry," he said. - Reuters



Francois Fredericks of Mitchell's Plain: 'control legislation is a good idea'

ARG 20/21/98

(87)

## 39 000 burning secrets ordered into open

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# Sponsor but don't advertise, says Zuma

By ANDREA WEISS

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma says she does not mind tobacco companies sponsoring sporting events - as long as they don't use this as an opportunity to advertise cigarettes.

But the tobacco industry says it is "totally unrealistic" to expect tobacco companies to sponsor sport secretly.

Zuma's remark comes in the wake of an announcement that the Government is considering banning smoking in public and work places along with a possible ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorships.

According to the tobacco industry, a ban on sponsorships

would cost soccer R20-million over the next three years, and a ban on advertising would deprive the media industry of around R250-million a year in advertising revenue.

Zuma said at an international tobacco control conference in Cape Town this week that a "titanic" battle was on the cards in the next few months.

The only area where Zuma and the industry are in accord is over the raising of the age limit of the sale of cigarettes to 18. The limit is currently 16 but the constitution defines children as being under the age of 18. The trade association, the Tobacco Institute, supports this move.

In an interview with the *Saturday Star*, Zuma refused to be drawn on when any of the proposed measures would be implemented, saying she was not at a stage where she was ready to reveal these details.

However, she believed the debate should be around whether it was healthy for sports in South Africa to be associated with tobacco and smoking. She appealed to non-tobacco companies to consider sponsoring sports because "indeed no self-respecting sports person smokes and no successful sports person smokes".

A Tobacco Institute spokesman said the industry had not been afforded any consultation.



**ALL FIRED UP:** Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma is targeting tobacco companies' sponsorship of sport.

# Can't sponsor sport in secret - tobacco firms

ARG 21/2/98 (198) (87)  
*Zuma 'totally unrealistic'*

ANDREA WEISS

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The limit is currently 16 but the constitution defines children as being under the age of 18, something which the trade association, the Tobacco Institute, supports.

In an interview with Saturday Argus Dr Zuma refused to be drawn on when any of the proposed measures would be implemented.

She said she was not yet ready to reveal such details.

However, she believed the debate should be around whether it was healthy for sports in South

Africa to be associated with tobacco and smoking.

She appealed to non-tobacco companies to consider sponsoring sports because "indeed, no self-respecting sports person smokes and no successful sports person smokes".

"Why do we deceive the public, especially young people, and put tobacco images linked to sports, because then kids think smoking and sports go together... We should be promoting things that are in line with a healthy sports person at sporting events or even at cultural events. I'm saying let's

*'The effect of banning cigarette advertising is at best inconclusive'*

discuss it."

The Tobacco Institute, representing tobacco manufacturers and farmers, has responded to Dr Zuma's suggestion that they should provide anonymous sponsorship, saying it was "totally unrealistic".

An institute spokesman said: "Speaking in terms of commerce, it would be totally unrealistic to expect tobacco companies just to donate money secretly to sporting bodies.

"You could say that the boards of tobacco companies would not be able to justify such donations to their shareholders."

He said the industry had not been afforded any consultation. He believed talks should involve tobacco companies, sporting bodies, the media, hospitality industry

and trade unions.

The Tobacco Institute will approach the Department of Health with a view to "securing a meaningful opportunity to consult". The industry did not wish children to smoke and therefore supported the raised age limit.

On the issue of an advertising ban, he said that any evidence of the efficacy of such a ban was "anecdotal and, at best, inconclusive".

"A total ban would be undemocratic, would infringe on commercial freedom of speech and would cause the media unjustifiable losses," he said.

On sponsorships he said there was no evidence to suggest that they caused people to take up smoking or to smoke more cigarettes.

"All that a sponsorship ban would do would be to prohibit tobacco companies from making a contribution to society," he said.

Most formal employers already had smoking policies and the industry believed Government intervention in this area was superfluous.

He said: "What we hope is that we can settle this complicated issue by a meaningful process of consultation. We don't see the minister as an enemy and we don't want her to see us as an enemy."

According to a stock exchange report, the news of stricter tobacco controls saw shares in the investment holding company Remgro drop by 230c to R36,70 on Thursday. Remgro owns a third of Rothmans International of London.

The drop in share price was also linked to the application for voluntary liquidation by L. Suzman, the country's oldest and largest cigar and cigarette distributors.

# 'Govt should hike cigarette taxes to protect children'

Linda Ensor

BD 23/2/98  
CAPE TOWN — Governments should impose higher taxes on cigarettes to push up prices and reduce consumption, an international conference of about 120 tobacco control experts from 26 countries resolved at the weekend.

Furthermore, all direct and indirect advertising, the promotion of tobacco products, trademarks, brand names and logos should be banned "so that the world's children can grow up free from commercial pressures to smoke".

There was unanimity that one of the most effective ways of deterring smoking among the youth was to raise taxes.

The experts, who were predominantly economists involved in re-

(87) ~~128~~  
searching the economics of tobacco control, called for greater global and regional co-ordination on tobacco issues.

They say global tobacco control problems can be best controlled through global law and recommended that "all states worldwide, provide the necessary technical and financial support to the World Health Organisation to hasten the preparation and implementation of an International Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and related protocols".

Another resolution called on the World Bank to make a manual for developing nations to help them estimate economic costs of tobacco and analyse effects of the tax structure on prices.

"As demonstrated by research in several countries (including SA) these recommended measures designed to reduce domestic smoking prevalence would have no significant effect on employment, output and national income," the resolution noted.

The economists felt their most difficult research challenge was to measure the effectiveness of policy options relative to their cost.

Econometric studies should also be used to pin down the effects of advertising on tobacco consumption.

The findings were as yet inconclusive, University of Michigan public health professor Kenneth Warner said.

"Clearly there is also a critical need to develop a precise understanding of the price elasticity of demand in a number of countries," he said.

Comment: Page 11



*Tax 'the best way to curb smoking, especially among children and the poor'*

# Global anti-smoking policies urged

CT (DR) 27/2/98

(87) (88)

**CHRISTO VOLSCHENK**

ECONOMICS EDITOR

Cape Town - At the end of a three-day anti-smoking conference on Friday attendants from 26 countries urged governments all over the world to increase excise duties on cigarettes, ban all direct and indirect advertising and promotion of tobacco products and to stop selling cigarettes at duty-free shops at airports.

The attendants produced a consensus policy statement in which they said "proposals to decrease tobacco consumption through tax increases, a ban on advertising and promotion of tobacco products and health education, were consistent with global trends of tobacco control".

No suggestion was made in the policy statement on the amount by which excise duties should be increased in South Africa or in any other country.

Earlier in the week a spokesman in the office of Nkosazana Zuma, the health minister, said the government would take its cue on whether to increase excise duties in the Budget from the policy proposals of the international conference.

Over 120 economists and policy makers attended the conference, which was the first international conference of its kind. The World Health Organisation (WHO), the World



**INCREASE TAXES** Thomas Novotny of the World Bank puts the case for higher taxes on tobacco products at the anti-smoking conference in Cape Town

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

Bank and a number of other international agencies were also represented.

Late last year researchers at the University of Cape Town suggested that excise duty on cigarettes could be increased 50 percent without damaging the profitability of manufacturers.

Iraj Abedian, the head of the research team at the university

and the chairman of the conference, said the proposal to increase excise duties was presented to the government.

In the policy statement attendants urged the government to increase excise duties annually at a rate higher than the ruling inflation rate since "tax increases are the most effective tool to reduce tobacco consumption, es-

pecially amongst children and the poor".

"There should be greater global and regional co-ordination on tobacco issues."

The conference urged governments to co-operate with the WHO in its effort to draft and implement an international protocol or treaty on the control of tobacco consumption.

CIGARETTE PRICES MAY SHOOT UP

# Anti-smoking lobby strikes forceful blow in city talks

CT 23/2/98

(87)

**A SMOKING INDUSTRY** chief claimed that his industry was 'excluded' from the Economics of Tobacco Control conference last week, but a conference organiser denied this. Health Writer **JUDITH SOAL** reports.

**R**OUND 86 to the anti-tobacco lobbyists. By highlighting shocking statistics on the costs of smoking and undermining arguments about the economic benefits of the tobacco industry, the conference on the Economics of Tobacco Control held in Sea Point last week struck a blow for the smoke-free lobby.

And if the tobacco industry's reaction was anything to go by, it was a blow that hurt.

In an article published in *Business Report* during the conference, British American Tobacco (BAT) managing director Mr Steven Jurgens claimed that the industry was being "excluded".

He said it was a "one-sided, emotional debate" that stopped the industry from participating in the formulation of government policy at the conference.

But the conference organisers disagreed. "To say they have been excluded is an out and out lie," said the Medical Research Council's Ms Greer van Zyl.

She said last week that eight representatives of the tobacco industry were attending the conference: "They're in the audience right now."

In an apparent reference to Jurgens' criticism, conference chairperson Professor Iraj Abedian took some time during the closing session on Friday to ask for input from the industry. Delegates looked around suspiciously, wondering just who these infiltrators were and whether or not they would speak up.

"They've been gagged," cried one jeering voice.

At last a lone soul braved it, but not very far: "I would just like to know whether (Dr) Hugh High's paper will be made available like the others have been," asked a man who left before the *Cape Times* could get his name.

High, a UCT lecturer who delivered a paper on the relationship between tobacco consumption and advertising, was criticised during the closing sessions for a presentation that was "unprofessional, poorly researched and insulting to the conference". It seems that the tobacco industry did have more than silent representation during the week. High, whose paper suggested that tobacco advertising did not significantly increase consumption, has produced research for the industry — enough to discredit him in the eyes of this community.

Abedian promised to distribute the paper, but was quickly interrupted by that tireless South African anti-tobacco campaigner who now works for the World Health Organisation, Dr Derek Yach. Yach agreed that the paper should be sent out, but insisted that the heated audience discussion following High's presentation be included.

Clearly neither side is about to concede any ground, particularly as Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma prepares to table new legislation to further restrict tobacco advertising. There is much speculation about how far this legislation will go — Zuma spoke initially of a total ban, but now says she will try to avoid that "if there is a way of protecting the children without it".

Is that Round 87 to the industry?

● Your packet of cigarettes could go up by more than R1,50 soon, if proposals from the tobacco control conference held in the city last week are accepted.

A team of researchers based at the University of Cape Town have recommended that excise on cigarettes increase by 50% in the coming budget. With VAT, this would mean about a R1,50 increase.

But it could be more because tobacco companies normally use such occasions to introduce their own price increases.

Even without an industry increase, addicts will have to fork out an extra R550 a year — meaning a tobacco habit of a packet a day will cost you about R2 555 a year.

However, sources predict that the government will moderate the proposals and introduce an increase of around 20% — about 60c a box.

● See *Business Report* Page 20

# SA branded as drugs crossroads

Star 4/3/98 (S7) (24)

Country straddles major routes and has a problem, US report finds

By Rich Mkhondo  
Washington

**T**he United States has listed South Africa among 17 sub-Saharan countries with drug trafficking and production problems.

The US Department of State says in its 1998 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report that South Africa may be the largest consumer of Mandrax and largest producer of marijuana.

"South Africa may be the world's largest consumer of Mandrax (Methaqualone) ... South Africa continues to be a significant cocaine and heroin transshipment area. South American cocaine transits South Africa to Europe, and Far Eastern heroin transits to European and US markets, although we have no evidence indicating it enters the US in sufficient

quantity to have a significant effect on the US," the report says.

"South Africa continues to be one of the world's largest cannabis producers, the majority being consumed domestically or by regional markets," the report adds.

The report was released as the US began to consider a proposal by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Drug Enforcement Agency to help establish an international police training academy in South Africa.

This year's report declares Nigeria "the hub of African narcotics trafficking", adding that General Sani Abacha's government is ineligible for US assistance.

Other nations listed as having drug control problems or as transit points for drugs are Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania.

Cited as countries with

less significant narcotics problems are Botswana, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The Department of State says South Africa's problems with drug trafficking can be attributed to its geographic location - "South Africa is on major trafficking routes between the Far and Middle East, the Americas and Europe" - as well as "a rapid expansion of international air links; a well-developed transportation infrastructure; and relatively modern international telecommunication and banking systems".

"South Africa's long, porous borders and its weak border controls give traffickers easy entry into South Africa.

"A 1997 study by the Department of Home Affairs noted that of South Africa's 97 ports of entry, only 17 were fully covered by customs,

immigration and the police; 31 airports had no coverage by any of these agencies," the US government report says.

"Also, drug enforcement is largely the responsibility of the South African Narcotics Bureau, an underfunded and undertrained unit of the South African Police Service.

"South Africa has no interministerial body that specifically considers drug control issues. However, drug trafficking is identified as a priority in the South African Government's National Crime Prevention Strategy, a policy initiative that created an interministerial framework for addressing South Africa's massive crime problem," it adds.

The US also says it has begun negotiations for a mutual legal assistance treaty and an update of the extradition treaty. - Star Foreign Service

## Parliament's puffers hit by double blow

(87) (143)

Members of Parliament who smoke were hit by a double blow on Budget day. First, there was the increase in cigarette duty. Then details of a new smoking policy for Parliament were pushed under their doors.

Warned that the policy "will be enforced by management", MPs were told that, henceforth, smoking is prohibited within the parliamentary complex. Even the corridors and passageways - the traditional meeting ground for chats - have been included in the ban. On top of this, smoking is permitted in offices only if co-workers don't object.

But there are some areas set aside for those who can't kick the habit, including in the various bars in the complex, three courtyards and the garden.

Still, help is at hand: "Parliament will, to the extent that it is able, assist members and staff to break the habit," the memo said. And if that doesn't work, there are always next year's excise duties... -

Staff Reporter

Star 12/3/98

# Lighting up is going to lighten your pocket too

**HEALTH WRITER**

FORGET the 46c increase on a box of cigarettes announced yesterday. Fags will go up by at least 51c (because of VAT) and possibly more like R1 if prices increase the way they did last year.

This is according to Dr Yussuf Saloojee, executive director of the National Council Against Smoking.

"In 1997 cigarettes went up by R1,53. Most of this increase, 81c, was due to increases by manufacturers and retailers."

If the same percentage increases apply this year, based on the 46c tax, a box of cigarettes will go up by at least 86c.

But Saloojee's figures were disputed by

(112/3/98)  
Mr Abrie du Plessis, public relations manager of Rothmans, yesterday.

"He is lying. I don't know where he got those figures from. The tobacco manufacturers didn't increase their recommended prices at all after the Budget last year, and we won't this year."

He did admit that some retailers had used the opportunity to increase the selling price. "Of course the same may happen now."

He could not say whether manufacturers would put their prices up later in the year, but if the anti-tobacconists get their way and consumption goes down, you can be certain the die-hard puffers will be coughing up more.

ANDREW TRENCH  
London

# New war of words over passive smoking

Leaks and conflicting reports foul the air in tobacco debate

ST 15/3/98

(87)

**L**AST Sunday, the threat of passive smoking was supposed to be a myth. By the end of the week, cigarette smoke was killing babies again.

The opening assault on one of the anti-smoking lobby's articles of faith came with a front-page report in last week's Sunday Telegraph under the banner headline: "Passive smoking does not cause cancer".

The report, leaked to the newspaper by the tobacco industry, claimed that the World Health Organisation was suppressing research, based on a 10-year study, which showed there was no proven link between passive smoking and illness.

The research compared 650 lung-cancer patients with 1 542 healthy people. It looked at people who were married to smokers, those who worked with smokers, those who both worked with and were married to smokers, and those who grew up with smokers.

The results were consistent, the report said, with there being no additional risk for a person living or working with a smoker. If anything, the results showed that passive smoking could have a protective effect against lung cancer. It also stated: "There was no association between lung-cancer risk and ETS (environmental tobacco smoke) exposure in childhood."

A spokesman for BAT Industries, the tobacco and insurance giant, said: "It confirms what we and many other scientists have long believed — that while smoking in public may be annoying to some non-smokers, science does not show that being around a smoker is a lung-cancer risk."

The World Health Organisation was outraged by the report, accused the tobacco industry of staging a publicity stunt and insisted its report did, in fact, link passive smoking to illness.

The anti-smoking lobby's hand was further strengthened a few days later when a report by Britain's Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health was published. The study by the government-backed group said that passive smoking caused up to 80 cot deaths a year in Britain and that babies whose parents smoked were twice as likely to be the victims of sudden infant death than those whose par-

ents abstained. They also had a 50 percent chance of developing other difficulties like asthma, it said. Passive smokers had a 20 to 30 percent chance of developing lung cancer, and a 23 percent chance of heart disease. Smoking caused 120 000 deaths in Britain yearly — about a fifth of all deaths.

The committee urged the British government to ban smoking in public places and to outlaw all tobacco advertising. People also had to be told more clearly about the risks they faced from smoking, including those from passive smoking.

In South Africa, Dr Yusuf Saloojee, the executive director of the SA National Council against Smoking, reacted angrily to the leaked report. "The tobacco industry is merely trying to misrepresent scientific data," he said. A study by the International Agency for Research into Cancer, which is linked to the World Health Organisation, did find a link between passive smoking and lung cancer, he said. It reported a 16 percent rise in risk to non-smoking women married to smokers.

A separate report, released by the Independent Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health last week, found one in five cot deaths was caused by mothers who smoked. This study, accepted by the British government, Saloojee said, would lead to stronger policies to cut passive smoking there.

Edward Shalala, spokesman for the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa, said the results of the leaked World Health Organisation study were not statistically significant.

"But they appear to be consistent with our view that scientific evidence, as a whole, does not show that ETS causes lung cancer or any other disease in non-smokers."

The new row comes at an increasingly desperate time for the tobacco giants, whose industry is being slowly eroded by vigorous public health policies and damaging lawsuits. Nowhere is this more evident than in the US, where, in California on January 1, smoking was banned in all public places, including bars.

This kind of policy, combined with litigation by former smokers claiming damages, has turned the screws on the tobacco giants, leading to a deal last year in the US between the tobacco companies Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco and the US attorney general. Still to be accepted by Congress, it proposes a \$370-million (about R1.8-billion) settlement from the companies in return for which class action suits could come to an end.

In Britain, proposed health regulations raise the prospect of workers being able to sue their employers if they are exposed to cigarette smoke. But government officials say privately that they are reluctant to legislate a smoking ban, preferring to have changes introduced by public consensus. There is a fear of creating a "nanny state", an issue that has become more sensitive since the government banned beef on the bone amid fears of "mad cow" disease.

● Additional reporting by Jessica Bezuidenhout

**COME HAVE FUN WITH ME ... I WON'T BITE:** Choco the Clown, otherwise Aubrey Hadebe, is there to entertain youngsters at the Big Foot Motor Stunt Show, part of the Rand Easter Show which runs until April 13 at Nasrec

PHOTOGRAPH: CATHY PINNOCK

## Drug for ulcer treatment being used to perform abortions

By BENITA VAN EYSEN

A schedule four drug, manufactured specifically for the treatment of ulcers, is being used in South Africa as an abortion pill - even though the makers never intended it as such.

The drug is being used both legally - in state-sponsored abortion clinics, and illegally - in performing do-it-yourself abortions.

And the medication is easily available. This week a pregnant *Saturday Star* col-

league was able to procure the drug without a prescription from a city pharmacist.

The drug has been available in South Africa for eight years and has been officially sanctioned for use under supervision in abortions at government hospitals, provided it is administered only up to the 20th week.

The Medicines Control Council, however, has not registered the drug for this purpose and it is not regulated in the same way as would a drug designed for abortions.

Women, some in the third trimester, are acquiring the ulcer medication to conduct their own abortions.

Health authorities have warned that performing unsupervised abortions using the drug, without complying with the compulsory abortion after-care procedures, could kill the women using it. The prescription drug causes the uterus to contract and expel the foetus at any stage of pregnancy.

See Page 5 (87)

Mar 4/4/98

# Another habit to kick

## Snuff abuse is widespread in South Africa, creating many health problems

Star 25/4/98 (87)

**S**outh Africans are among the highest snuff users in the world, yet systematic information about its effects on the economy and on the health of the people who use it, has not been scientifically compiled.

Research done in the early 70s established that South Africa had the highest incidence of cancer of the sinus in the world, with 40% of the problem having a direct link with snuff abuse. There is no accurate information available on the effects of snuff abuse in SA.

### Mouth cancer

A prominent ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist says 60% of all ENT patients at Hillbrow Hospital and 40% at Chris Hani Baragwanath have problems that are attributable to snuff abuse. It is responsible for allergies, polyps, mouth cancer and adenoid problems in most of these patients. Low-income black women aged 30 years and upwards make up 35 to 50% of the victims.

The specialist added: "The National Centre for Occupational Health should be the most concerned because the majority of the abusers work in the manufacturing and service sectors."

Most retailers and spaza shop owners agreed that black middle-aged women as well as sangomas of either gender are the main buyers and users of snuff.

National Council Against Smoking director Dr Yusuf Saloojee said research pertaining to snuff abuse was carried out five years ago. It was extremely segmented, concentrating only on snuff abuse among pregnant women.

"Our institution is very concerned about the high level of tobacco abuse in South Africa and we are lobbying the national and provincial governments to ban cigarettes and raise the costs of this unhealthy habit."

According to Saloojee, 30 000 000kg of tobacco was consumed between 1995 and 1996.

One of the major snuff wholesalers said they sold 180 000 containers of snuff each month.

A source, who prefers to remain anonymous, said major wholesalers sold around 6 million 15g snuff containers a month. He said there were 20 types of snuff available, some of which were imported.



**Snuff**  
MIBAMA

None of the tobacco manufacturers were prepared to say how much snuff tobacco they sold each month, nor which countries they were exporting to. They conceded only that they exported to several southern African countries.

Department of Health public relations officer Gorda Perez said: "The new, trendy cigar-toting yuppies are giving the wrong message to highly impressionable youngsters by pretending that the ill effects of cigars are not as severe as those of cigarettes."

The bottom line is that all tobacco abuse is harmful to health."

She also regretted that there was no new information about the effects of snuff, nor research currently under way.

Perez said her department was not aware of the seriousness of the problem, but would consider setting up a task team and investigating further.

However, she said she was alarmed at the increasing incidence of snuff abuse and worried about

its effects on the economy and its impact on the nation's health in the next 10 to 15 years.

The department was aware that all snuff manufacturers were acting against the law by not complying with existing legislation, Perez added. They did not adhere to regulations prescribing the size and prominence of the warning label, and sold snuff to the under-aged.

The department was therefore reviewing legislation so that it could impose stiff penalties on those who did not comply with the Tobacco Products Act.

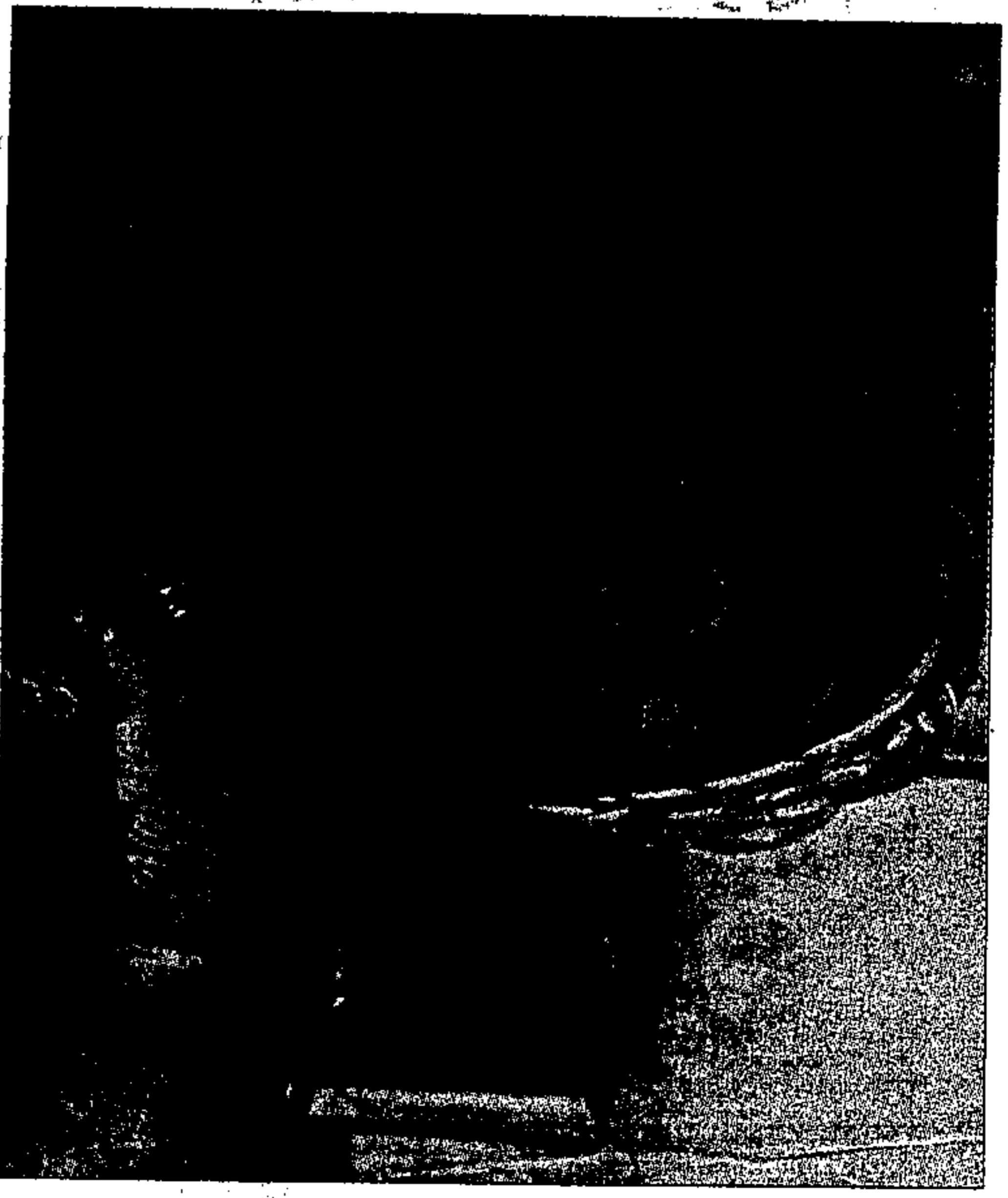
### African culture

"Consumers should reserve the right to sue snuff manufacturers for putting their lives in danger by not informing them about the side-effects of snuff," said Perez.

Snuff users have all sorts of reasons for using the substance.

Some say it clears the head, and others maintain it is part of African culture. Some men are adamant that "women would be more problematic if they banned snuff", while some women users say their noses start to bleed if they stop using the compound. Some men believe that snorting snuff makes them more virile.

■ An old African adage goes some-



**PAYING THROUGH THE NOSE:** Snuff users risk all sorts of health complaints. South Africans are among the most frequent users of the substance in the world.

Photograph: CHRIS ADIAM

thing like this: "Ngathi yizihupa for communication with the dead. Others used it to keep away evil spirits."

The only available snuff then was ground alooe mixed with a particular

non-poisonous tree, depending on the season. The most popular one was *izala*, for both its quality and fragrance. The finished product was kept in a horn.



# SA among world's heaviest drinkers

BY JOVIAL RANTAO  
Political Correspondent

Cape Town - South Africans have drunk themselves into the big league of the world's alcohol consumers.

According to the Department of Health's annual report, per capita alcohol consumption by South Africans has been estimated to be as high as 10 litres a year, which places South Africa in the top 10 countries in terms of consumption of alcohol.

To reduce the level of consumption, the Government plans to launch a campaign to reduce the current level of alcohol abuse.

*shaw 11/5/98*  
"Following the initial success of the campaign to reduce consumption of tobacco, the Health Department is planning a similar blitz on the abuse of alcohol.

"A committee has been set up to consider health messages with regard to alcohol abuse and to design a campaign," the department said.

It said drinking during pregnancy had led to high levels of foetal alcohol syndrome in South Africa.

In some areas of the Western Cape, 15% of the population experienced problems of this nature.

Education campaigns as well as programmes to assist

(87)  
problem drinkers have been designed.

The Department of Health has joined other Southern African Development Community countries in developing recommendations for the implementation of the International Labour Organisation's code of practice with regard to substance abuse at work.

The code addresses the prevention of substance abuse as well as how to deal with people who have substance abuse problems at work.

In the development of Curriculum 2005, substance abuse prevention has been incorporated into the course as part of the life skills programme.



Strategy: W Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn

# Plan targets problem at city schools

MPHOENILE MAGEZA  
FEATURE WRITER

Legal authorities are aware of the problem at the schools and are dealing with it, even if the efforts are still in their infancy.

Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn believes that the problem can only be dealt with effectively and on a large scale if all the various ministries make the problem of drug abuse and drug smuggling a priority. "The problem at the moment is that all the various departments have so many hassles to deal with that the problem of drugs moves to the back burner.

"To combat this social evil, an integrated approach is needed. Drugs are not only a crime issue but also a social evil. Every department and all of our lives are affected by it. Worldwide, drugs are being combated in an integrated fashion because that is the only way they can be fought."

On May 7, a workshop leading to the final stages of a national drug master plan was held.

The plan requires the participation of all government departments and a drug body is to ensure the implementation of the programs and report to Parliament.

As chairman of the National Drug Advisory Council, Frank Kahn is very involved and knowledgeable about the extent and complexity of the problem.

He is proposing that schools take three compulsory steps:

1. A drug detection course for teachers and a teaching curriculum that includes drug education.

2. Regular fortnightly or monthly drug prevention programmes for pupils, including screening of educational videos.

3. Information booklets in the 11 official languages to be distributed to pupils and parents from June.

Most importantly, Mr Kahn believes that children should be exposed to positive role-plays which is a long term strategy.

# New drug group initiative offers hope to parents

GILLE WEINTRAUB  
FEATURE WRITER

Having a child addicted to drugs must be high on the list of nightmares facing parents, judging from the books written by the many who have experienced it.

And the scourge goes on. According to parent Johan Visser, the addiction is introduced today by "designer drugs" like crack and cocaine.

He says: "The drug of introduction used to be grass. These days, Standard 6s kick off with cocaine."

And the laws of supply and demand have put drugs like cocaine, crack and Ecstasy within reach of the average teenager's pocket money budget - initially, at least.

Johan speaks from personal experience, having seen a close relative work through an addiction with LSD and heroine.

He speaks of the "absolute symptoms," and the reminders: "The signs were subtle, but obvious. Yet like most parents, his went into denial - they didn't want to believe their son was on drugs."

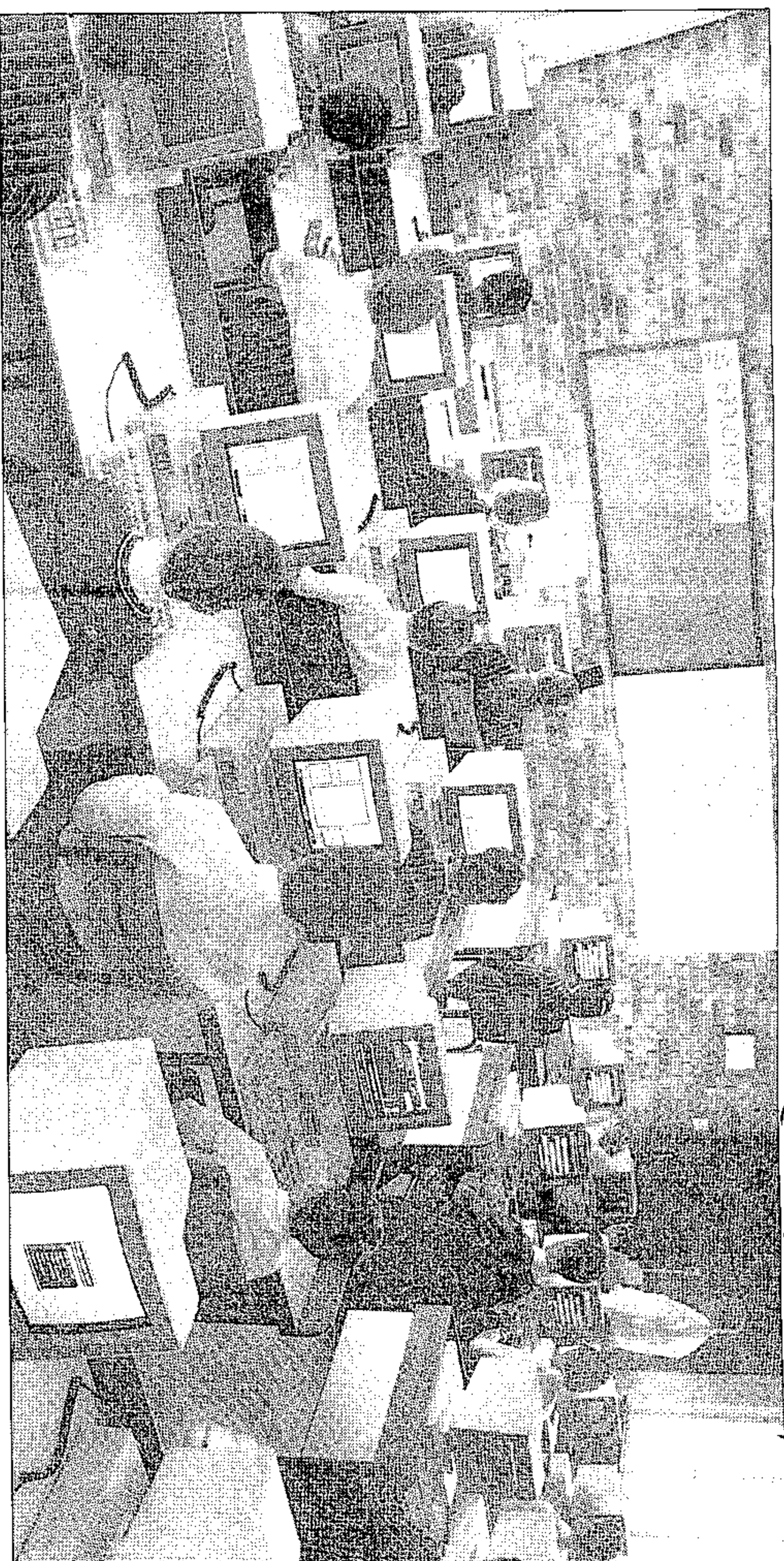
When the young man's habit changed from abuse to addiction, and the physical signs were unmistakable, Johan recalls the family sinking into utter confusion.

He says: "They were beset by fear and impotence, didn't know who to go to - and the school couldn't help them feel better."

He feels they would have coped had there been someone "out there" to give them hope, and: "The doctors couldn't tell whether the boy would even survive."

It was those feelings of hopelessness and despair that have motivated Johan, together with four others, to form an organisation aimed at providing support assistance to parents - it's free and as well as "holding hands" with parents, will refer them to professionals and other resources available to deal with substance abuse.

The Drug Educational Council consists of a committee of five: director Johan (who brings personal experience plus professional experience in the advertising world), radio personality Amore Bekker, school principal Trevor Webster, Cape Technikon



Vulnerable: children like these at their desks in a classroom are likely to face drugs at some time - but will their parents be ready to help them fight it?

vice-rector Professor Nick Kock and the Rev Pietie Victor, now retired, who used to work with the homeless.

"We want to help parents to help themselves," continues Johan, who quotes American statistics that suggest 90% of teenagers will experiment with one or other form of substance abuse (including alcohol abuse) and, of these, the addiction rate is 4.8%.

"You probably won't stop your child from experimenting with drugs," says Johan. "The trick is to step in before abuse turns into addiction."

That's why it's critical for parents to be aware and informed, and not to allow themselves to go into denial.

As far as Johan is concerned, parents are left out in the cold when anti-drug educational programmes are doing the rounds.

He feels there is a lot of information directed at teenagers, but not much around

for their parents, so the Drug Educational Council is willing to address parents in community and service clubs, at school PTAs, and anywhere else where adults get together. And this service is free.

He says again: "Parents going into denial represent the biggest enemy."

From experience, he speaks of the reluctance to believe that a child you love is doing drugs, and how very hard it is to face the facts and to find the courage to ask for help. Johan warns parents not to try to keep the problem "in the family". He recommends outside assistance: "You are too subjective involved. It becomes impossible to see the wood for the trees."

The warning signs can be tricky to put your finger on: Johan (and psychology books) cite a slide in academic performance, together with loss of interest in extramural activities and sport, abnormal or erratic

stopped attending school regularly, he became verbally abusive to his family and he has criminal charges pending against him for housebreaking and attempted car theft.

His addiction caused his mother a lot of pain and she in turn had to be counselled after nervous breakdowns and depression started interfering with her daily activities. Both of them are now dealing with the

# Woman and her son unite to wage war against addiction

MPHOENILE MAGEZA

The effects of drugs on families are extensive and usually very traumatic. I spoke to a son-and-mother pair recently, who relayed their story to me. Luellen, a Standard Eight pupil at Glendale High School in Mitchell's Plain, has been sniffing glue and smoking dagga for the past four years.

His life went on a downward spiral. He

(87) RRU 12/5/98

# 'Abuse has spread due to rapid local changes'

MPHOENILE MAGEZA  
FEATURE WRITER

According to a 1993 study conducted in schools by the Department of Cape Psychiatry, the abuse of drugs has, in all probability, spread as a result of local socio-political changes, rapid urbanisation and high unemployment levels.

There are currently no statistics available to measure the increased extent of the problem. The study also acknowledges that official statistics tend to underestimate the extent of drug use.

"All schools are affected by drugs" was the unanimous response from schools asked how big the problem is in the Western Cape.

Fortunately, many schools are doing something about it. Fezeka High School, in Guguletu, plans to call all stakeholders together on this year's Drug Awareness Day to speed up the fight against drugs, while simultaneously implementing drug-prevention programmes in all classrooms on a regular basis.

"The problem has always been there, but now it's getting worse," said Felby Taudeni, a counsellor at Fezeka High.

The biggest problem they have is dagga. "There is a perception out there that dagga is now legal. When the children see Rastas marching to Parliament and openly smoking dagga without disciplinary measures, they get the impression that it's now OK."

The principal of Glendale High School, Achmat Chothia, said there has been an escalation of drug abuse at his school - but added they are being proactive about the problem.

"Proactively, we deal with this by teaching life skills within the classroom. We encourage rehabilitation over expulsion for offenders because we do not want to simply pass on the problem."

At St Cyprian's, in Oranjezicht, the students have taken up the initiative themselves. With the help of SANCA, the pupils formed an organisation named Dusc.

Many initiatives - such as a "listening skills" workshop and a multilingual magazine to be launched in June to provide pupils with information - are in place. Dusc has been so popular that it will be suggested to other schools interested in the programme. To contact Dusc at St Cyprian's, contact Ms P Norval at 461 1090.

Fezeka and St Cyprian's High School have the same approach towards rehabilitation and all three require that an offender undergo rehabilitation as a condition of re-entry into the school after a suspension.

Fezeka, St Cyprian's and Glendale High School discourage teachers from smoking on the school grounds - to provide the pupils with good role-models.

## Priest loses his robes over wife

Manila - A Roman Catholic priest who got married in the southern Philippines while wearing his church robes will be asked to relinquish them, church officials said here.

The Rev Hector Canto, 36, exchanged wedding vows with Cynthia Diamante, a 24-year-old engineer he met in his parish. They were married in a ceremony that was attended by about 600 people.

Assistant secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Pedro Quitorio said Mr Canto would be asked to leave the priesthood.

A priest could ask permission to marry from his bishop, who in turn asked for dispensation from Pope John Paul II to recognise the wedding.

The priest was then asked to leave the priesthood because of the end of his vow of celibacy, said Monsignor Quitorio.

A special committee would determine sanctions for the Rev Jesus Silva, who officiated at the wedding. - Sapa-AP

# MetroRail takes new track

## Service given five years to 'get fit'

SHARKEY ISAACS  
TRANSPORT REPORTER

Cape Town's suburban train service could be taken over by a foreign transport company, like British Rail, if it fails to get on to a more profitable track within the next five years.

Gearing up for a fully privatised service opened to international operators is the first phase of a national suburban rail revamp.

The Government is expected to announce plans soon to privatise all MetroRail services and to invite tenders from foreign operators to run them for specified periods.

The introduction of so-called "concessionary operating rights" will mean that any company, local or foreign, can run any one of South Africa's six commuter rail services.

MetroRail is a Government-owned company in the Spooner group. It runs at a loss, and depends on Government subsidisation. The unveiling of the concession

contract plan is intended to force the six MetroRail services in to "get fit" programmes ahead of full privatisation.

This will give the services the chance to be in a position to compete when the concession contracts are offered.

National Transport Minister Mac Maharaj told Parliament his department was poised to sign an agreement soon with the South African Rail Commuter Corporation (MetroRail) that would shift their relationship from deficit financing to a performance-oriented, concession-type contract.

The new agreement would change fundamentally the way that the Government subsidised commuter transport.

The contract system would be the first step towards the full concessioning of the commuter railway network.

While Cape MetroRail, with the most efficient service, is expected to hold its own against overseas com-

petitors, there is uncertainty about the future of operations in other regions.

The Cape's service ferries 807 000 commuters in 664 trains daily. The "get fit" period of four to five years is intended to give MetroRail time to improve service management efficiency and to reduce running costs, before tenders are called for on the international market.

Rail services will face another challenge when the Government phases out its commuter train subsidies from as early as the end of this year.

Regions have been briefed to prepare for subsidy cuts of up to R100-million.

Regional manager André Harrison said all regional commuter train services were "facing a very challenging time".

But he added that he was confident that "Cape MetroRail, with the most efficient regional service, would be in the forefront of competitors for concessions in its area.

With its services rated among the best in train time-keeping in any developing country".

He emphasised that no province was ready for privatisation at this stage, and that the "get fit period" would enable them to prepare for open-market competition from top operators like British Rail.

Because of subsidy cuts, fares would have to increase, some services might have to be shelved and others cancelled, he said.

"For instance, while daily services from Cape Town to Wellington might be retained, the extended service to Malnesbury and Wolseley might be discontinued and some stations near to other stations, like Clovelly, might have to be shut."

Low-key demonstration services were also envisaged on new routes to Century City and to De Noon on the West Coast.

He said MetroRail was not yet able to extend its services to Atlantis, whose residents had been clamouring for years for a train service.

## Rasool a candidate for top health award

JEMMY VALL  
Health Reporter

Ebrahim Rasool, former health minister for the Western Cape and now leader of the African National Congress in the Western Cape, is one of the finalists for the 1998 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

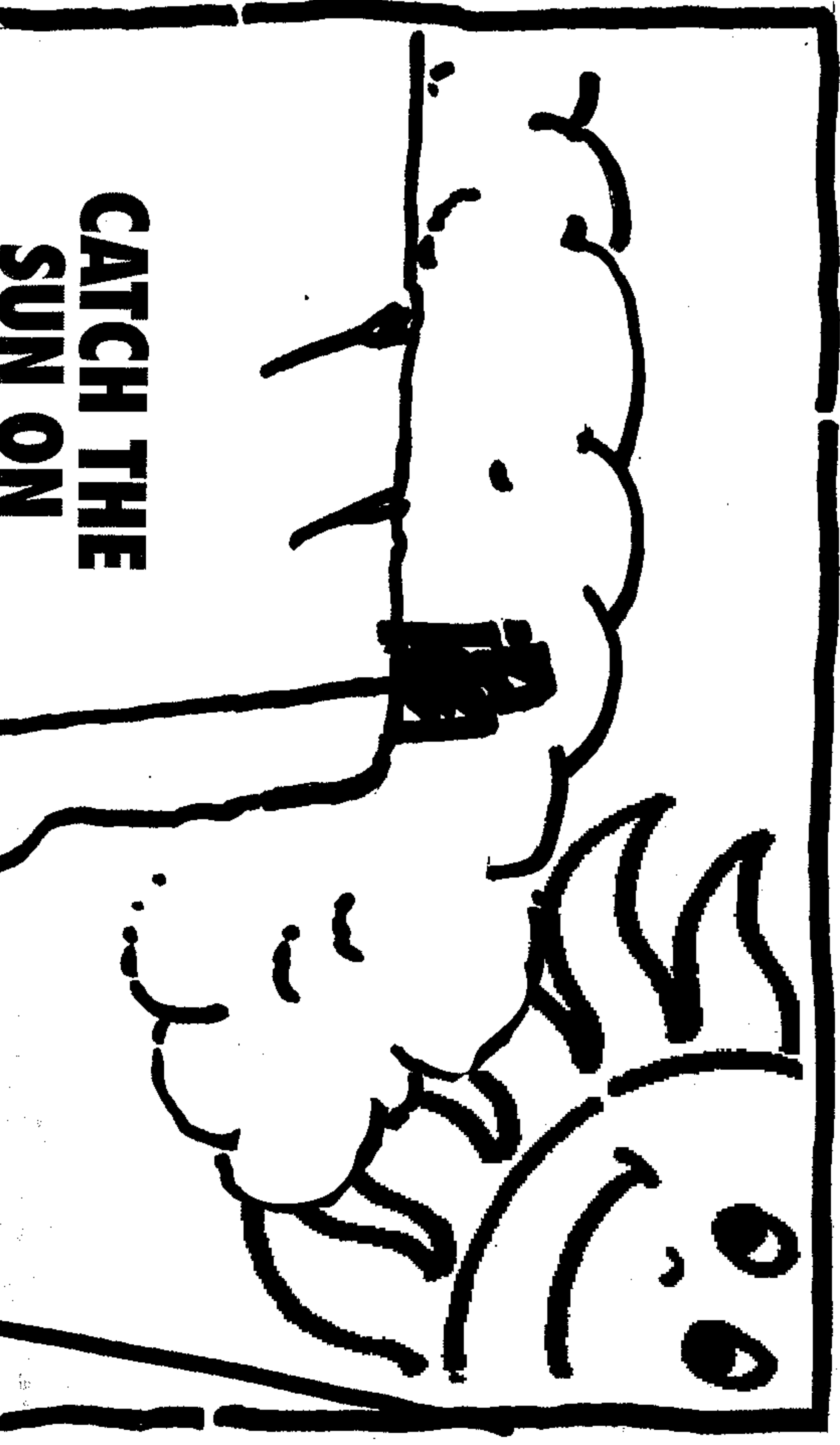
Others are Abe Nkomo, chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on health, and Wellie Shasha, South Africa's representative at the World Health Organisation in Geneva.

The annual award recognises commitment and leadership in improving health and healthcare for all South Africans.

The winner of the award will be announced at a function today where the former president of Botswana, Ketumile Quett Masire, will be the keynote speaker. Part of the award is a



Ebrahim Rasool



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bie organisation committed to improving health services, nominated by the winner.

The winner also receives funding to spend a month in the United States studying health programmes of relevance to his work.

Mr Rasool has been nominated for his "outstanding leadership" in expanding the primary care services in the Western Cape.

Dr Nkomo has been nominated for his stewardship of major health legislation over the past three years which has dramatically improved access to health services for the poor.



Dr Shasha



Abe Nkomo

Dr Shasha established the first community-based medical training programme at the medical school of the University of Transkei and is recognised for his leadership in establishing the National Progressive Primary Healthcare Network. The award is sponsored by the Kaizer Family Foundation.

■ Keynote speaker at the award ceremony, Keturile Quett Masire, stepped down last month after serving as president of Botswana for more than 15 years. Sir Keturile has been a human rights advocate and staunch supporter of initiatives to establish greater accountability and transparency in government in Southern Africa.

## Climber goes to the top in bid to visit Titanic

Phoenix - A mountain climber wants to see the Titanic on the ocean floor and has gone to court to secure the right to make that dive.

That pits climber Chris Haver against RMS Titanic Inc, a New York company which owns salvage rights and has won a court injunction barring others from its remains and from the area where they rest.

Judge Calvitt Clarke of the District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, granted the injunction after film director James Cameron was accused of leaving debris on the Titanic's deck during filming of the movie.

Mr Haver is a friend of Mike McDowell, who saw the Titanic as a huge attraction and negotiated a deal with the Russian Institute that owns the submarines Cameron used. Mr McDowell then created Deep Ocean Expeditions, a company promoting tourism dives, and which then signed up 40 passengers to visit the Titanic at \$32 000 (R166 400) each.

"It's an international treasure, and there's this one group trying to prevent everyone else from seeing it," said Mr Haver, 32, who was one of the first customers. Mr Haver's attorney expects Judge Clarke to rule against his client. But he intends to file an appeal.

He contends that because the ship rests more than 500km off the coast of Newfoundland, it is beyond US jurisdiction. - Sapa-AP

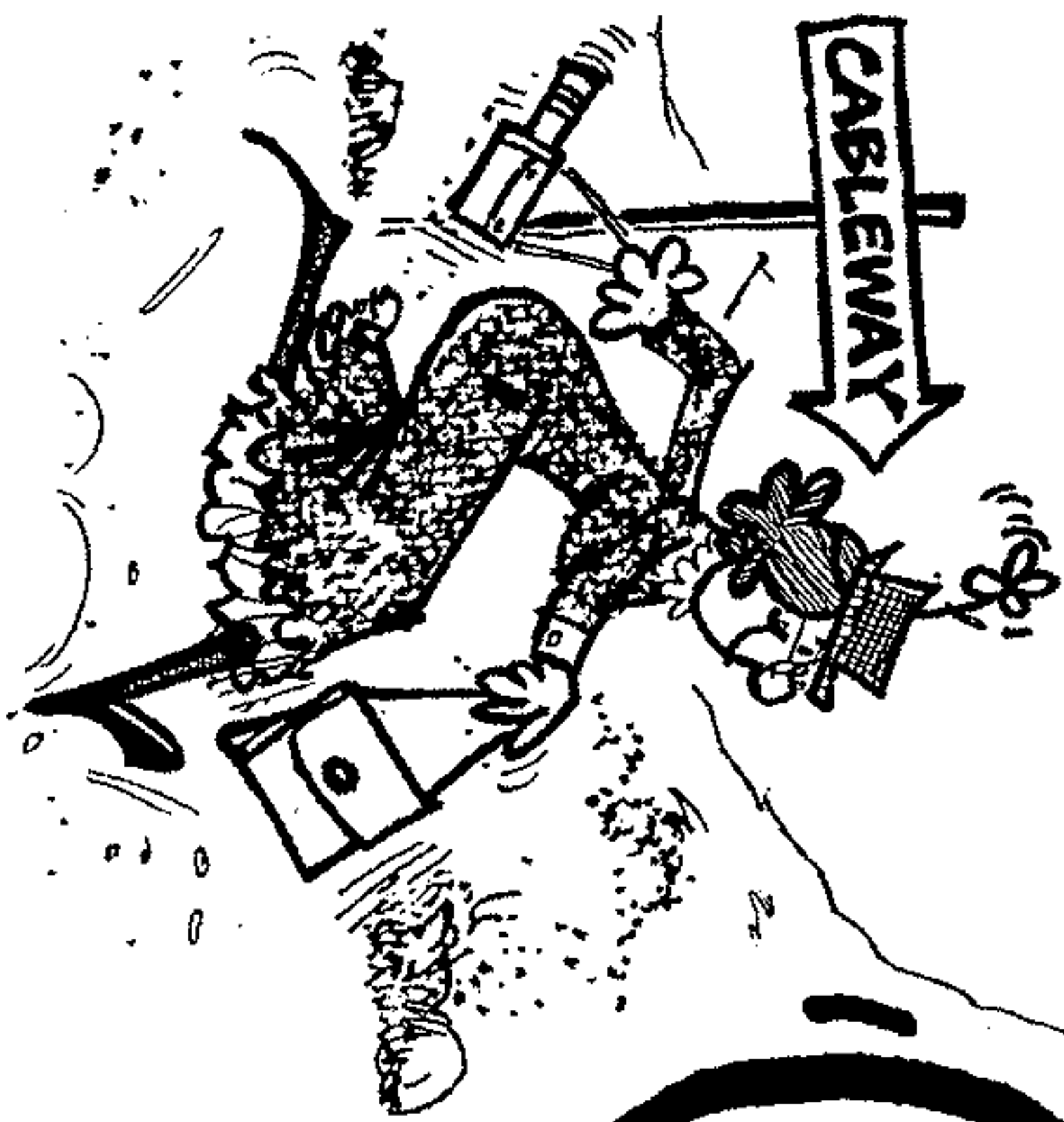
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# Zuma's new plan to shock smokers

86/9/9  
STW

## Last gasp for the nicotine diehards

(87)

STAFF REPORTERS

Smokers across South Africa will soon be hounded out of many public places because a tough clamp-down on smoking in places such as shops, banks and even sports stadiums will be imposed.

The controls, in terms of amendments to South Africa's tobacco laws, are due to be tabled in Parliament shortly.

Tobacco companies are considering whether to challenge the new law in the Constitutional Court.

Gauteng is gearing itself for the anti-smoking move, with regulations in the pipeline - ready to be implemented when the new law is promulgated.

The draconian measures against smoking in public are in addition to the proposed ban on tobacco advertisements and sports sponsorship by tobacco companies.

The new law will enable local authorities to ban smoking in public places and to designate areas where smoking is allowed.

Public places are defined as gyms, banks, hotels, libraries, museums, galleries, post offices, schools, creches, shopping malls, retail stores, theatres, cinemas and stadiums.

The amendments would also see a ban on smoking in municipal buildings and on public transport.

Vincent Hlongwane, spokesman for Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, said: "We are trying to balance the needs of the smoker and rights

of the non-smoker."

Gauteng Department of Health spokesman Popo Maja said amendments to existing tobacco by-laws would enable municipalities to enforce the ban.

Maja added that the aim was to protect those who do not smoke.

Cape Town's medical officer of health Michael Popkiss said one in three adults smoked, and the habit was growing among teenagers, at whom much of the tobacco advertising was aimed.

But smokers aren't taking the proposed anti-smoking laws lying down. Sandton tobacco shop owner James Stephens said the recent boom in cigar sales highlighted the popularity of smoking.

"You can't stop people from smoking where they want to - I don't see the Government trying to stop people drinking."

Edward Shalala of the Tobacco Institute of South Africa said: "We haven't been consulted on the amendments. The anti-smoking lobby has, and we believe this is discrimination."

Tobacco companies point out that attempts in Britain to ban smoking in public places have resulted in four UK tobacco companies going to court because there had been no prior consultation with them.

Mark Fyfe, owner of a cigar bar in Cape Town, said: "I can't see a problem. Clients coming to the cigar bar are smoke-friendly"

Chain-smoker Steve Williams conceded: "At least kids won't be forced to inhale second-hand smoke."



Zuma

# Zuma's smoke shock

## Health Minister aims to kick butt over puffing away in all public areas

### TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Smokers throughout South Africa will soon be hounded out of public places - an outright ban on smoking in areas ranging from banks to shopping malls is looming.

Anti-smoking controls, in terms of amendments to South Africa's tobacco laws, are due to be tabled in Parliament soon.

Cape Town city authorities are gearing up for the anti-smoking era, with regulations already in place or in the pipeline ready to be implemented when the new

law is promulgated. The tough measures against smoking in public come in addition to the proposed ban on tobacco adverts and sports sponsorship by tobacco companies.

The new law will designate areas where smoking is allowed.

Public places are defined in the proposed amendments to the Tobacco Products Control Act as health facilities, banking facilities, accommodation establishments, libraries, museums, galleries, post offices, schools, creches, shopping malls, retail stores, theatres, cinemas, sports stadi-

ums and public terminuses. The amendments will also ban smoking in municipal buildings, in lifts and on public transport.

Vincent Hlongwane, spokesperson for Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, said: "We are trying to balance the needs of the smoker and the rights of the non-smoker."

Michael Popkiss, Medical Officer of Health for Cape Town, said existing regulations to control smoking in public places in the city could not be enforced until the amendments were passed by Parliament. He said amendments

to the existing tobacco law would enable municipalities to enforce the ban on smoking in public places.

Once the amendments had been passed, he said it would be possible to enforce the designation of smoking and non-smoking areas, making it possible to penalise certain property owners for not having "no smoking" signs.

"You can't stop someone smoking in a public place if there is no indication of it being a no-smoking area," he said. Dr Popkiss said the



OUTLAWED: smoking in public places may soon be banned

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

ARG 6/6/98

To page 3

## Outright ban to make life tough for smokers

From page 1

aim of the ban was to protect those who did not smoke.

He said one in three adults smoked but smoking was becoming more common among teenagers, at whom tobacco advertising was strongly targeted.

The South Peninsula municipality has published tough anti-smoking proposals, which will become enforceable once Parliament passes the new law.

The municipal regulations propose fines for people who smoke in non-smoking areas.

The size of the fines have not yet been decided.

The ban on smoking in public places proposed in the South Peninsula has drawn strong reaction from smokers, who feel it infringes on their constitutional freedom.

Ian Bromfield, the municipality's health officer, said there had been a big shift in recent years towards health consciousness.

Smoking was one area in which positive steps could be taken, he said.

He said surveys carried out a few years ago had indicated the public's willingness to support measures to curb smoking in public places.

But smokers aren't taking the proposed anti-smoking laws lying down. Edward Shalala, of the Tobacco Institute of South Africa, said: "We haven't been consulted on the amendments.

The anti-smoking lobby has, and we believe that this is discrimination."

Tobacco companies point out that attempts in Britain to ban smoking in public places have resulted in four UK tobacco companies challenging the government in court because there had been no consultation with them.

South African tobacco companies are considering whether to challenge the new law in the Constitutional Court.

Mark Fyfe, owner of Kennedy's Cigar Bar in Long Street, said: "I can't see the new amendment being a problem."

Una Abrahams, a long-time smoker, said she was happy with the proposal for designated smoking areas.

# All fired up over smoking

Star 20/6/98

(198)  
(87)

Most smokers hate the habit, while non-smokers say it does more than get in their hair

**W**hether you are getting it second-hand or whether it's the first thing you grab in the morning, smoking has become as much a menace as hooting taxis along Louls Botha Avenue, if not worse.

Most smokers you speak to will confess that smoking is a bad habit they wished they had never started.

In fact, a recent survey showed that seven out of 10 smokers and nine out of 10 non-smokers would support a ban on smoking in public places.

But what starts people on that long and frustrating road that they later try to turn away from?

"I started smoking when I was 17 because it was fun," says Edith Willis of Roodepoort. "I had this friend at school in Kimberley who was a bit on the wild side and she prompted our little clique to smoke."

"Now, the first thing I do when I open my eyes in the morning is light up. Sometimes it makes me feel lame but I can't stop myself," she says.

Willis' husband and two children have devised all sorts of schemes to help her stop smoking but up until now none have been successful.

"My kids once came up with this plan that every time I smoked in the bedroom, bathroom and in the car, I would be fined R5. It lasted for about a day."

## Promised her family

Puffing on her third cigarette for the day in the corridor outside her office, waving her long, beautifully manicured fingers, she philosophises on why she can't stop, even though she would like to.

"I once promised my family that when I turned 40 I would stop. That birthday came and went. I think it needs to come from oneself - you can't stop to please other people."

Stubbing out her cigarette and waving away any remnants of smoke in the air around her, she says: "It's still one of the last lekker dinge in die lewe left."

For Valerie (30), smoking is culturally taboo - besides being a bad habit.

"Depending on how conservative the community you're in is, African culture does frown on women who smoke. It's not the thing for decent women to do in public (or in private)."

As a human resources practitioner, part of her everyday dress for work is a rather traditional brightly coloured head-wrap with a couple of dreadlocks peeping out underneath.

"When I'm at home in the Free State I don't smoke at all - out of respect for my parents and relatives."

"But one day I went to a tavern with some friends and found some of my father's friends there. I had to make several trips to the bathroom to have a couple of puffs on the sly."



**ON CLOUD NINE:** But don't you believe it. Research shows that where there's smoke, there's fire. Most smokers would die to be able to give up the habit and they wonder how they ever started in the first place

Photograph: CATHY PINNOCK

For Valerie, smoking is a way to relax. "When I'm stressed at work there's nothing like a couple of drags on a cigarette to calm me down."

For journalist Peta Krost there's no such thing as an ex-smoker - only reformed smokers, much the same as reformed drug addicts and alcoholics. Krost, who started smoking when she was 15 to "look cool", stopped about four years ago.

"I smoked between 20 and 40 cigarettes a day and I remember the exact day I stopped - September 26 1994. "I was sick, and when I lit my cigarette it tasted horrible. I stubbed it out and decided 'I'm not having another puff' - and I haven't since."

Krost explains that even though she has not touched a cigarette for such a long time, all it would take is one puff for her to be back to 20 a day.

For Tal Berman, smoke is so unbearable that she finds it hard to socialise with people in restaurants, pubs or clubs.

As a natural therapist, she believes that respect for one's body, spirit and



**claudia  
MPETA**

mind is interconnected.

"If you're not taking care of your body, then chances are you're not in touch with your spiritual and mental needs. If you're spiritually aware, smoking is not something you want to do to your body."

"I smoked the odd cigarette here and there when I was in high school, but I found it disgusting and harmful to myself and others. It also stinks."

For Berman, it's difficult to date people who smoke. "Once, many years ago, I dated a smoker; but I constantly had to ask him to brush his teeth, wash his hands and change his jersey. The relationship didn't work."

According to psychologist Belinda Pode, there are different reasons why people smoke.

There is the obvious biochemical factor of nicotine, which very quickly gives pleasure, relief or release.

"The faster a drug reacts in the bloodstream, the more addictive it is."

"A few years ago, smoking was seen as a

very Western, sophisticated, on-the-move thing to do," says Pode.

"The younger generation start smoking because it's a no-no and it's one of their ways of asserting their own choices, even if it's the wrong one."

"On a social level, smoking helps people to feel less self-conscious or bored in social situations: it basically gives them something to do with their hands."

"Some people really enjoy smoking, it's like a little reward they give themselves with a cup of coffee or with a whisky," she says.

## Wrong issue

"When it gets to people who can't make a move without a cigarette in their hands, we're talking about people who might have a tendency towards a dependent personality, who maybe feel out of control and who cannot stand by their own decisions."

"The reason that campaigns to stop smoking aren't always successful is that they're addressing the wrong issue. People don't smoke because it's not dangerous; they smoke because of what they're getting out of it," Pode asserts.

## Forces combine in their war (87) against smoking (98)

BY THEMBA SEPOTOKELE

The newly formed national council of the South African Medical Association (Sama) has joined the World Medical Association and the Department of Health in their fight to combat smoking.

On the last day of its first council meeting in Pretoria yesterday, the council said it was determined to reduce the number of smokers because tobacco companies were targeting Africa for sales.

The deputy chairman of Sama's science and education committee, Dr Edoo Baker, said the council had rallied support around professional bodies and both governmental and non-governmental organisations such as the Tobacco Action Group.

"Africa is seen as an easy target, and the way tobacco companies advertise it is essential that this joint activity be extended to other countries. We should build on the South African experience to combat tobacco use in Africa."

The World Medical Association plans to build a multi-million-rand centre to provide doctors and healthcare workers with information and training.

WMA chairman Dr Anders Milton said there was a need to step up the anti-smoking campaign: "Tobacco is a killer. The habit is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality."

The council will hold an anti-tobacco day in November.

SMW 22/6/98



# Smoking, pregnancy join 'death cause' list

Jossey Ballenger

(87)

SMOKING and pregnancy would be listed on death certificates if they were considered to be contributory factors to the cause of death, the health department said at the weekend.

Health authorities said the data on the new death notification forms, to be printed within the next few months, would reflect the "background" to fatalities. At present causes of death did not explicitly point to pregnancy complications or tobacco. A person who

died as a result of an abortion or child-bearing, for example, might have "excessive bleeding" or another medical term cited as the cause of death. Similarly, a person might die of "inability to breathe" without any reference to smoking-related lung cancer.

SA Institute of Medical Research cancer registry head Dr Freddy Sitas said the death notification form would ask the next of kin whether the deceased had smoked five years before

Continued on Page 2

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**Smoking**  
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death, in order to help the health department, statisticians and researchers tabulate information on tobacco-associated mortality.

Sitas said a World Bank study showed that unless smoking behaviour changed in developing countries, within 30 years premature deaths caused by tobacco would exceed deaths expect-

ed by AIDS, tuberculosis and child-birth complications combined.

SA registered 3 500 new lung cancer cases and 3 510 related deaths a year. A 1997 Medical Research Council study showed one-third of SA adults smoked, which translated into a potential average 66 000 smoking-related deaths a year over the next four decades.

Sitas warned that US tobacco companies would soon target young black women in Africa as a new market "because they do not yet smoke".



Breaking a 'deadly' cigarette, World Medical Association chairman Dr Anders Milton announces an anti-tobacco project that will see a southern African regional centre in Pretoria disseminate information about the dangers of smoking. Picture: TYRONE ARTHUR

## Campaign targets doctors who smoke

Josey Ballenger

ANOTHER effort to stub out smoking was launched yesterday, but this one came with an ironic bent: to target stressed-out doctors and nurses who succumb to the bad habit.

The World Medical Association and the newly formed SA Medical Association announced yesterday that they would create an information centre in Pretoria to raise awareness among southern African doctors and nurses, who would then pass it on to "each and every patient".

Although the professionals learn about the dangers of smoking from their training and life experience, "doctors themselves smoke and drink because of stress. We must convince them that smoking itself is a disease," said Edo Barker, vice-chairman of the SA association's science and

education committee.

Anders Milton, chairman of the global association, said that the project aimed to get doctors and nurses to discuss the dangers of smoking "with each and every patient", to restrict or ban teenagers — another target group — from buying tobacco products and to increase taxes.

Milton said that he had been impressed by the work done in SA and by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma.

Barker said that a conference would be held in November to garner support from other countries in the region, which were being targeted as a new market by tobacco companies.

"Zimbabwe and Zambia are in a really dangerous situation because the tobacco industry is targeting them with inferior products that would not be accepted in Europe," he said.

Smuggled cigarette packs coming into SA without health warnings were another problem.

Forming smoking cessation guidelines for the health profession and assessing regional resources would feature on the conference's agenda.

Milton and Barker said that it was "too soon" to estimate costs for the centre — which would be located in Pretoria — but it would be "several million".

However, this would be paltry compared to what the tobacco industry spent on advertising and promoting its products.

In the US, for example, anti-tobacco initiatives spent only 2% of what the industry did, Barker said.

Both organisations said they would look for external funding, and the World Medical Association had already received pledges of support.

## Legalise dagga, says institute

SA COULD lead the world in medical research into the therapeutic applications of dagga if government legalised the drug, the SA Brain Research Institute said yesterday. (87)

Mark Gillman, the institute's director, said an article published in the US recently indicated chemicals in dagga might protect nerve cells in the brain from injury caused by strokes and trauma. The findings confirmed previous studies that dagga extracts could enhance the recovery of patients who had suffered severe physical injuries.

"Already it has been used to relieve glaucoma, nausea (in AIDS and cancer patients), asthma, pain states and epilepsy," Gillman said.

These possibilities could only be investigated once the SA authorities took a progressive view of the scientific applications of dagga, he said. — Sapa.

BA 8/7/88

# Govt's tough new curbs on smoking

CT 15/7/98 (87)

**THE TOBACCO** industry has vowed to "fight to the finish" amendments to tobacco legislation that ban tobacco advertising, sports sponsorship and smoking in public spaces. Health Writer **JUDITH SOAL** reports.

**T**HE cabinet has approved a draft bill that can make smoking in public places a criminal offence and ban tobacco advertising in all forms. The bill will now go before Parliament and should be effective before the end of the year.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act outlaws:

- Smoking in enclosed public spaces — including the work place — as regulated by local authorities or the Health Ministry.

- Advertising or promoting tobacco products.

- Displaying tobacco trademarks, logos, brand names or company names anywhere except on cigarettes boxes or packaging.

- Giving out cigarettes for free or at a reduced price

It includes provisions for these regulations to be phased in gradually.

"The draft bill has been passed by the cabinet, it has their full support," Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's spokesperson Vincent Hlongwane said yesterday. "We trust that it will soon be passed into law."

There are stiff fines for anyone contravening the regulations. People smoking in public places will be fined R200, anyone selling cigarettes to teenagers under 16 (including those sold through vending machines) faces a R10 000 fine and those advertising tobacco products will be fined R200 000. Under these regulations, tobacco companies will no longer sponsor sport or cultural events, as they will not be able to get any publicity by doing so. (The industry spent about R45m on sponsorships and R256m on tobacco advertising last year.)

They will not be allowed to produce or distribute caps, T-shirts, or any product sporting a cigarette brand name or logo.

"People who already have a Camel T-shirts or Winston tog-bag can relax, they can still be used, but companies will not be able to produce more or distribute them, even for free," said Yussuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking. "Also, tobacco companies have been going to technikons and events where young people gather, and giving out free cigarettes. They

won't be able to do this." The draft bill also bans so-called below-the-line advertising.

"In other countries where tobacco advertising has been banned, companies have started promoting different products," said Saloojee.

"For example, on the assumption that smokers drink more coffee than non-smokers, in Singapore they are selling Benson & Hedges coffee. This makes a mockery of advertising controls as it keeps the tobacco logo and name in the public arena. This will be banned here."

Major tobacco sponsorships of sporting events include the Rothman's July, Rothman's Cup Soccer, the Winfield Rugby Tri-nations and Super-12, the Camel Trophy and Gunston Surfing — the longest running sponsorship in South Africa. These will all contravene the new laws.

"It is unlikely that the sponsorships will be terminated immediately," said Katherine Everett of the Cancer Association.

"The ban will probably apply only to new contracts, so it will give sports officials time to negotiate other deals. We have seen in other countries that companies are quick to step into the gap, because sponsorships are such an effective form of advertising.

"This happened recently when Standard Bank took over the Benson & Hedges cricket series."

The draft act has been sent to all stakeholders — including tobacco companies — for comment. After legal and language details have been checked, it will be tabled in Parliament and debated by the portfolio committee on health.

"The Cancer Association supports this legislation for the same reason that the tobacco companies oppose it — because advertising encourages people, particularly young people, to smoke," said Everett.

The industry has often denied that advertising increases the consumption of tobacco, saying it only influences the choice of brand. Yet they have vowed to "fight to the finish" to oppose the controls.

"We are calling together every one who is affected by this, from the unions to the farmers, the retailers," said the Tobacco Institute's Francois van der Merwe. "If necessary we will go to the Constitutional Court. There will be severe economic implications if this law is enforced."

## How it affects you

**THE draft bill makes provision for the following life-style changes:**

### Smokers:

**No smoking in enclosed public places (except smokers' areas), including offices, corridors at work, company cafeterias, lifts, stairwells, restaurants and other public areas.**

**If you are caught doing so, you will be fined R200.**

**You will be able to smoke on the street.**

**You may not send your children to buy you cigarettes.**

**You can keep wearing your Camel T-Shirt or use your Winston gym bag.**

**You will never get one of these again.**

### Non-smokers:

**You will be free from unhealthy and unpleasant cigarette smoke in your office, the corridors at work, company cafeterias, lifts, stairwells, restaurants and other public areas.**

**You will have the legal high-ground over anyone breaking this law.**

**You are less likely to suffer from conditions caused by passive-smoking.**

**Your children will not be able to buy cigarettes.**

**Your children will not be exposed to tobacco advertising.**

**Your favourite sports event might lose its sponsorship.**



# Cabinet comes out smoking on Zuma's bill

ARG 20/7/98

(87)

The Cabinet has unanimously approved draft legislation that will allow the minister of health to ban smoking in the workplace and all tobacco advertising, including sponsorships.

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma told a media briefing after the Cabinet meeting yesterday that the government was not criminalising smoking, and she did not believe the restrictions would have a negative effect on sport.

"We think that sports should not be associated with smoking because there is no association between good sports people and smoking," she said.

The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill will allow her, by notice in the Government Gazette, to ban smoking in any public place - the definition of which includes a workplace - on pain of a R200 fine.

It will end all tobacco advertising, including the use of logos and brand or company names, and the use of logos or names "for the purpose of advertising any organisation service, activity or event". Offenders will face a R200 000 fine.

No manufacturer, importer, distributor or retailer of tobacco products will be allowed to finance, organise, or promote an activity that involves the use of a tobacco trade mark, logo, brand or company name.

Shops will, however, be allowed to put up signs at point of sale indicating that tobacco products are available there.

The bill, which has already run into opposition from the tobacco industry, gives Dr Zuma the power for the first time to decide on permissible tar and nicotine levels in tobacco products.

It bans free distribution or unusual discounting of tobacco products, and limits cigarette vending machines to premises inaccessible to children under 16, at risk of a R10 000 fine.

She said the prohibition on sponsorships would be phased in. Her department had discussed the bill with Sport Minister Steve Tshwete "and that's why it was unanimous in Cabinet". - Sapa

# Cabinet yes to tough smoking laws

Health minister's crusade against the habit a step closer to law with nod to draft legislation banning lighting up in many places, and all advertising

By **Jovial Ramtiro**  
Cape Town

In its strongest message yet against smoking, the Cabinet has approved Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma's draft legislation that would ban smoking and tobacco advertising and impose heavy penalties on violations.

According to the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, approved unanimously yesterday, any person found guilty of smoking in public places, places of employment, on public transport and any other place where smoking would be prohibited, would be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of R200.

According to the draft legislation, smoking will be prohibited in any indoor or enclosed areas which are open to the public. Smokers will also not be allowed to light up in corridors, lobbies, stairwells, lifts, cafeterias, washrooms or any common area frequented by other employees during normal working hours.

No person will be allowed to advertise using any tobacco trade marks, logos, brand names or company names for the purposes of advertising any organisation, service, activity or event.

No person would be allowed to sell tobacco products unless the package carried a warning concerning the potential health hazards of smoking.

Manufacturers, importers and distributors guilty of organising and sponsoring activities which involve promoting tobacco could face a penalty of up to R200 000.

Individuals who would be found guilty of the same offences could be fined R10 000.

Apart from hitting the profits of tobacco manufacturers, the legislation is set to strike a heavy blow at sports bodies and sportsmen and women who rely heavily on tobacco com-



(87) (18) Star 30/7/98

THEMBA HADEBE

**Puffers on the retreat ... new legislation banning any smoking in any public places, offices and factories will force smokers out on the streets for their fix.**

panies for sponsorship.

It will also affect the advertising industry and most newspapers and magazines, which have benefited to the tune of millions from carrying tobacco adverts.

The legislation, which has already been met with stiff opposition from tobacco manufacturers, is set for rigorous and emotional debate when it

becomes the subject of public hearings hosted by Parliament's health committee.

Zuma told a press conference that legislation which would also ban the sale of cigarettes to children under 16 would be phased in once it had been approved by Parliament.

"We will have to phase it in so that there's not an abrupt end," she believed the legislation

would not have an adverse effect on sports development at grassroots level.

Zuma has had extensive consultations with Sports Minister Steve Tshwete - one of the heavy smokers in the Cabinet - who has supported the bill without reservation.

"We think that the development of sport should not be associated with smoking. Indeed

no sport at any point need be associated with smoking."

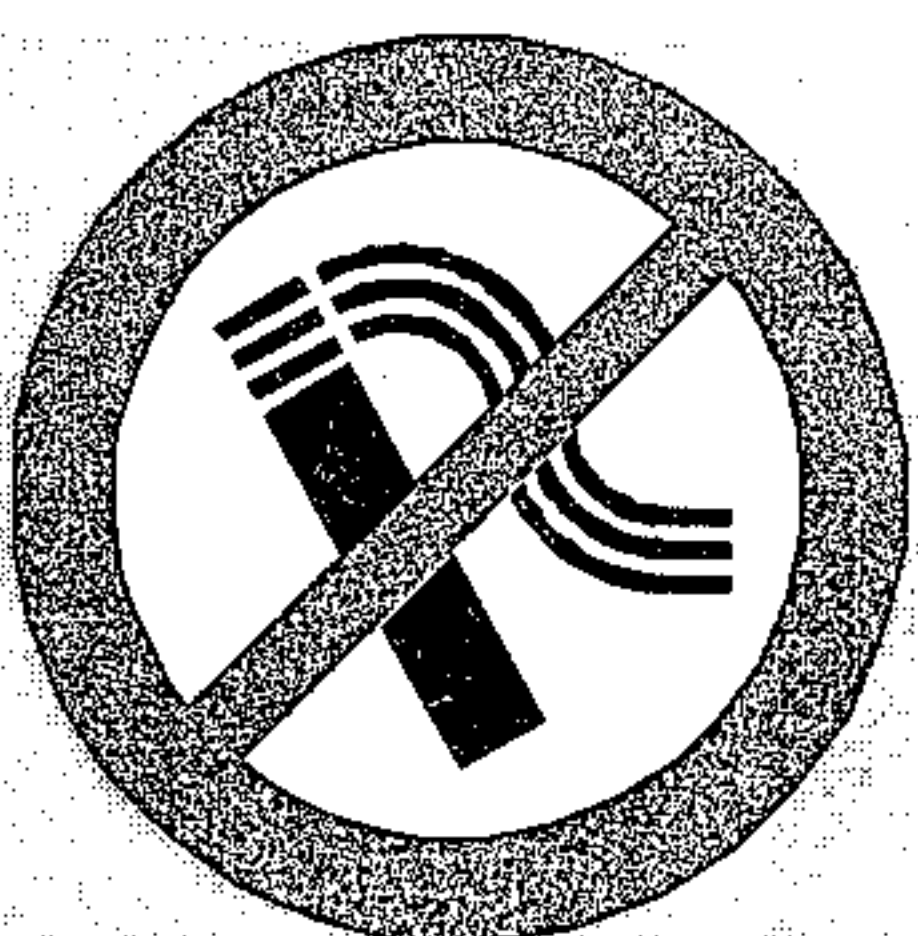
Zuma cited cricket as one of the sporting codes that has ended its sponsorship from a tobacco company and found an alternative backer for its development programmes.

Tobacco companies were free to continue to give money to sports organisations and individuals as long as they did

not advertise their products.

She believed that advertising linking smoking with social success, business advancement and sporting prowess had a harmful effect by encouraging young people to start the habit.

Zuma said she had tabled the legislation in order to discourage the use of tobacco in all its forms, and to prohibit various types of promotion and



**NO SMOKING**

1. Public places
  2. Places of employment
  3. Public transport
  4. Any other place where smoking would be prohibited
- FINE: R200**

**NO TOBACCO ADVERTISING**

1. Trademark
  2. Logo
  3. Brand name of company on tobacco products
- FINE: R200 000**  
(manufacturers, importers and distributors)  
**R10 000**  
(individuals)

advertising of tobacco products in order to reduce the incidence of tobacco-related diseases.

The legislation also empowers the minister to declare permissible levels of tar, nicotine and other constituents that tobacco products may contain. The sale of cigarettes from vending machines would be restricted to places normally inaccessible to people under 16.





# Cabinet supports Zuma in smoke-out

**JOVIAL RANTAO**  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

IN its strongest message yet against smoking, South Africa's multi-party cabinet has approved Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's draft legislation which would ban smoking and tobacco advertising and impose heavy penalties on those guilty of violating the law.

According to the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, approved unanimously yesterday, any person found guilty of smoking in a public place, place of employment, public transport or any other place where smoking would be prohibited, would be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of R200.

Manufacturers, importers and distributors guilty of organising, promoting and sponsoring activities which involve the use of a tobacco trade mark, logo, brand name or company name would face a penalty of up to R200 000.

Individuals found guilty of the same offences would be fined R10 000.

Apart from hitting the profit margins of tobacco manufacturers, the legislation is set to strike a heavy blow to sports bodies, sportsmen and women who rely heavily on tobacco companies for sponsorship.

It would also be costly to the advertising industry and newspapers.

The legislation, which has met with stiff opposition from tobacco manufacturers, is set for rigorous and emotional debate when it becomes the subject of public hearings hosted by Parliament's health committee.

"We will have to phase in the legislation so that there's no abrupt end to sponsorships.

"We will also look at existing contracts and within that context decide how to phase in the legislation," Zuma said.

She had consulted Sports Minister Steve Tshwete extensively, who had supported the Bill without reservation. "We think the development of

CT 30/9/98 B\* (87) (C)



**NO BUTTS:** Nkosazana Zuma

sports should not be associated with smoking. Sport should not be associated with smoking."

Advertisers "want to hook young people into smoking," she said.

She did not believe the bill would disadvantage development in sports

and cited cricket as one of the sports which had stopped sponsorship from a tobacco company and found an alternative backer for its development programmes.

The tobacco companies were free to give money to sports organisations and individuals as long as they did not advertise their products.

She believed that the association of smoking with social success, business advancement and sporting prowess through use of advertising and promotion had had a harmful effect by encouraging children and young people to start smoking.

The legislation, aimed at reducing the incidence of tobacco-related illness and death, also empowers the minister to declare permissible levels of tar, nicotine and other constituents which tobacco products may contain.

The sale of cigarettes from vending machines would be restricted to places in which sales from such machines would be inaccessible to persons under the age of 16 years.



The end of an era ... smoker Suren Ramdheo enjoys a smoke during his lunch break in a Johannesburg bar. He and others will have to learn to adjust when new legislation bans smoking in all public places - including bars and restaurants.

## Enclosed smoking room would be in order if company allowed it

By ANSO THOM  
Health Reporter

Companies will be within their rights to allow smoking in designated areas - as long as the smoke does not affect non-smokers - if the draft anti-smoking legislation is passed by Parliament, according to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma's spokesperson.

But Zuma's Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, which was passed by the Cabinet on Wednesday, would severely limit smoking in the workplace, with heavy penalties imposed on offenders.

Zuma's spokesperson Vincent Hlongwane said that if companies decided to ban smoking outright - a route which banks chose more than a year ago - "their policy would be in line with the proposed

government legislation".

Asked whether enclosed smoking rooms would be permitted, Hlongwane said it would be up to each company to decide.

"Our attitude is that no one should be subjected to secondary smoke. Should the company feel that it has a responsibility towards employees to supply them with a smoking room, it is entirely up to them," he said.

A smoking room would be an enclosed area which did not expose non-smokers to secondary smoke.

"The Government does not want to be seen to be prescriptive on what the company's policy should be," he added.

He also said that smoking employees sharing an office while "smoking their lungs out" could agree to allow smok-

ing in their enclosed office space, as long as it was not in conflict with company policy.

The draft law defines a workplace as any indoor or enclosed area in which employees perform their duties of employment. This includes any corridor, lobby, stairwell, lift, cafeteria, washroom or common area frequented by employees.

Smoking is also defined as sniffing, sucking or chewing a tobacco product as well as holding or otherwise having control over an ignited tobacco product.

A spokesperson for First National Bank said they felt justified in instigating a non-smoking policy in the workplace.

"We did have a few problems in the beginning, but everyone now realises it is better for their health," she said.

## 'If they can't catch killers, how will they be able to nab puffers?'

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS

New legislation prohibiting smoking in public places has been received with mixed feelings by smokers and non-smokers alike, and is causing some consternation in the hospitality industry.

While most smokers feel the bill will encroach on their rights, the major concern among non-smokers is that there will be no policing of the laws. Said non-smoker Pierre Wolmarans: "If they cannot catch murderers, how will they catch smokers?"

Bar and restaurant owners are unsure how the new legislation will affect them. They say it is not clear whether smoking will be banned entirely, or whether special areas separating smokers from non-smokers must be provided.

Johnny Berdanis, owner of a coffee shop and restaurant,

believes he will lose clients. "As a smoker, I cannot imagine going to a restaurant or pub and not smoking," he said.

Peter Cumberlege, consultant to Fedhasa, the hotel and liquor Association, said the association could not yet advise its members of steps they had to take to comply with the new legislation because there was still not complete clarity on the contents of the draft bill. "The draft still has to go through the parliamentary process before it becomes law," he said.

Fedhasa was concerned about the influence the new legislation will have on the client base in restaurants, bars, shebeens and taverns, Cumberlege said.

The bill defines a public place as any indoor or enclosed area open to the public, and includes workplaces, corridors, lobbies, stairwells, lifts, cafeterias and washrooms.

## Tobacco Institute breathing fire over approval of bill

The Tobacco Institute has slammed draft tobacco control legislation approved by the Cabinet as being draconian, and said it might even be unconstitutional.

"The approval of the (Tobacco Products Control) bill came as a surprise, in view of the fact that a non-official copy of the bill only became available recently, and that some media reports indicated the public had until August 14 to forward comment to the Department of Health," the institute's statement said.

"The fact that this bill was put before the Cabinet before any of the stakeholders had handed in their submissions confirms that it was never the intention of the department to involve stakeholders."

The Cabinet approved the

bill unanimously on Wednesday.

The bill will allow Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma, by notice in the Government Gazette, to ban smoking in any public place - the definition of which includes a workplace - on pain of a R200 fine.

It would end all tobacco advertising, including the use of logos and brand or company names, and the use of logos or names "for the purpose of advertising any organisation, service, activity or event". Offenders would face a R200 000 fine.

No manufacturer, importer, distributor or retailer of tobacco products would be allowed to finance, organise or promote an organised activity

that involves the use of a tobacco trademark, logo, brand or company name.

The Tobacco Institute said the bill appeared to be the most comprehensive effort in history to ban every form of communication

on tobacco products.

"We find it difficult to reconcile this draconian bill with the minister's stated aim of addressing the issue of youth smoking. We doubt whether the

Cabinet and even the minister have been fully informed of the full implications of this draft, which could even be unconstitutional."

The Institute said it believed Zuma's promise of a phase-out was just an attempt to appease the stakeholders threatened by the bill: "We call on the Department of Health to make full disclosure of its plans in this regard."

The institute said it had always supported reasonable tobacco control and was willing to co-operate to develop a policy that would balance youth issues, economic issues and constitutional issues.

The department should allow all stakeholders access to the studies it claimed would be used to justify the bill before Parliament, it said. - Sapa

**IGLS**

**PURCHASE  
ES WITH  
SERVICE**

# Smoke ban gets mixed reaction

(87) (87)

By Mokgadi Pela

**A** SNAP survey conducted by Sowetan yesterday showed mixed views on Government plans to ban smoking in public places and ban the advertising of tobacco in sport.

Bheki Shange of the Zola Advice Office said: "It's a good move in that we have so many people suffering from smoking-related diseases like cancer. In fact, it is long overdue."

"I also agree that tobacco companies shouldn't be allowed to advertise in sport. We should remember that while sport is about life, tobacco is about death. The two can never live side by side."

Amos Cebekhulu of Jabulani, Soweto, agreed with Government's intention to ban smoking in public places. "However," he added; "I don't support the idea that tobacco companies may not sponsor sport. Where are we going to get the money to sponsor sport from?"

Miss Thembi Dlamini of Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal said: "I support both steps wholeheartedly. How long must we let these tobacco moguls have their way?"

Her friend, Mr Frank Affik, said Government was right in banning smoking in public places but felt that "it should not prevent tobacco companies from sponsoring sport".

Mr Maurice Letlaka of Mondeor, Johannesburg, said: "While smokers should respect the rights of non-smokers, we should guard against ostracising them (smokers)."

"From a business point of view, I think Government is going overboard. Any product has a right to be marketed. I find it ironic that while Government targets cigarette companies, they allow manufacturers of weapons to advertise freely."

The reactions follow Cabinet's approval this week of the draft legislation to ban all tobacco advertising and to prohibit smoking in public places.

Sowetan 21/7/98

# Smokers cast out on to city streets

(87) (198)

PIETER MALAN

ARG 1/8/98

It's a scene that could soon become commonplace all over the city. Groups of smokers huddled outside on pavements because they are not allowed to smoke in the office.

Although Parliament still has to pass the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, which will outlaw smoking in all public places, some Cape Town employers have already banned their employees from smoking in the office.

If Parliament gives the nod to the new law - and it is generally accepted it will - smokers could be fined up to R200 for smoking in any enclosed public space, including offices, company cafeterias, lifts, stairways and restaurants. People will only be able to smoke at work if their office has an enclosed smokers' area.

Some city employers have already banned smoking in their buildings altogether, making no provision for smoking rooms.

Standard Bank employees have been smoking on the streets of Cape Town for some months now, and smokers working at Woolworths' Plein Street head office have been similarly "cast out".

Enjoying his mid-morning smoke outside the Standard Bank office in Hertzog Boulevard, Quintin Paulsen said the bank had gradually phased in a no-smoking policy.

He said the bank used to have designated smoking areas, but these had disappeared. Now all smokers were forced to smoke outside on the pavement. Apparently the cigarette smoke spread from one office to another through the airconditioning system.

Mr Paulsen said: "I definitely smoke less now than before, which I guess is a good thing. Nowadays I smoke about three cigarettes a day. But it means I really enjoy them."

Other Standard Bank workers said they had no problem with the fact that they were forced to smoke outside.

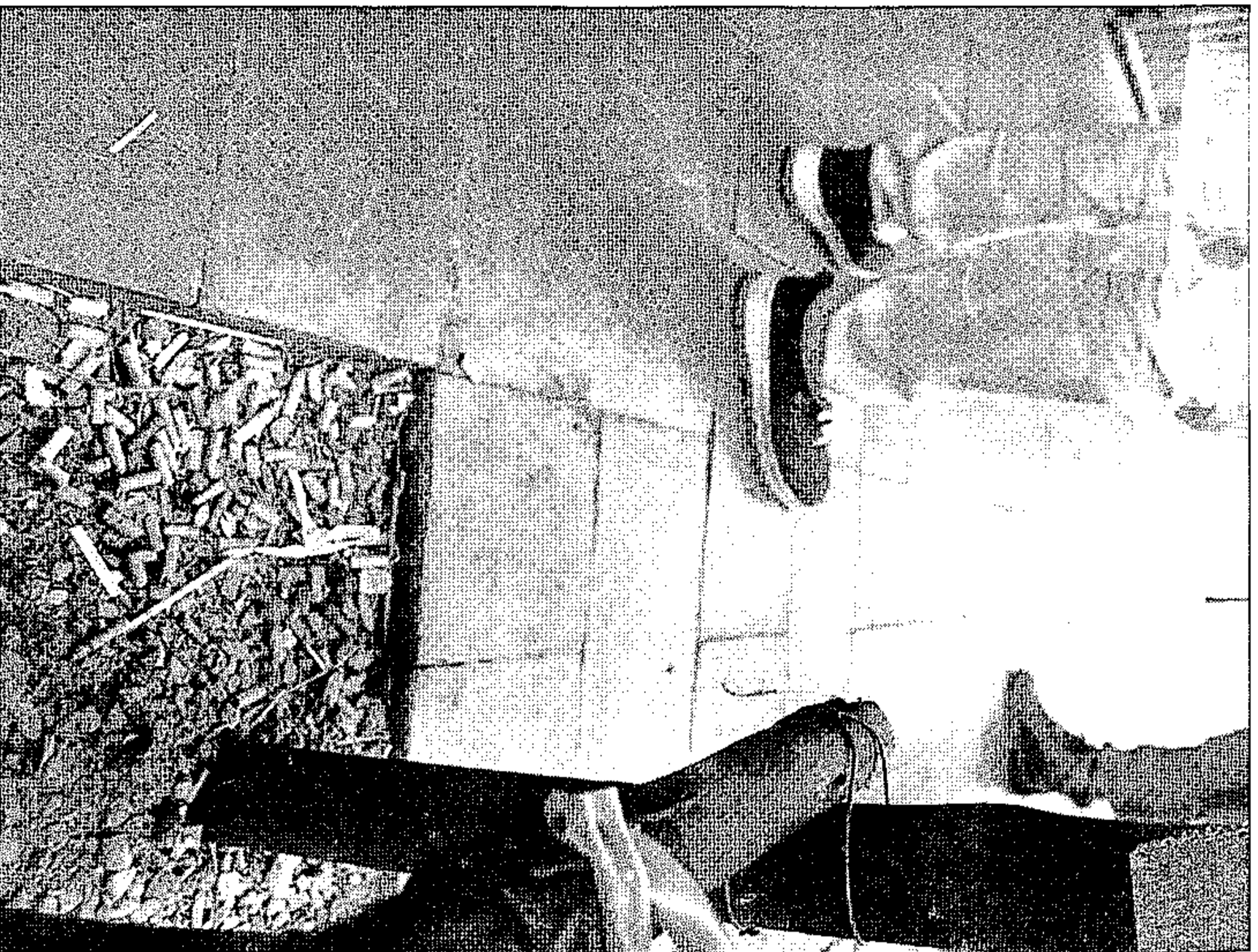
"Apart from it being a bit unpleasant to stand out here in winter when it rains, it's fine. We respect our colleagues' right not to work in a smoke-filled office," said one woman.

"And with the boss a smoker as well, he doesn't mind when we are out here. In fact he is standing over there having a smoke himself," she laughed.

But Woolworths maintenance worker Jacobus Abrahams said he was still struggling to get used to the idea.

Smoking in the Woolworths head office had been banned since the beginning of July. Now smokers have to smoke on the street or on a balcony on the sixth floor.

"Smokers are less productive now, having to go up and down the lift all day just to catch a smoke," he said, while smoking his second cigarette of the morning.



**PUBLIC ASHTRAY:** smokers are carrying their bad habit on to the street



**SMOKE BREAK:** a Cape Town worker enjoys a sidewalk puff during work hours

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY

# Tobacco firms threaten legal action over anti-smoking bill

(87) ARC 1/8/98

Multi-million-rand sponsorships and advertising revenue hang in the balance

The draft law, which could have a serious impact on sports sponsorships and advertising budgets - look set to ignite a Constitutional Court battle between the private sector and Government.

The tobacco industry, media groups and sporting bodies all predict multi-million-rand losses as a result of the pending ban on tobacco advertising. Cinemas, private billboard owners and sports organisations whose life-blood has been sponsorship from tobacco companies are

all likely to become victims of the bill.

Advocate General, of the Tobacco Institute of South Africa, said the bill, which bans sports sponsorships and advertising in cinemas, newspapers and magazines, was unconstitutional and that the institute would contest the bill in the Constitutional Court.

Johan Krause, of Rothmans, said if the bill was passed, the public would be the real losers.

"Our association (with sport) is based on credibility and respect. We always saw our contribution as a service to the public. We all have

what sport has done for our national

Tobacco Institute action, he said.

Mr Shalala also has the backing of David Krynauw, managing director of Cinemark, the country's biggest cinema chain. Mr Krynauw said his company, which stood to lose R16-million a year, would be part of any action by the institute.

"Five years ago tobacco advertising was half our business; now it is a quarter. It is not going to be easy to replace it. We are trying to attract new business. You just cannot go and make changes; there are over-

heads, people's jobs are at stake and

rising costs. It will affect many people's lives," said Mr Krynauw.

Trevor Phillips, the chief executive of the Professional Soccer League, said his organisation was adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

"A company like Rothmans is involved in soccer and we have a 10-year contract worth about R100-million. If we lose this sponsorship it will be difficult to replace. The loss for all sports would be enormous."

Natal Rugby Union president Keith Parkinson said he feared sport would suffer. "It is unfortunate a

sponsor has to be targeted for supporting sport. I do not know how we

will be able to replace sponsorship from tobacco companies."

Horsereading is another potential loser: the Rothmans July Handicap is one of the richest horse races in the country and one of Durban's greatest winter attractions.

David Furness, the general manager of Durban Turf Club, said Rothmans had sponsored the race since 1963. "There is so much history in this race. I hope the Government would at least let the companies and the clubs see out their contracts."

The Gunston 500 surfing competi-

tion also faces a name change after more than 25 years. It is part of the Ocean Action Sports Festival which attracted more than 1,2 million people to Durban this year.

Kobus Gous, the National Party health spokesman, said the law would do more harm than good.

"The threatened loss of jobs and the negative impact on new jobs in the industries with a stake in the tobacco industry is incalculable, and not desirable under current economic circumstances."

A Health Department official said the tobacco industry had until August 14 to make submissions.

# Firms will be 'within their rights' to designate smoking areas

ANSO THOM

Johannesburg - Companies will be within their rights to allow smoking in designated areas - as long as smoke does not affect non-smo-

king if the draft anti-smoking legislation is passed by Parliament, according to Minister Nkosazana's spokesman.

But Dr Zuma's Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, which was

passed by the Cabinet this week, would severely limit smoking in the workplace, with heavy penalties imposed on offenders.

Asked whether enclosed smoking rooms would be permitted, Mr

Hlongwane said it would be up to each company to decide.

"Our attitude is that no one should be subjected to secondary smoke. Should the company feel that it has a responsibility towards employees to

supply them with a smoking room, it is entirely up to them," he said.

"The Government does not want to be seen to be prescriptive on what the company's policy should be."

The draft law defines a workplace

as any indoor or enclosed area in which employees perform their duties of employment. This includes any corridor, lobby, stairwell, lift, cafeteria, washroom or common area frequented by employees.



# Drug tests for schools

Star 1/8/98

(87)

## Using, dealing at 'epidemic' levels in Jo'burg and Pretoria

By **CLAUDIA MPETA**  
AND **FEMIDA CASSIM**

**D**rug-taking and dealing among schoolchildren is so rife that at least nine schools in the Johannesburg area are officially testing pupils for drugs. And in Pretoria, between five and 10 pupils are appearing in court every week for possession or dealing in drugs - including cocaine.

This is the frightening scenario painted this week by detectives and court and school officials - all extremely concerned about what is being described as an epidemic.

In Pretoria, drug-taking and dealing have become so rife among schoolchildren that two narcotics detectives have been permanently assigned to keeping tabs on the scene. The youngest they have arrested for possession of hard narcotics was just 7 years old.

To combat the scourge in Johannesburg, nine schools are now testing pupils and asking them to leave if they fail consecutive tests.

One East Rand high school guidance counsellor said: "If any worrying changes in behaviour or attitude are reported, we call in both

the student and the parents.

"At that meeting, permission is asked for a drug test, and if that test is positive, the school, with parental approval, will test the child at regular intervals and send the child for counselling.

"A test is carried out every two weeks, and once we have three clean tests we move to testing once a month and on to random testing. The samples are collected by an

### More reports on page 3

outside consultant who runs the tests at an independent laboratory. Throughout this process the parents are kept informed, and in most cases they are very supportive."

The school embarked on this programme after a serious drug problem was identified.

At least eight other schools in the Jo'burg area are testing pupils to check whether they are drug free.

"Initially the school used to pay for the testing and the counselling, but it was too expensive and we did not really have the parents' support.

"We then decided to enter into a written agreement with parents that they would pay for counselling. If there are financial difficulties,

the school tries to help out," one guidance counsellor explained.

She explained that once parents and pupils understood that the entire programme was designed to assist and was confidential (in some cases, their own teachers don't even know), pupils are even willing to come forward themselves and ask to be put on the programme.

"The priority for any school when it comes to a drug problem is to allow children to come clean and not to ostracise them. At our school, if, after testing and counselling, the children still deny the problem, we ask them to leave," she added.

The Gauteng Department of Education has taken a hard line on drugs in schools. "The department regards any possession and use of drugs in schools as a criminal matter, and we believe it should be dealt with as such," says spokesperson Aubrey Matshiqi.

"But we do feel that a distinction should be made between those who deal and those who are victims."

For Captain Jacques van Heerden, a section commander for the SA Narcotics Bureau in Jo'burg, policing schools is a depressing job.

■ TO PAGE 2

P. T. O

# Anti-smoking bill sets off wave of controversy

By SANDILE MEMELA

**T**HERE is no smoke without fire and it would seem that the government has started a blaze of controversy with the opposition and big business for its new legislation which prohibits smoking in public places.

It was last Wednesday that Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma was given full approval by the Cabinet for a draft legislation to ban all tobacco advertising and to impose heavy fines for violations.

In a nutshell, the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill lays down the law that anyone found guilty of smoking in a public place, in the workplace, on public transport and any other place where smoking is not allowed would be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of R200.

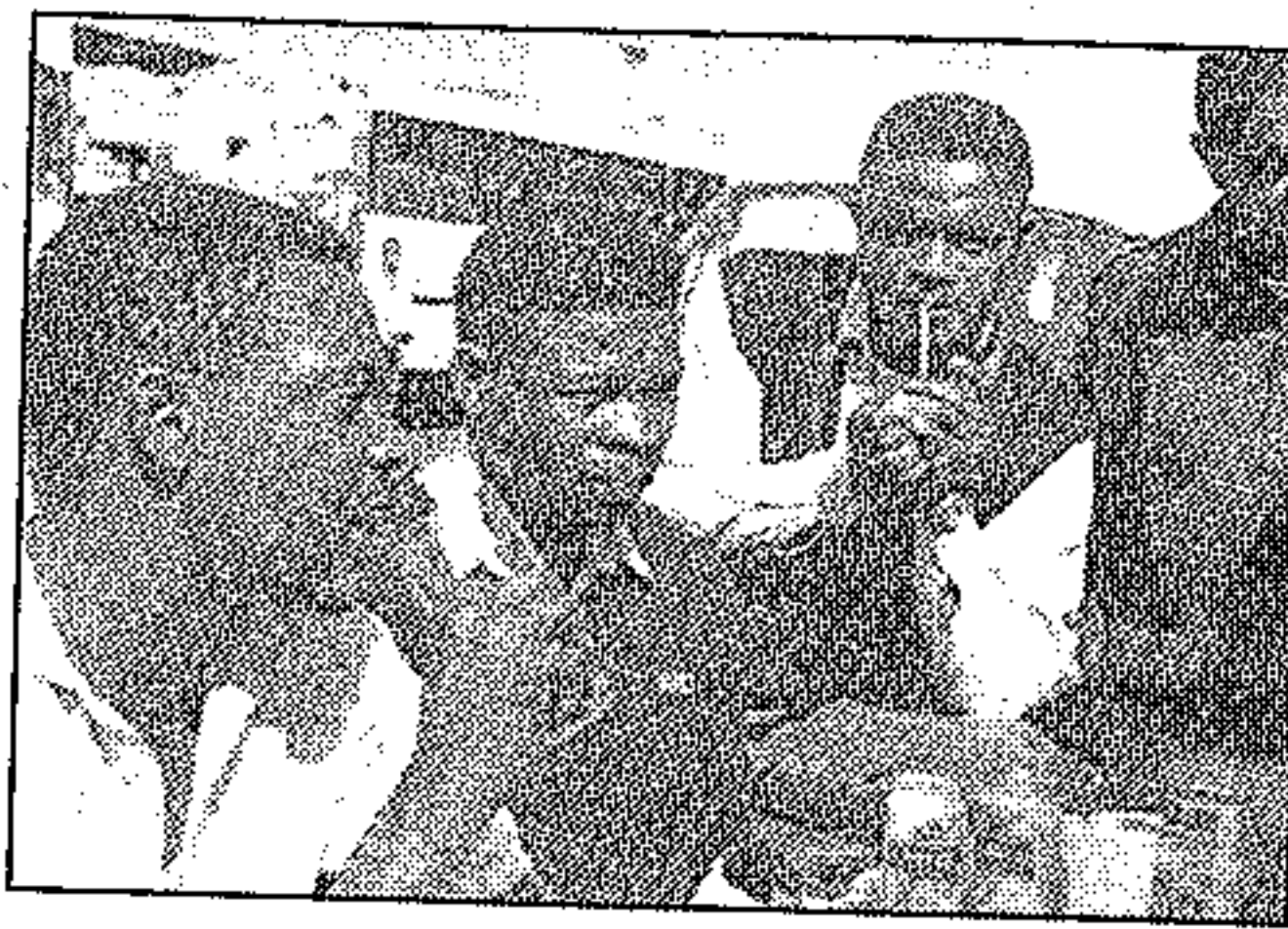
This law, which has been praised by anti-smoking groups like the Cancer Association, has drawn a lot of smoke from the National Party and the Tobacco Institute, who are breathing fire over its approval.

The NP claims "the legislation is moving way beyond a simple health issue - it is touching on the very nature of freedom of choice and attacking the very principles of market economy".

In the same echo, the Tobacco Institute (TI) said: "We find it

difficult to reconcile this draconian bill with the Minister's stated aim of addressing the issue of youth smoking."

Yet Zuma said the legislation would also ban the sale of cigarettes to children under 16. In the United States, many



TAKING A PUFF ... Smokers on the street.

smokers have become used to the idea of moving out of public space to smoke.

Consequently, smoking has been greatly reduced in that country.

It is this development in the United States that has made the government confident that it is taking the right course in its steps against smoking.

"The tobacco control policies are an integral part of the government's plan to enhance health education programmes that foster life skills development.

"This should not be seen as an

isolated policy bent on clamping down on the tobacco industry magnates, but should be viewed as a crucial component of the government's primary health-care commitment to its citizenry," said the ANC.

But smoking, much as it admittedly kills, has been a source of funding to various sporting codes, industries like advertising and provides employment to thousands of workers.

Its banning may adversely affect soccer through the Rothman's Soccer Cup which is worth R6,6-million a year.

It is feared that the ban may drain a substantial source of income to the country's major sports including soccer, rugby, cricket and horse-racing. The Premier Soccer League may be hard-hit. The body has committed itself to lobby with

the government.

"Our consultation will continue because several contractual aspects have to be looked into," said Khumalo.

Ironically, Sport and Recreation Minister Steve Tshwete has sided with Minister Zuma's decision on the issue.

But smoking has been the advertising industry's lifeblood and stands to lose contracts amounting to billions.

Even the media may lose substantial amounts through the loss of smoking ads.

□ See Page 10

(87) (118) CP 2/8/98



(87) (1988)  
**Zuma's  
 law has  
 loophole  
 for global  
 firms**

ST 2/8/98

MULTINATIONAL tobacco companies could exploit a loophole in Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's tough new law against cigarette advertising by sponsoring international events televised in South Africa, writes **MARCIA KLEIN**.

Government spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe confirmed yesterday that there would be no blackout on international sporting events sponsored by tobacco companies such as the Winfield Tri-nations rugby competition between SA, New Zealand and Australia.

However, tobacco advertising on tri-nations games played in South Africa would not be allowed, he said.

This side-stepping of the proposed legislation is expected to see SA companies ploughing their money into foreign sponsorship of events that are televised locally.

While harsh restrictions on tobacco advertising are fairly common around the world, the rapid growth of satellite television is making it virtually impossible to apply restrictions uniformly.

Zuma this week signalled her intention to effectively stub out all forms of tobacco advertising with the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill. But the tobacco industry is fuming and the liquor industry, acutely aware that it is the next target of her puritanical attention, is preparing for what could be a huge battle, possibly already lost.

Adindex figures show that last year, liquor and tobacco companies spent R234,2-million and R194,9-million respectively on advertising.

For some time, the tobacco industry has seen the writing on the wall, and warning labels were introduced more than two years ago at considerable expense to South Africa's two major cigarette manufacturers, Rembrandt and BAT SA.

Topsport head Edward Griffiths said he understood there would be a blanket ban on sports events which included product endorsement or broadcast or event sponsorship. He said the SABC would be affected in terms of the Rothmans Cup Soccer, the Rothmans July and the Gunston 500, although he expected other sponsors could step in. He said it was not clear if the same restrictions would apply to international sports events broadcast in South Africa that might include international tobacco sponsorships.

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# Union slates Zuma's plans to oust tobacco companies

**THABO MABASO**  
BUSINESS REPORTER

Plans by the health ministry to introduce legislation to curb tobacco companies sponsoring sporting events have been slated by the Food and Allied Workers Union.

The union argues that the legislation will lead to huge job losses in the

Southern African region.

"Southern Africa is the world's third largest tobacco-growing region, and the tobacco industry is a major employer. More than 35 000 in South Africa are directly employed in the tobacco industry, of whom 28 000 are farm workers," a union spokesman said.

"We believe the measures proposed by the draft bill are irrespons-

ble, with insufficient understanding of the effects of the prescriptions of the bill on the 35 000 workers directly employed in the industry."

The union spokesman said implementation of the bill would damage the economies of Southern African countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania, which were heavily dependent on tobacco.

The Tobacco Products Control

Amendment Bill, which will make it illegal for tobacco companies to link their names publicly to sporting events like the Rothmans July Handicap and the Rothmans Cup soccer spectacular, is part of efforts by health minister Nkosazana Zuma to curb smoking.

The union spokesman said the tobacco industry spent about R40-million a year promoting sport, cultural

activities and emergency services, and added: "The proposed ban will have a negative impact on the development of sport and cultural activities in our marginalised communities."

He also accused the ministry of not consulting all stakeholders in the industry before formulating the bill, and called on it to re-open talks with everyone in the industry.

"In a new democracy, the develop-

ment of a democratic culture is of critical importance. We need to develop sustainable solutions that are based on the development of tolerance and that seek to empower people through public education processes," he said.

The union believed the draft proposals needed to be debated democratically among all interested and affected parties, and planned a conference of all stakeholders on Saturday.

from sports

# Tobacco industry 'was not consulted'

Louise Cook

(37) (498)  
PO 3/8/98

THE Tobacco Institute, representing the tobacco industry including farmers and manufacturers, has condemned the cabinet's approval last week of Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's proposed new law to ban all tobacco advertising and smoking in public places.

The institute said the industry was caught off guard by the move as it had seen only an unofficial draft of the bill.

"The fact that this bill was put before the cabinet before any stakeholders had handed in their input, confirms that it was never the intention of the health department to involve stakeholders."

Institute CEO Edward Shalala said: "We find it difficult to reconcile this draconian bill with the minister's stated aim of addressing the issue of smoking. Had the (health) department seen fit to consult with the tobacco industry, it would have discovered a willingness to work together to make reasonable, rational and sustainable tobacco control legislation."

The proposed new law was discussed recently at a meeting between Land and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom and the SA Agricultural Union. Details were not disclosed.

However, Hanekom undertook to "raise the issue of the possible negative impact on jobs in the tobacco industry with his cabinet colleagues", the agriculture department said.

However, when the bill was approved on Wednesday Hanekom was in hospital.

Farmers, trade unions and manufacturers were worried that the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill would wipe out thousands of jobs in SA and have an adverse effect on the tobacco industries of neighbouring countries.

SA imports tobacco from neighbouring states and, in farming circles, tobacco growing was seen as a labour-intensive practice that deserved support to create more jobs.

The bill proposes fines of up to R200 000 for any industry player which breaks the law and R10 000 for individuals.

Star 3/8/98

## Hotel body slams tobacco bill

HEALTH REPORTER  
AND SAPA

Approval of the Tobacco Amendment Bill by the Cabinet last week smacked of undemocratic argument and a non-transparent consultative process, the Federated Hospitality Association of SA said yesterday.

Fedhasa said it was surprising that the bill was approved last week because, according to the Health Department,

the deadline for comments and submissions from stakeholders and interested parties was August 14.

The bill calls for a ban on smoking in public places.

Vincent Hlongwane, spokesperson for Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, said there would be public hearings: "Nothing is yet cast in concrete, and input is more than welcome. It is premature to complain."

# Shock for smokers as govt moots levy

ANDRE KOOPMAN  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

ET 4/8/98 (87)  
SMOKERS could be in for a further price increase on cigarettes as the government considers imposing levies on tobacco to replace revenues lost through a ban on sports tobacco advertising, the *Cape Times* has learned exclusively.

This was revealed last night by Dumisane Zulu, spokesperson for Sports Minister Steve Tshwete. And highly placed sources in the ministry have confirmed that government is seriously considering such a levy.

Zulu said that like other countries where tobacco advertising in sport had been banned, there should be some kind of levy in order to compensate for loss of sponsorships. A levy would not necessarily mean an increase in cigarette prices, he added.

Sports bodies, the media and cultural groups have predicted that multi-million rand losses would follow the ban championed by Health Minister Nkosozana Zuma.

The future of events such as the Gunston 500 surfing competition and the staging and broadcast of Formula One racing has been questioned, given their heavy dependence on cigarette sponsorship.

The draft bill banning advertising or promotion of tobacco products, including a ban on brand names and cigarette logos, was approved by the cabinet last week.

But Tshwete said yesterday that President Nelson Mandela would meet Formula One racing chief Bernie Ecclestone later this month to discuss plans for a South African Grand Prix. Tshwete said at a media briefing that he would also attend the meeting which was "quite

critical". He was reassuring about the event being staged in South Africa despite the ban.

"We will have the race. We want to clear every hurdle in getting Formula One here," Tshwete said.

Both he and Zuma have said that the bill will be phased in and Zuma said recently that existing contracts would be honoured. "It is in our interests to ensure that South Africa does not lose the chance to host the Formula One event," Tshwete said. He added that the bill would be phased in — in consultation with sports bodies and sponsors — and that there would be no "guillotine" on advertising.

Ecclestone was aware of developments in South Africa but "he has not reacted up to now". Tshwete said the government had to walk a tightrope between the health of society and not endangering the continued existence of elite sport and sport development.

Sporting bodies — including the Professional Soccer League, organised rugby and motor sport — had frankly described the bill as "draconian" in discussions with him before it being accepted by the cabinet, Tshwete said. They predicted it would create problems given the size of the economy.

At the same time, they understood they could not be seen to be leading supporters of tobacco advertisements. The interests and obligations of sports would "always be jealously guarded by government".

"I assure you every single contract will be looked into fairly and agreements will be struck with all stakeholders as to how and when the phasing out and the phasing in will be done," he said.

Tshwete said he and Zuma would

□ Turn to Page 3

CAPE TIMES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1998

CT 4/8/98 (87)  
Another shock for smokers

□ From Page 1

look at other financial means of lessening the effects of the ban.

Meanwhile, Reuter reports that a spokesperson for AA Racing, owned by the Automobile Association which has handled negotiations for the event, said a preliminary deal had been agreed on to stage the race.

"We have signed a contract with Bernie Ecclestone," Selwyn Nathan said. "But that does not guarantee we will get the race. We are waiting for next season's calendar in October to see. The race, last held in South Africa in 1993, would, as in the past, take place at Kyalami near Johannesburg."

Last year when Belgium passed a law banning all tobacco advertising and sponsorship from the start of 1999 with no phasing-in period, Ecclestone threatened to cancel immediately the Spa-Francorchamps Formula One race for 1998.

A rash of legal actions by the local race organisers, businesses and the regional government against the federal government persuaded Ecclestone to change his mind, but his muscle-flexing made a deep impact on other nations.

The European Union also passed legislation last year to phase in bans on tobacco sponsorship of events like motor racing and show jumping.

# No bouts or mayboes

## for determined Zuma

(87) ~~(88)~~  
GODZUMA, Nanny of the Nation — you name it, she's been called it. Health Minister

Nkosazana Zuma spoke to Health Writer JUDITH SOAL about the legislation that's causing all the trouble.

### What she said

"I'm getting used to the names by now," Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday, donning a wry (and rare) smile. "What is important is whether we are transforming society for the better, and I think we are."

There's been a lot of talk about Zuma's latest attempts to transform society in the form of the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act.

The legislation gives her the power to ban smoking in public places, and places a total ban on tobacco advertising. It is expected to become law after receiving the unanimous blessing of the cabinet.

Yet despite the number of newspaper columns the legislation has generated, there has been surprisingly little detail about what the act will mean.

For a start, the new laws do not rule out office "smoking rooms", although they may regulate where these are permissible.

"The main focus is to protect non-smokers. If there is a way to make sure they don't have to breathe polluted air, then smoking rooms are fine.

"If the smokers' area shares the same air conditioning as the rest of the building and the smoke is just recycled around, then obviously this is not fine,

ET 5/8/98

● Special smoking rooms "may" be allowed in the workplace.

● There will be no "smoke police".

● Bars will not be exempt from smoking controls.

● There may be restrictions on the amount of tar and nicotine cigarettes can contain.

● Existing sponsorships of sporting events will be allowed to continue only for "a year or two".

● An increase in the price of cigarettes is likely.

but if there is an extraction fan we may say it is okay," Zuma said.

The reason for the "ifs" and "maybes" is that the controls on smoking in public places haven't been

finalised. The draft bill gives Zuma the power to "declare that the smoking of tobacco products in any public place or particular kinds of public places is prohibited or ... may only take place on (certain) conditions" by publishing a notice in the government gazette.

Clearly Zuma wouldn't give herself that power if she didn't intend to use it, but the nature of the restrictions hasn't yet been spelt out.

She said yesterday that bars and clubs would not be exempt from the measures. Nor would buses, taxis or restaurants.

"There is nothing we can do about people smoking in private homes, non-smokers have a choice if they want to go there or not, but for the rest we have a duty to non-smokers to protect them. Our constitution guarantees them this."

There has been a lot of speculation about the policing of the regulations. Delighted cartoonists have portrayed "tobaccops" holding guns to the heads of unsuspecting diners enjoying a post-dinner puff.

The public has expressed outrage that police members will stop attending to violent crimes and be transferred to smoking duty. Zuma says this isn't what she has in mind.

"It will be policed by you and me. We



**NOT A NANNY:** Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma says smokers are law-abiding citizens — they just need to be told to stop smoking.

do not want to bring in the police force. We believe smokers are law-abiding citizens. You must just tell them to stop smoking."

Nevertheless the legislation provides for a R200 fine for breaking the restrictions. An area of the new laws that has

Zuma says she is particularly concerned about tar. "We are considering putting an upper limit on what is permissible."

The other main thrust of the legislation is the ban on all forms of tobacco advertising.

As soon as the regulations become law, it will be illegal to "display or use, other than in a private capacity, tobacco trade marks, logos, brand names or company names".

This puts paid to sports sponsorships like Winfield Rugby or Rothmans Cup Soccer.

Although Zuma and Sports Minister Steve Tshwete have spoken of "phasing in" these restrictions to protect existing sponsorships, Zuma said companies should be under "no illusions" that sponsorships would be able to run their course.

"It will be a very short phase-in. If they have a 10-year contract, they won't be able to finish it. And it will only apply to contracts already existing. If people negotiate a contract now, while the bill is being discussed, it will not be allowed to stand."

"We will give sporting organisations time to negotiate new contracts, but it won't be more than a year or two."

Zuma confirmed that the department was considering increasing levies on cigarettes.

"South Africa has some of the cheapest cigarettes in the world, and we could do with a big increase in levies. Research has shown that price affects children particularly."

"Adults are likely to keep smoking if the price goes up by a rand or so, but children would rather buy CDs or go to the movies, and it is children that we want to discourage from smoking."

She said it was up to Finance Minister Trevor Manuel to decide whether income from the levy would be used to compensate for the loss of sports sponsorships.

The tobacco industry claims it was not properly consulted on the new legislation and says Zuma is determined to "bulldoze" it through Parliament.

"What is consultation?" asked Zuma. "We did consult them, but consultation does not mean we must keep consulting until they agree. They will never accept tobacco restrictions, no matter how long we speak to them."

"They will be able to take their complaints to the health portfolio committee so there is still time for comment."

The committee is expected to discuss the legislation at the end of the month.

Zuma has little time for criticism that she is creating a "nanny state".

"Maybe it is a nanny state, but do they want to return to the kind of state we had before, when people were told where to live and where not to live, where to go to school, who they could fall in love with? A state where the government manufactured chemicals that were used to kill people?"

"We are trying to protect people's health and protect the rights of non-smokers, who up to now have had to accept that their health is being damaged by other peoples' smoking. Does this mean it is a nanny state?"

And then there's the word "nanny". "In South Africa 'nanny' has particular connotations. A nanny is a black woman who lives in the back yard and looks after your children while they are young, then when they grow up they despise her. I believe it is an unfortunate choice of words."

Godzuma, Nanny of the Nation – you name it, she's been called it. Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma spoke to Judith Soal about the legislation that's causing all about her to huff and puff

# Every which way, smokers are on run

Shaw 7/8/98

(87)

**I'm** getting used to the names by now," Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma said, donning a wry (and rare) smile. "What is important is whether we are transforming society for the better, and I think we are."

There's been a lot of talk about Zuma's latest attempts to transform society in the form of the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act. The legislation gives her the power to ban smoking in public places and places a total ban on tobacco advertising.

It is expected to become law this year after receiving the unanimous blessing of the Cabinet recently.

Yet despite the number of newspaper columns the legislation has generated, there has been surprisingly little detail about what it will mean.

For a start, the new laws do not rule out office "smoking rooms", although they may regulate where these are possible.

"The main focus is to protect non-smokers. If there is a way to make sure they don't have to breathe polluted air, then smoking rooms are fine.

"If the smokers' area shares the same air conditioning as the rest of the building and the smoke is just recycled around them obviously this is not fine. But if there is an extraction fan, we may say it is okay," Zuma said.

The reason for the "ifs" and "maybes" is that the controls on smoking in public places haven't been finalised. The draft bill gives Zuma the power to "declare that the smoking of tobacco products in any public place or particular kinds of public places is prohibited or ... may only take place on (cer-



## What Zuma has said so far

- Special smoking rooms "may" be allowed in the workplace.
- There will be no "smoke police".
- Bars will not be exempt from restrictions on smoking.
- There may be restrictions to stop smoking.

Nevertheless the legislation provides for a R200 fine for breaking the restrictions. One area that has received little attention is the provision for the minister to control the content of cigarettes.

According to the draft, "the minister may, by notice in the Government Gazette, declare the permissible levels of tar, nicotine and other constituents which tobacco products may contain".

Zuma says that she is particularly concerned about tar. "We are considering putting an upper limit on just what will be permissible."

The other main thrust of the legislation is the ban on all forms of tobacco advertising. As soon as the regulations become law, it will be illegal to "display or use, other than in a private capacity, tobacco trade marks, logos, brand names or company names".

This will quickly put paid to huge sports sponsorships like Winfield Rugby or Rothmans Cup Soccer.

Although Zuma and Sports Minister Steve Tshwele have spoken of "phasing in" these restrictions to protect existing sponsorships, Zuma said

on the amount of tar and nicotine cigarettes can contain.

- Existing sponsorships of sporting events will be allowed to continue, but only for "a year or two".
- An increase in the price of cigarettes is likely.

companies should be under "no illusions" that sponsorships would be able to run their course.

"It will be a very short phase-in. If they have a 10-year contract, they won't be able to finish it. And it will only apply to contracts already existing. If people negotiate a contract now, while the bill is being discussed, it will not be allowed to stand.

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# SA tobacco laws will be 'flexible'

**S**OUTH Africa's new tobacco laws will be applied in a flexible rather than a selective manner, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

Speaking to journalists in Cape Town, she said the new laws did not mean the immediate cessation of existing contracts between sporting bodies and tobacco companies.

"We will be flexible with each case, but we would like sporting organisations - particularly soccer - to start looking for new sponsorships in view of the fact that it plans to host the 2006 World Cup."

The rules of the world soccer control body, Fifa, did not allow tobacco advertising, she said.

Zuma's remarks were in reply to a question as to whether or not her proposed new tobacco laws would not negatively impact on South Africa's chances of hosting the Formula One Grand Prix.

Sports Minister Mr Steve Tshwete announced earlier this week that President Nelson Mandela would meet Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone on

August 19 to discuss plans for a South African Grand Prix in the light of the Government's proposed crackdown on tobacco sponsorship.

Zuma also briefed journalists on projects her ministry were undertaking this year, including a flying doctor programme and a tele-medicine system.

## Flying doctor

The flying doctor programme, which aims to make health services accessible to all South Africans, particularly in rural areas, had been successful in Northern Cape, she said, and it was planned to be extended countrywide.

Zuma said the tele-medicine system would bring healthcare, education and service to South Africans in areas of great need.

"Pilot projects in North West and other areas have proven to be successful, and we intend expanding these services throughout the country."

The district health system and the campaign against HIV-Aids were also going well, she said. - Sapa.

*SA*  
*SOWETAN*  
*Sowetan 7/8/98*



# Zuma's smoke gets up tobacco

## trade's nose

The Health Minister's enthusiasm is not shared by alcohol and cigarette purveyors, writes **MARCIA KLEIN**

**H**EALTH Minister Nkosazana Zuma's controversial Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, unanimously accepted in parliament — a Bill which she believes will be enforced by mutual respect between smoking and non-smoking individuals — has not been met with similar applause by the tobacco, advertising, liquor, sports and media industries.

They all stand to lose millions in advertising and sponsorships, not to mention the huge costs they may have to incur in applying health regulation warnings to products and advertisements.

Over the past few years the tobacco industry has withdrawn from most major sponsorships and placed health warnings on packs. Rembrandt and BAT SA spent R57-million in 1995 adhering to health warning rules.

Tobacco industry statistics suggest that a shrinking industry could have a widespread effect on the economy. About 35 000 people are directly employed in the tobacco industry, and southern Africa is the third-largest tobacco exporting region in the world.

The industry generates R3.6-billion in excise and VAT

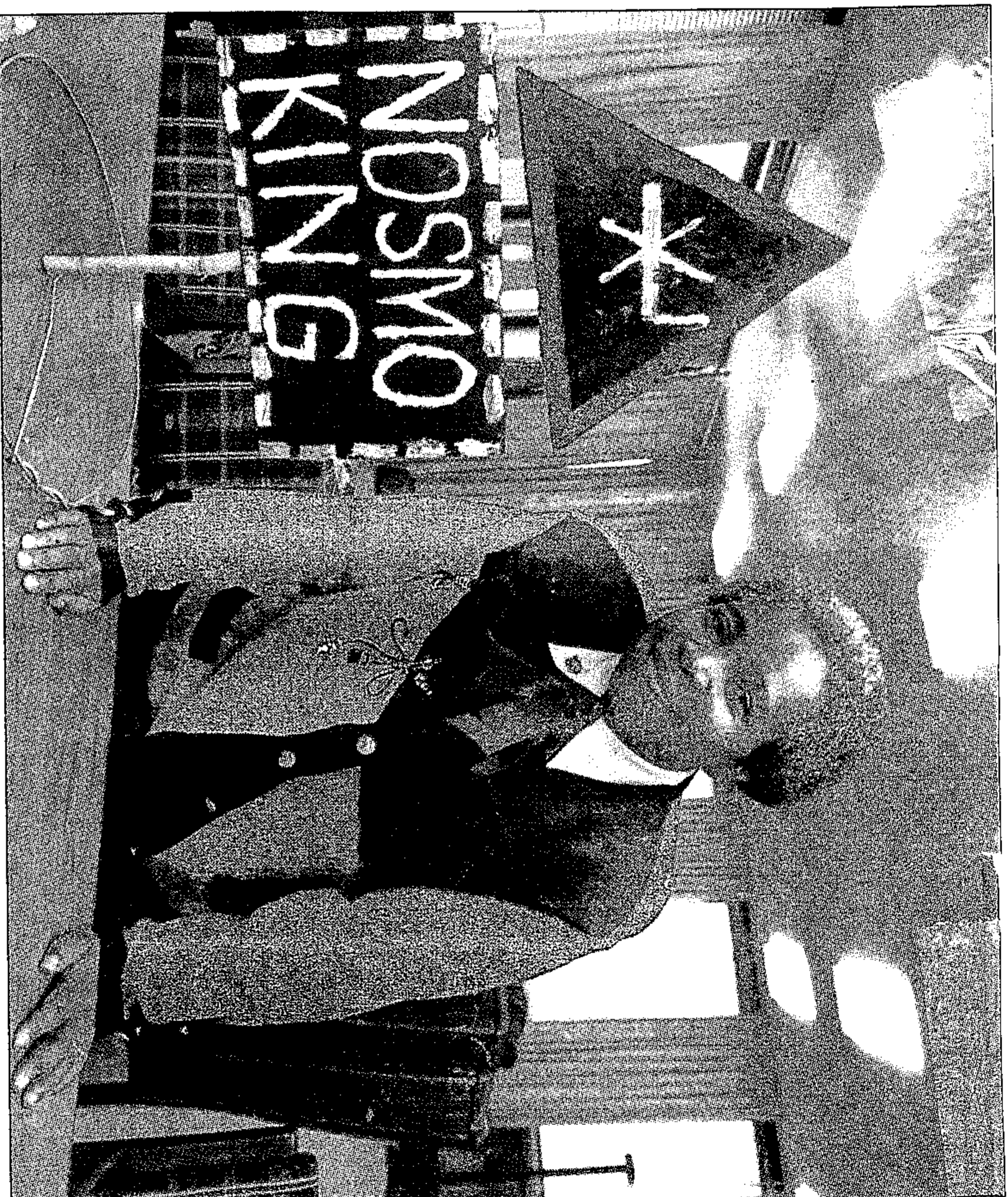
a year, excluding company and personal taxes. It spends R250-million annually on print and media advertising and R40-million promoting sport, cultural activities and emergency services.

It has been suggested that the liquor industry is next on Zuma's agenda. The ramifications could be enormous.

According to Adindex figures, liquor and tobacco companies spent R234.2-million and R194.9-million respectively on advertising in 1997.

Some major tobacco sponsorships still remain, including the Rothmans Durban Jubly. One of the largest sponsorships was Benson & Hedges' support of cricket, recently taken over by Standard Bank. Lexington pulled out of golf, leaving it to the cellphone and IT companies.

Business Marketing Intelligence Sports Info director Johan Grobler says there is still about R30-million of tobacco sponsorship money going in to sport. Pressure on the liquor industry has seen liquor sponsorships follow a similar falling trend, but there are still some major sponsorships in place. SA Breweries is a major sponsor of sport, particularly soccer and cricket. J&B is a big sponsor of horse racing.



**SMOKIN' HOT . . .** Nkosazana Zuma, who is pinning her hopes on mutual respect between puffers and abstainers

Grobler says sports sponsorship last year totalled R670-million, 10% of which was liquor and tobacco.

Industry spokesmen allude to international research which shows there is no link between advertising and abuse and none between advertising and increased consumption. The only effect perceived is brand-switching.

Restrictions on liquor advertising vary considerably. There are only nine countries with laws requiring warnings, including Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, South Korea, the US and Zimbabwe.

The rapid growth of satellite television is making it almost impossible to apply restrictions uniformly, but Zuma says her law applies in SA without exception.

SA Breweries spokesman Adrian Botha says: "We have no fight with the government and are continually in dialogue." He says the industry understood that no decisions had been made on liquor advertising, and that the recent publicity is aimed at trying to elicit as much public debate as possible.

"SA liquor companies already have a strict code in terms of advertising and it is

working well. We think we should be able to advertise a legitimate product."

Botha says SAB is probably the oldest sports sponsor in the country. It does not see any link between sponsoring football and abuse.

Chan Makan, director of the Association for Responsible Alcohol Use, representing most manufacturers and wholesalers, says any comparison with tobacco is "wrong and dangerous", as there is nothing wrong with moderate use of alcohol.

He says the industry has imposed a voluntary restraint on claims of any beneficial ef-

fect, on condition there are no unreasonable restrictions placed on the industry. It also voluntarily states on adverts that alcohol is not for sale to people under the age of 18, and advertises on TV only at certain times.

□ The Food and Allied Workers' Union has called for a summit at the end of the month relating to the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill.

The union has been supported by various organisations including Fedhasa, the Freedom of Commercial Speech Trust and the Association of Marketers.

# PARLIAMENT

## Drug abuse costs SA billions

ANDRÉ KOOPMAN  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

DRUG abuse costs the country between R2,5 billion and R7,1 billion a year, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said yesterday.

South Africa produces enormous quantities of dagga and it is estimated that it consumes 80% of the Mandrax produced worldwide and smuggled mainly from India, through the East.

Speaking at a Rustenberg conference on education needs in drug-related cases, Omar said that cocaine was smuggled from South America to South Africa directly or through Angola, Namibia or Zimbabwe. Heroin from Asia passed through South Africa to Europe and the US.

Because of its geographic position, South Africa was becoming a target for drug syndicates operating globally. "In addition, our well-developed transport infrastructure, modern communication



**CO-ORDINATION:** Dullah Omar

and banking system, long open borders and relatively weak border control make us a favourable prey for drug piranhas," Omar said.

Africa was emerging as a major role-

player in the global drug village, he said.

"Given the high rates of cross-border crime and drug-trafficking on the African continent as well as the increasing trade and other links between countries in the region, effort should be made to strengthen ties among agencies working in the substance abuse field.

"Pressure should be exerted on countries, which are known for drugs in Africa, to desist from such activities and implement effective controls," Omar said.

The fight against drugs called for a centralised approach, "internationally, continentally, regionally and nationally. Up to very recently our own response has been disjointed and fragmented".

Common regional strategies should be developed and legal instruments harmonised.

The Southern African Development Community was forming a regional drug control programme to combat rapidly growing drug smuggling, Omar said.

# Trust's warning on tobacco Bill

(87) Sowetan 24/8/98  
**Sowetan Business Reporter**

THE Freedom of Commercial Speech Trust has warned that the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill contains weaknesses which may open it to legal challenge.

The trust, representing the media, marketing and advertising industries in South Africa, has lodged a formal response to the Bill with the Health Ministry.

Piet Delport, executive director of the trust, said in a statement in Johannesburg on Friday that legal opinion was that the Bill incorporated severe and extensive restrictions on commercial expression which could "amount to censorship of certain private communications".

The advertising ban contained in the Bill could be vulnerable to constitutional attack, he said.

The trust, however, would prefer to negotiate with Government and not seek confrontation.

"Surely it is not in South Africa's best interest that Government and

business get involved in costly and time-wasting legal wrangles. We call on government to withdraw this legislation until proper consultation has taken place," said Delport.

## Too wide

Delport said the trust noted that the Bill, as it was presently drafted, was so wide as to prohibit;

- private communications between tobacco manufacturers and tobacco distributors.

- the importation of foreign magazines which contained tobacco advertising.

- television broadcasts of sporting events such as Formula 1 Grand Prix, where tobacco sponsorship was permissible and where tobacco advertisements appeared on billboards and racing cars.

"We are not opposed to Government's legitimate goals to promote health. We are more than willing to work with Government to find common ground after consultation with all interested parties," he said.

# Industry fumes over mooted tobacco law

ET 27/8/98

(87) (88)

## JUDITH SOAL and JOVIAL RANTAO

THE tobacco industry takes its fight to delay the impending controls on smoking and tobacco advertising to the Cape High Court today.

The Tobacco Institute of South Africa and three of the country's largest tobacco companies — British-American Tobacco SA, RJ Reynolds and Rothmans International — have applied for an urgent interdict to stall the legislation published in the Government Gazette last week.

Minister of Health Nkosazana Zuma is to appear in court to defend the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill, which would give her the authority to ban smoking in public places.

They would also outlaw all forms of tobacco advertising, including tobacco companies' sponsorship of sports and cultural events.

The bill has the unanimous blessing of the cabinet.

The tobacco industry claims it has not been properly consulted and has not been given sufficient time to prepare submissions to the portfolio committee on health.

"There have been so many changes to the draft legislation," Rothmans International spokesperson Abrie du Plessis said

last week. "We've only just received a final copy and the closing date for submissions is August 31. Do you think this is reasonable?"

The application for the interdict also calls on the government to give the industry scientific data supporting its claim that passive smoking affects the health of non-smokers.

It has asked for copies of the research and documentation on which the decision has been based to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship.

The industry has claimed that a clampdown on advertising in Scandinavian countries increased tobacco consumption, possibly because health warnings were not publicised.

Yussuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking says this claim is "turdle".

"I have in front of me a document from Norway that clearly shows tobacco consumption has declined since 1975, when the advertising ban was introduced. Most important, the number of young people taking up smoking has also declined."

Zuma has dismissed the criticism that the industry has not been consulted adequately. "We did consult them, but con-

sultation does not mean that we must keep consulting until they agree," she said recently. "The tobacco industry will never accept tobacco restrictions, no matter how long we talk."

Zuma's spokesperson, Vincent Hlongwane, said yesterday that the Department of Health would cooperate with the courts, although Zuma had not done anything that warranted their intervention.

"All this case can do is delay the bill," he said. "If they want information, we will give it to them. We will be guided by the courts."

However, if the court granted the order, it could set a precedent. "Anyone could turn around and say that they are opposed to say, the Termination of Pregnancy Act, and that they were not properly consulted."

The department hoped the tobacco control laws would be passed before the end of the year, Hlongwane said.

Since it was approved by the cabinet last month, the bill has also elicited an avalanche of angry responses from sporting bodies, trade unions and newspapers.

The Freedom of Commercial Speech Trust (FCS), which represents the media, marketing and advertising industries, warned yesterday that weaknesses in the draft-

ing of the bill could leave it open to other legal challenges.

Restriction of commercial expression could "amount to censorship", said Piet Delpoort, executive director of the FCS.

Under the proposed legislation, it would be an offence to sell cigarettes to people under 16.

It would also be an offence to smoke in public places, places of employment and public transport. Anyone found guilty could be fined R200.

Manufacturers, importers and distributors that contravene the provisions on sponsorship would risk fines of up to R200 000.

Individuals convicted of the same offences would be fined R10 000.

The portfolio committee on health is to hold public hearings on the bill next week.

Once it has been passed by Parliament, the legislation is to be phased in.

It also empowers the minister to declare permissible levels of tar, nicotine and other constituents that tobacco products may contain.

The sale of cigarettes from vending machines would be restricted to places where the machines would be inaccessible to persons under the age of 16.

# Tobacco control bill 'could violate freedom of speech'

(87) (93)  
**LYNDA LOXTON**  
PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Freedom of Commercial Speech Trust warned yesterday that the proposed Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill contained drafting weaknesses that could open it to legal challenge.

Piet Delport, the executive director of the trust, said the bill "incorporated a severe and extensive set of restrictions on commercial expression which could amount to censorship of certain private communications.

CT (MR) 25/8/98  
"Surely it is not in South Africa's interests that government and business become involved in costly and time-wasting legal wrangles," he said.

"We call on government to withdraw this legislation until proper consultation has taken place."

The bill effectively prohibited communications between tobacco manufacturers and distributors, Delport said.

It also prevents imports of foreign magazines containing tobacco advertisements and keeps tobacco companies from sponsoring

television coverage of sporting events.

"Clearly, this is not what government means," Delport said.

"Various ministers and government spokesmen have already been forced to issue public statements that it is not government's intention to implement such draconian measures."

Delport said the trust did not seek confrontation with the government over the bill.

But the bill did appear to negate the freedom of expression clauses guaranteed in the constitution, he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

# Call for province to legalise hemp

De Wet on 25/8/98

(87)

By Isaac Moledi and ECN

**T**HE Eastern Cape needed to move faster in legalising the hemp industry because it might lose out in world markets, the African National Congress in the region has said.

African National Congress MPL Nat Serache said if the government failed to catch up with international practice of legalising hemp, the region might lose its competitive edge as the commodity might be flooded in the world markets, thereby forcing the price to go down.

The hemp industry has recently been put under the spotlight in the region as it is believed that the commodity could "transform much of rural Transkei from rural poverty to rural prosperity", resulting in thousands of jobs being created.

Other parties such as the National Party are also behind the move to investigate the legalisation of hemp.

The ANC believes hemp can be legalised "in such a manner that a responsible agricultural industry could

be developed". The move, however, does not include the legalisation of dagga.

Both hemp and marijuana are members of the plant species *cannabis sativa* although science has enabled the genetic manipulation and cultivation of a hybrid that has no narcotic value.

It is believed that hemp is rich in fibre, seed oil and has "many amazing characteristics for industrial, agricultural, medicinal and domestic use".

## Wide range

Hemp fibre and seed are used to produce a wide range of commodities, including food and beverage products, fibreboard, insulation, paper, composites, textiles, carpets, animal bedding and feed, cosmetics, body care products, soaps, paints, fuels and medicines.

About 26 countries permitted the commercial cultivation of the product, with China, India, Korea, Romania and Russia being the major commercial producers.

Recent legislation in Britain, Germany and Canada has also lifted

restrictions on hemp production and the European Union has introduced legislation that provides aid for domestically produced hemp.

The worldwide sale of hemp was estimated at about R32 million in 1993, but the figure is expected to reach R9,5 billion by 2001.

The ANC's Andre de Wet said the ministries of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Health, Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism and Safety and Security would be "vital in the process of investigation and education".

"We need to investigate and determine which areas in the Eastern Cape are most suitable for hemp growth."

Although marijuana grew well in the eastern and coastal parts of the Transkei, De Wet said it was necessary to investigate whether hemp would grow as well in other areas.

The Eastern Cape department of economic affairs, environment and tourism - which has already been involved in the promotion of hemp - would be able to assist in investigating the economic viability of the industrial application of hemp.

# Boesak 'used relief funds for banquet'

## *But no one pitched, court told*

ART 27/8/98

(2/1/98)

LENORE OLIVER  
STAFF REPORTER

Allan Boesak spent nearly R8 000 of Foundation for Peace and Justice funds on a banquet for American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson - but no one turned up.

This was the evidence of forensic auditor Dawn King, who is testifying in the Cape High Court trial of Dr Boesak, who has pleaded not guilty to 32 fraud and theft charges involving R1,1-million. The State alleges he misappropriated money intended for victims of apartheid.

Dr Boesak is a former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and Western Cape leader of the African National Congress.

Yesterday Mrs King told the court documentation proved there had been several transactions from the foundation's accounts which benefited Dr Boesak.

In April 1990, R7 831 was paid to Claridges Hotel for a banquet in

honour of Mr Jackson.

"Everything was arranged - but no one pitched," said Mrs King.

"The money was taken from the foundation's crisis relief account - and this was clearly not a crisis."

Mrs King told the court that in 1989 the Church of Norway gave R111 656 to the weekly newspaper Vrye Weekblad.

"The foundation was approached by Vrye Weekblad to act as a conduit for the funds.

"This was agreed upon but the funds never reached the newspaper and were instead deposited into the foundation's travel costs account.

In September 1990 a cheque was made out to the furniture store Joshua Doore for R2 300 for Dr Boesak and another for R14 000 made out to Allied Bank for his wife Elna. These amounts were recovered from the debtors loan account.

Mrs King testified that amounts were often deposited in Dr Boe-

sak's personal bank account to decrease overdrafts.

Dr Boesak also regularly paid his car instalments at Wesbank and Bankfin with money belonging to the foundation. These amounts were never less than R2 000.

Evidence before the court was that from 1990 to 1993 Dr Boesak used foundation money to pay:

- PG Glass R1 125.
- Parow municipality R28 for electricity.
- R3 255 to the Radio and Alarm Centre for work done to his car.
- R4 805 for a gate and burglar bars at his Constantia home.
- More than R50 000 towards his bond account.

During this period more than R130 000 was paid into Dr Boesak's personal account.

Other occasions on which Dr Boesak used the money included a birthday lunch and meals at various restaurants.

The case continues.

# Tobacco giants tackle Zuma in court

(57)  
LENORE OLIVER

STAFF REPORTER

ART 27/8/98

The tobacco industry has taken Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to court in its first step towards challenging impending controls on smoking and tobacco advertising.

The Tobacco Institute of South-

ern Africa and three of the country's largest tobacco companies have applied to the Cape High Court for an urgent interdict ordering the minister to make available information she used in drafting proposed legislation published in the Government Gazette last week.

Yesterday advocate Schalk

Burger, for the tobacco industry, told the court that farmers, sporting bodies, the media and the tobacco industry would be affected by the proposed law.

He told the court that he was not aware of anywhere in the world where such restrictive legislation was in place.

# Tobacco court case off to smoking start

JUSTICE WRITER

THE High Court challenge by tobacco companies against the controversial Tobacco Products Bill got under way yesterday.

This came when the Tobacco Institute of South Africa, British American Tobacco (South Africa) Ltd, R J Tobacco International (Pty) Ltd and Rothmans International South Africa (Pty) Ltd brought an urgent application for an order directing Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to make available all information pertaining to the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill.

The bill seeks to: Ban advertisements of tobacco products, the display of tobacco trademarks, logos, brand or company names, and ban smoking indoors or in enclosed public places.

In his opening address Schalk Burger, SC, for the applicants, told Justice Siraj Desai the Tobacco Institute was not invited

to comment or told when comment was expected to reach Zuma.

The bill could prejudice tobacco farmers, workers in the tobacco industry, the media which relies on advertising revenue from tobacco manufacturers, sporting bodies and events which rely on sponsorship.

Burger said the bill does not only seek to ban smoking in public places. He said that it also constitutes an extensive and far reaching effort to regulate the substance and manner in which information concerning tobacco products may be communicated.

Burger said in terms of section 195 of the Constitution, people's needs must be responded to.

The public must be encouraged to participate in policy-making and transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information.

The hearing continues today.



# Judgment reserved in anti-smoking bill case

ARLT 28/8/98  
LENORE OLIVER  
STAFF REPORTER

**Judgment has been reserved in the application by the tobacco industry for a court order compelling Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma to produce information on which she based controversial new anti-smoking legislation.**

The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa and three of the country's largest tobacco companies have applied to the Cape High Court for an urgent interdict ordering the minister to make information available before they make representations against the bill which will ban smoking in public places and cigarette advertising among other things.

(87) (87)  
Schalk Burger, for the tobacco industry, told the court that farmers, sporting bodies, the media and the tobacco industry would be affected by the proposed law.

He was not aware of anywhere in the world where such restrictive legislation was in place.

Jan Heunis argued for Dr Zuma that the bill was incapable of affecting any rights.

"It is my submission that the applicant (tobacco industry) cannot hold the legislative process to ransom by insisting on access to information ostensibly to protect their rights. They have no rights to be protected against an Act which is not unconstitutional," he said.

Mr Justice Siraj Desai was on the Bench.

# Business and labour unite against tobacco bill

Pearl Sebulo

A JOINT business, labour and sports committee is to launch an urgent court interdict against the health department in order to challenge the proposed Tobacco Products Amendment Bill which would ban tobacco advertising.

The group includes three Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) affiliates and the Freedom of Commercial Speech Trust, representing the media, marketing and advertising industry. It will also

seek an urgent meeting with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to discuss the bill.

At a meeting in Midrand yesterday, the parties complained that the bill was unconstitutional and the drafting process suffered from a lack of transparency.

Association of Marketers executive director Derrick Dickens said no date had been set for the court challenge. The Food and Allied Workers Union, SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union and the SA Workers Union would

consult their members about the committee's decision. Their response would dictate whether to seek an interdict.

The unions have also warned of "rolling mass action" if the government did not withdraw the bill. The action would include marches to Parliament and demonstrations across the country.

Dickens said concerned business organisations would also participate in the protests.

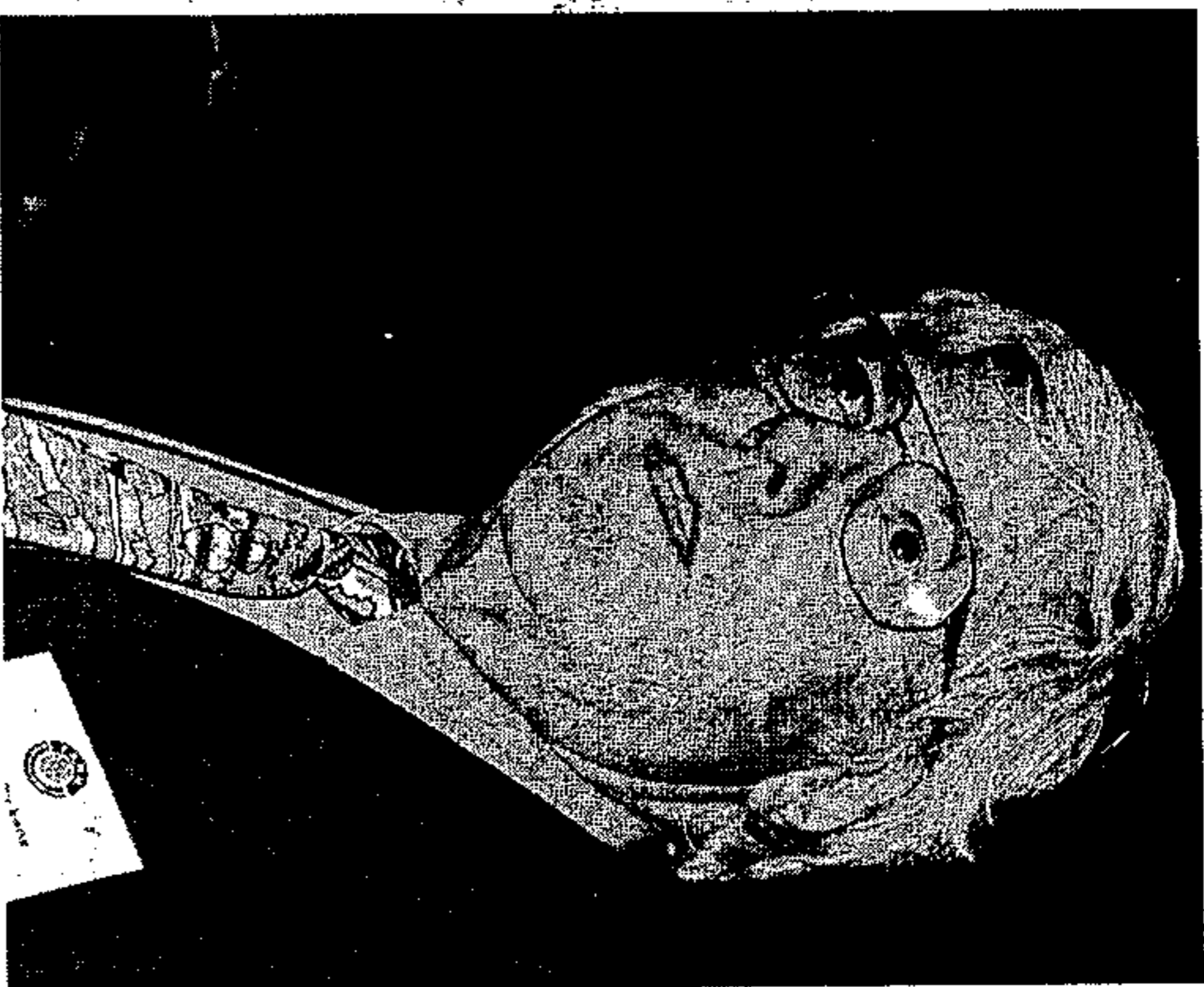
A campaign would also be launched to inform the public about

(87) ~~the~~ the implications of the legislation, which bans tobacco adverts, the sponsorship of sport by tobacco firms and smoking in public places.

The group said that if the bill was passed in its present form, it would have a serious effect on the economy, resulting in the loss of millions of rands in advertising revenue to media organisations, severely affecting the viability of the industry.

As the legislation would also result in the loss of jobs, it ran directly against government's job creation policies, the group said.

pb 28/8/98



Association of Marketers executive director Derrick Dickens speaking in Midrand yesterday.

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON



# Anti-puffers bill survives first round

Judge rules against tobacco giants

By ADELE BALETA  
and LENORE OLIVER

Star 5/9/98 (87)

**H**ealth Minister Nkosazana Zuma has won the first round in a legal battle against tobacco giants who tried to snuff her controversial anti-smoking legislation in the Cape Town High Court.

Mr Justice Siraj Desai yesterday dismissed with costs an urgent application by the tobacco industry to order Dr Zuma to disclose the information on which she based her Tobacco Products Amendment Control Bill.

Dressed in an elegant white and blue linen suit, a triumphant Zuma said after the ruling that she "felt good" but that she was "quite aware that there is still a long fight ahead".

She said the judgment was a victory for the parliamentary and legislative process because it gave a strong message that "no one is allowed to stop the process, no one is allowed to filibuster the process".

After the judgment was handed down, Edward Shalala, CEO of the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa, said: "This is a sad day for democracy." He said the tobacco industry had not yet decided whether to appeal against the ruling.

The bill, among other provisions, severely restricts smoking in public places and slaps a ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship of sporting and cultural events by tobacco companies.

The tobacco institute and three of

the country's largest tobacco companies argued during proceedings that they were legally entitled to the information they had requested and could not make meaningful representations on the bill, at the minister's invitation, without it.

Zuma's legal team maintained that the information was public knowledge and therefore easily ascertainable by the applicant.

Mr Justice Desai agreed with Zuma's legal team that the introduction of a bill did not establish rights. "It only affects the rights of others once it becomes law," the judge said.

In other reactions to the finding, Yussuf Saloojee of the National Council Against Smoking said the "wonderful" judgment was important for health in South Africa.

Katherine Everett of the Cancer Association of SA said the ruling meant the parliamentary process could go ahead and preparations for the portfolio committee hearings on the Tobacco Bill could be heard this year.

The Association of Marketers said in its reaction: "It's sad because the bill is badly written and flawed, and it won't attain its objective, which is to stop children smoking. Banning advertising won't stop kids from smoking. Studies have shown that the opposite happens."

Kakishi Masemola of the Food and Allied Workers Union said Zuma had failed to consult with the union. Fawu is opposed to the bill because it would result in job losses in the tobacco and farming sectors.



TRIUMPHANT: Dr Nkosazana Zuma in court yesterday

# 'One in four is an addict'

(87)  
By ANNA COX  
Star 14/9/98

Government statistics show that one in four people living in South Africa are addicted to alcohol or drugs.

These figures could be significantly higher because of the geographics of the country and the limited resources available to conduct a true assessment of the magnitude of this problem, Nova Lodge co-ordinator Claudio Bartoletti said.

Nova Lodge in Yeoville is a halfway home involved in rehabilitating drug addicts.

It is a registered welfare organisation which is run solely on private donations and fundraising.

It is in desperate need of assistance - money, clothing, food, furniture, paint and garden equipment.

The drug problem is growing and recuperating addicts need to be given all the help they can get to get back on their feet, says Bartoletti.

"We offer them accommodation under strict supervision.

"They must be clean to live here, and they are given chores to do. We do regular testing on them, with test kits donated by Medicare d'Afrique.

"If they work, they have to pay a nominal amount for their board.

"They stay as long as they feel the need to," he said.

People came to Nova Lodge from all walks of life, including some who were in professional fields, said Bartoletti.

"No one seems to escape this scourge, which destroys many successful lives," he said.

Bert (not his real name) is a typical ex-addict living at Nova Lodge.

He started taking drugs in the 60s when alcohol, grass and pills were popular.

He was a successful musician and started his own production company.

He married, and his wife was also an addict.

In 1974 they started on cocaine and progressed to heroin.

"We had children and were leading very normal, productive lives on the outside.

"But every day we were tripping.

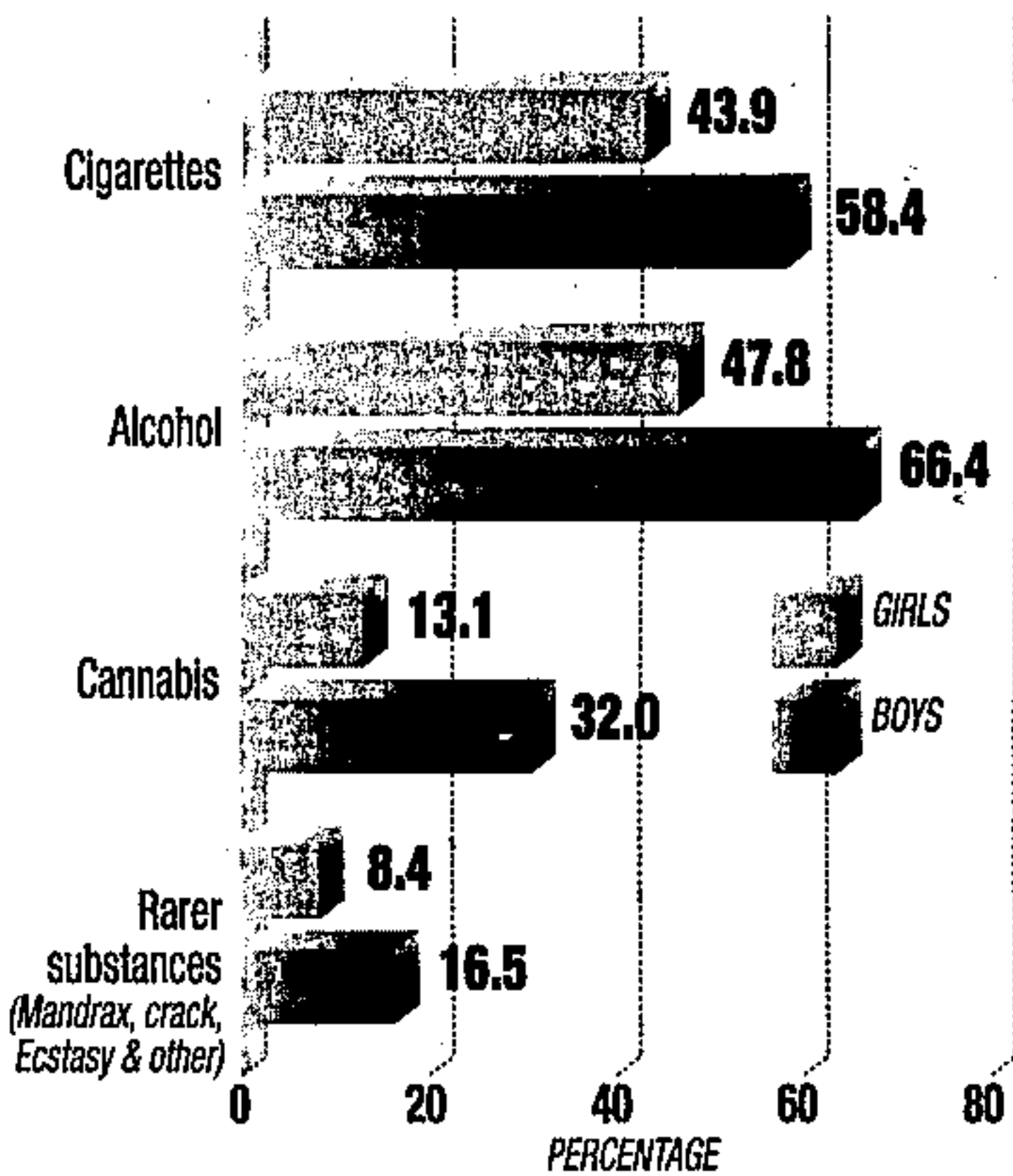
"My wife eventually died from complications of a drug overdose and I was left with two small children.

"I stopped functioning normally and eventually the children were taken away from me. That was the end - I decided I had to clean up.

"All I want is to get my children back," he said.

Anyone who can assist Nova Lodge should please phone Claudio Bartoletti at (011) 614-9205.

PREVALENCE RATES (tried at least once)  
GRADE 11 / STANDARD 9 STUDENTS



GRAPHICS: BOB GRIERSON

## Call to tackle dealers doing 'big business'

From page 1

are substantial economic implications of substance use by high school students," says the report. "One is that the direct or indirect provision of alcohol and drugs to school-going youth is clearly big business that needs to be tackled head-on."

It warns that "a large number of students are at risk for the adverse consequences of substance use. Further analysis of the data will be done to show that such consequences are likely to include increased risk of unprotected sex, violence and transport injuries." The MRC/UCT study showed that although alcohol and cigarettes were the substances most abused by both grades, there was a growing use of harder drugs.

Ms Von Stern said most of the centre's clients needed treatment for cannabis-Mandrax addiction, but there had also been a big increase in

teenagers seeking help for heroin abuse.

The MRC/UCT data suggests that by the time most boys reach grade 11, almost 6% will have tried Mandrax at least once.

The survey also revealed that:

- About 40% of Grade 8 boys (about 14 years old) had smoked cigarettes, 41% had used alcohol, 8% had smoked cannabis and 7% had sniffed glue.

- A total of 58% of Grade 11 boys (aged about 17) had smoked cigarettes, 66% had used alcohol, 32% had smoked cannabis and 16% had sniffed glue.

The data was collected during the second and third terms of 1997.

The findings were compared with those of a previous UCT and MRC study in 1990.

The researchers are now working on further studies in connection with substance abuse.

# Cape Town's teen junkies

## UCT probe shows abuse soars among schoolkids

ANDREA BOTHA  
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town teenagers are becoming serious drug abusers, with Grade 11 pupils in the city spending about R22-million a year on dagga, Mandrax, cigarettes and alcohol.

This is revealed by a drug survey among grade 8 and 11 (standard 6 and 9) pupils by the department of psychiatry at the University of Cape Town, the National Urbanisation and Health Research Programme and the biostatistics division of the SA Medical Research Council.

The survey was conducted at 39 representative state schools around the Peninsula. Only pupils in grades 8 and 11 were asked to fill in the questionnaires, during a normal school period while teachers were absent. The study found that Grade 11 students: ■ Spent an average of R10 a week on

■ Kids ease into pocket-money drugs  
■ Shock report rocks Britain's elite schools  
Page 11

cigarettes and R20 a week on liquor. ■ Spent most on Mandrax, with girls who used it spending an average of R52 per week and boys R30. ■ Spent R14-million a year on alcohol. And dagga use had almost doubled for

girls and boys in the past seven years. In both grades 8 and 11 it was found that use rates were consistently higher for boys for all drugs except Mandrax. Ingrid von Stern of the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre in Observatory said there had been "a huge increase" in the number of teenagers seeking treatment for substance abuse. "Two of every three people who come to us are teenagers and a large proportion of them are under 16," she said. Their youngest client was 12 years old. Ms Von Stern said teenagers would steal money from parents, friends and family and would even prostitute themselves to get money for drugs. The use of drugs among teenagers also went hand in hand with the rave scene, which was growing in popularity. "There

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# Revised tobacco <sup>(87)</sup> bill gets the green light

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARG 25/3/99  
A revised version of Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's controversial legislation on tobacco advertising and sponsorships has been approved by Parliament, with the National Council of Provinces giving it the nod by seven votes to two.

The Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal opposed the bill, which could face a Constitutional Court challenge from tobacco industry players and non-government organisations.

Speaking for the Western Cape, Neels Ackermann said anomalies in the bill included that it would ban smoking in nature reserves, but contained an exemption which would allow smoking in designated areas in crèches.

In a hotel, employees would be allowed to smoke in a designated area but guests would, not be allowed to light up anywhere **Zuma** in the building.



KwaZulu Natal's delegation said they were happy with the amendments, but could not support the bill unless further changes were made.

Replying to the NCOP debate, Dr Zuma noted that continual price increases were another effective measure discouraging children from smoking.

While adult smokers tended not to give up in spite of annual increases of excises in tobacco, children were much more responsive to such measures because they had less disposable income and would stop smoking to have money for other items like videos or the cinema.

In a statement issued after the bill was approved, Edward Shalala of the Tobacco Institute said Parliament had ignored Mr Mandela's concerns to "ram through a bill that is even more unreasonable, impractical and unenforceable than before".

The bill, which provides for an outright ban on the advertising of tobacco products and sponsorship by tobacco companies, violated freedom of expression, he said.

"By banning smoking in public places, and through its draconian definition of organised activity, it imposes drastic limitations on other freedoms such as freedom of association," said Mr Shalala.

Describing the bill as "similar in many ways to past security legislation", Mr Shalala said it might be used to restrict the freedom of other sectors in the future.

"We believe the bill and the new amendments are unconstitutional and we reserve our rights in this regard," he said.

Club owner to face charges; 200 uniformed teenage boys and girls

# Blitz on boozing

# Schoolkids

cautioned

(87) Slav 1/5/99

By AURELIA DYANTYI

About 200 schoolchildren, still in uniform, were caught drinking alcohol at an unlicensed Johannesburg club during school hours yesterday.

The teenagers panicked when the Moonlight Blues club in the city centre was raided by police, who rounded them up and cautioned them without making any arrests.

The Mozambican club-owner, A C Cesario, was taken into custody, along with a bartender.

Superintendent Hennie Slabbert of the central crime prevention unit said the pair would face charges of selling liquor to minors as well as operating without a valid liquor licence.

Slabbert said about 200 boys and girls were found drinking at the Troye Street club.

"We have received reports of schoolchildren coming here during school hours and leaving drunk. When we arrived, about 200 pupils in uniform were caught, most of them drinking beer. There were too many children to arrest, so we gave them a warning. We also discovered that the owner is operating without a licence," he said.

## Headmasters

The headmasters of several schools would be informed of the situation, Slabbert added.

He confirmed that Cesario owned another Midnight Blues club, in Twist Street, which also allegedly sold liquor to under-age children.

A surprised Cesario claimed he knew nothing of the under-age patrons and placed the blame fully on the shoulders of his security staff.

"We have a strict policy that prevents people under 18 access to the club, but I'm not always here to monitor the situation."

He further claimed not to have seen any schoolchildren, despite being present when police officers swooped on the club.

He denied operating without a licence, saying: "I took over the club in February this year and the lawyers told me that I could still use the previous owner's licence while I was waiting for mine."

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P.T.O.



# A good reason to quit

## Smokers' world to shrink under far-reaching act

(87) (48) ARL 4/5/99

DI  
CAELERS



HEALTHWRITER

The countdown for smokers in South Africa has begun in earnest.

With the recent gazetting of the controversial Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act, health department officials, health groups and the tobacco industry are now set to start the process of drawing up the necessary regulations.

The law, which bans tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and clamps down on smoking in public places, is among the most far-reaching in the world and is attracting plenty of international attention – and recognition.

Although the legislation was gazetted on April 23, it will come into effect only once the Health Department finalises the regulations that go with it – which Khangelani Hlongwane, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's spokesman, said would take several months. Mr Hlongwane said the final decision on the regulations lay with the Government and that they should "tie in with the basic tenets of the legislation".

A version of the act was passed by Parliament last year, but was sent back by President Mandela because of concerns about its constitutionality.

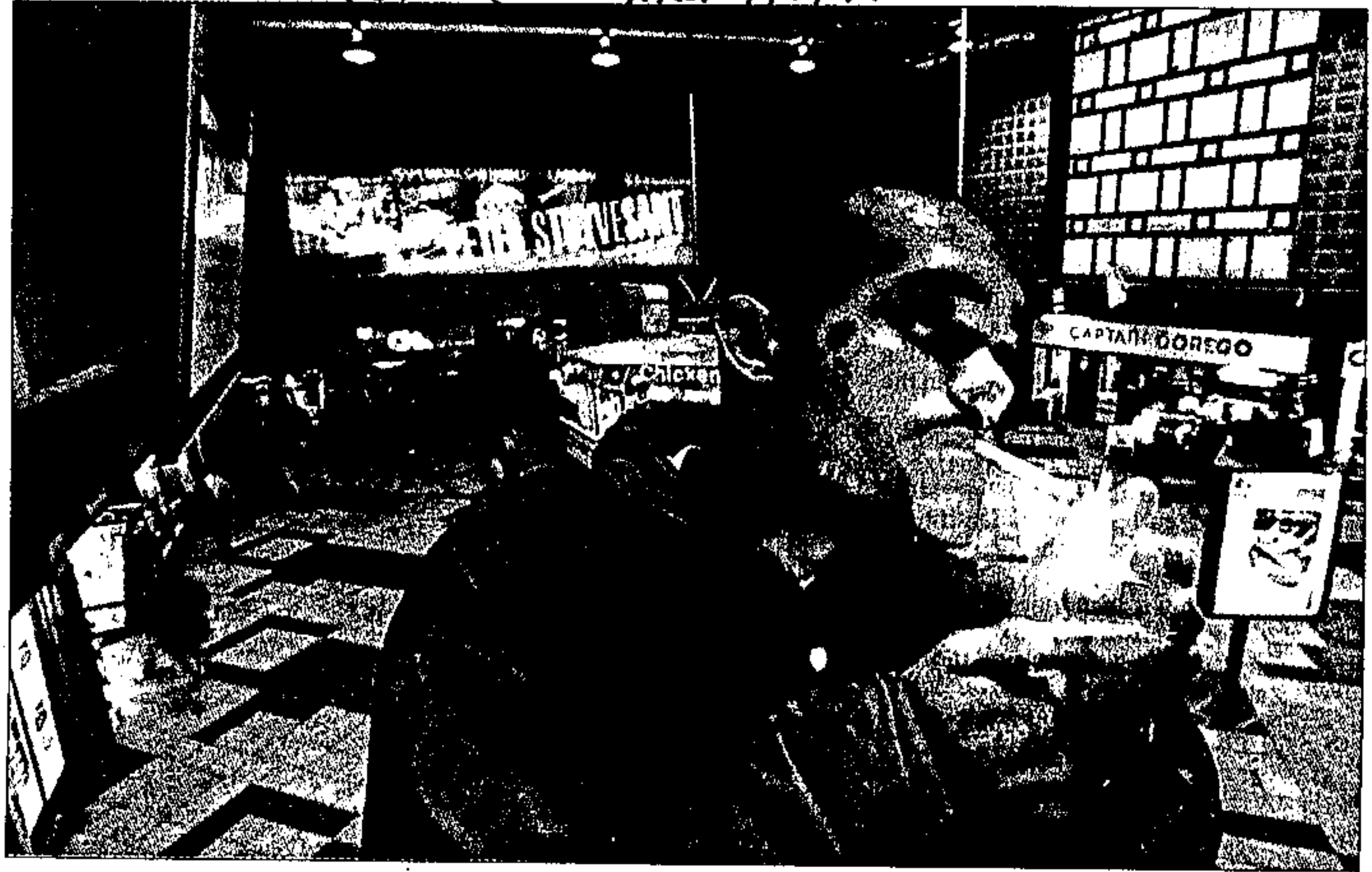
In March, Members of Parliament approved changes to exclude private homes from the definition of workplace, and to define which organised activities tobacco companies might not publicly sponsor.

Another last-minute change will allow for special smoking areas when the general ban on smoking in the workplace comes into effect.

Other areas addressed by the new legislation is the banning of the distribution of free tobacco products, and vending machines in places accessible to children under 16.

Addressing the Cape Town Press Club last week, Dr Zuma said the legislation, which would be promulgated soon, did not remove the rights of smokers but rather restored the rights of non-smokers.

"Nowhere in the law does it say you shouldn't smoke. But it says you



Smoked out: lighting up in public places and tobacco advertising are set to become relics of the past, thanks to the new tobacco legislation

cannot force the person sitting next to you to smoke."

Dr Zuma said a major focus was to protect children from being "bombed" with messages that made smoking out to be glamorous, pointed to smoking as a way to attain success, sports prowess or as "a way to find yourself a nice girlfriend".

It made good business sense to target children because research showed that few people over the age of 25 started smoking.

"It is the children that we are trying to protect," she said.

In the United States, April 22 was the deadline for 4 100 of the tobacco industry's advertising billboards to be turned over for use for anti-smoking messages.

The settlement, reached last November, applies in 46 states and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in the US said this was a significant step in the effort to limit the ability of tobacco companies to market their products to children.

Under the agreement, tobacco companies agreed to pay states \$206-billion and submit to advertising and

marketing restrictions, including handing over the billboard leases. The restrictions ban all outdoor advertising including billboards in arenas, stadiums and shopping malls.

The Cancer Association of South Africa's Katherine Everett said the gazetting of the law would put to rest rumours that the ANC would not go ahead with it now because of the upcoming election.

"It is also most important that Mr Mandela's lawyers are satisfied that the latest amendments are constitutionally sound. We are most encouraged," she said.

There would be a phase-in period during which local authorities and employers could prepare for its implementation but Ms Everett said the final specifics would be spelt out fairly soon.

According to statistics, the number of South Africans who smoke has dropped from 34% in 1995 to 28% now.

Ms Everett said anti-smoking campaigns of the past years had already achieved a drop in smoking prevalence but that the legislation would force this even further downward.

"The legislation is a profoundly

positive achievement in terms of tobacco control," she said.

Priscilla Reddy, the Medical Research Council's Tobacco Control Research co-ordinator, said Mr Mandela had "signed one of the most responsible and progressive public health laws ever in this country, and indeed, this legislation puts South Africa at the forefront of public health law internationally".

Dr Reddy said the legislation would protect children of future generations. The MRC would monitor the effects of the legislation and, together with tobacco control advocates nationwide, would push for education and greater awareness of the dangers of smoking aimed at children to prevent them starting to smoke.

"For tobacco control to be effective, a multi-faceted approach is needed which includes education, increased taxation and comprehensive legislation. (Dr Zuma) needs to be congratulated for her unflagging efforts, in the face of vociferous objections from the tobacco industry, to table a bill which will protect the lives of millions of South Africans," said Dr Reddy.

# One in two schoolkids tries drugs

50% of pupils are playing with fire  
— and the problem is getting worse (87)

Half of Gauteng's high school pupils are experimenting with drugs. Of those, about 10% are regular drug abusers. One in three — and, in the higher standards, as many as one in two — schoolgoing youngsters is experimenting with drugs.

These figures are being bandied about by social workers, psychologists, the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab) and other people working with teenage drug users. They say that this year at least 3,8 million South African schoolchildren will experiment with drugs, and of those, one in six will become dependent.

Following last week's *Saturday Star* exposé about 200 schoolchildren caught drinking in a bar during school hours, it was revealed that most high school children abuse alcohol and some as young as 11 have a drinking problem, according to Alcoholics Anonymous and the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Studies.

One of the biggest dangers of teenage alcohol abuse is that it takes between seven and 14 months for a teenager to develop an addiction, as opposed to seven to 14 years for an adult.

"Four years ago, 6% of high school pupils were abusing drugs; now it is as many as 30 to 50%, and within four years, 90% of pupils will be experimenting," says Drugwise social worker Tanya Singer, who works with schools to educate pupils about drugs.



**Peta Krost**

"It is a mushrooming problem — one that is not going away. Any principal who says his school doesn't have a drug problem is wrong."

Working in schools, Drugwise counsellors have seen 12- and 13-year-olds abusing drugs such as Ecstasy and dagga.

In the past few months, teachers found two syringes when they did a spot check in a northern suburbs high school, according to Leonie van Straaten, a school social worker who deals with teenagers and their drug and alcohol problems.

Van Straaten said children as young as 13 were selling drugs to their peers. "Some even sell at the schools," she said.

The other common selling places are shopping centres, where teenagers hang out at night.

A 15-year-old drug user, who is currently undergoing counselling, said it would never take him more than 10 minutes to "score" drugs at any time of day.

"I could get Ecstasy, coke (cocaine), rocks (crack cocaine), acid, heroin or dagga for you now if you wanted," said the teenager, who asked not to be identified. "It's partly because I know so many dealers, but also because I know where they hang out and what to say."

He would not give details because he was afraid of repercussions.

■ To Page 2

## Drugs rife in schools

■ From Page 1

(87)

"All my friends take drugs — if you don't you are seen as a square," he said. "It's not going to be easy going out on weekends now because I have agreed not to do E (Ecstasy) anymore."

One of the first schools to implement a drug awareness programme was Randburg Hoërskool. Willem Dirker, a Randburg Hoër teacher and anti-drug organiser, said that in 1996 they realised they had three choices: ignore the problem, throw drug users out of the school, or recognise their problem and try to help them. That year the school tested 68 children, and 45 tested positive for drug-taking. Last year, they tested 15 and four were positive.

The school's programme identifies a child who appears to be taking drugs, monitors him or her for up to two months, and then, if they are sure he or she is abusing drugs, they call in the child and the parents, who have to sign an agreement to send the child for rehabilitation — generally as an outpatient with a drug counselling programme.

### Highly addictive

According to Drugwise, the recovery rate for drug addicts is only 5%.

"Schoolchildren are starting with drugs younger and younger," said Drugwise social worker Michele Ginsberg. "Kids in Grade 6 and 7 are asking us about PCP, Ice and heroin."

She explained that in the northern suburbs, dagga is regarded as old-fashioned. The drugs of choice now are Ecstasy, LSD, cocaine and crack, while in the townships, crack, dagga and Mandrax are still the most popular.

"The problem with crack — which is highly addictive after just one experience — is that the pushers often give the first rock for free, knowing their clients will come back for more," Ginsberg added.

Pretoria and Johannesburg police narcotics bureaux confirmed that the problem is escalating. "We see that while drugs used to be taken at raves, now you find drugs in schools and at shopping centres," said Johannesburg Sanab commander Superintendent André Brits.

Captain Niekie Coetser of Sanab in Pretoria added: "Drug dealers target schoolchildren because they are vulnerable. I know of 12- and 13-year-old addicts and pushers, and three 14-year-old heroin addicts."

The alcohol problem is far harder to deal with because few parents worry if their children drink excessively — in fact many parents see drinking liquor as acceptable.

# Use of hard drugs is on the increase

**JUDITH SOAL**  
HEALTH WRITER

AN increase in trafficking and use of hard drugs such as crack cocaine was noted in the last six months of last year, the Medical Research Council said yesterday.

The latest of the council's six-monthly drug surveillance reports highlights the use of the recreation drug Ecstasy in Cape Town, following weekend reports that a 29-year-old Capetonian died after taking Ecstasy at a rave. It was the first time she had taken drugs.

"In 1998 Ecstasy comprised between one and two percent of the value of drugs seized in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg, compared with 10% in Cape Town," the report said.

"Even though alcohol remains

the most abused substance, the latest statistics clearly show an increase in trafficking and use of harder drugs."

Charles Parry, head of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse division of the MRC, is to present the findings at a conference on drug research in Canada this week.

"It is clear that crack cocaine has become entrenched in South Africa over the past few years and that the use of stimulants such as Ecstasy is prevalent among young persons in the club scene," Parry said. "Of particular concern is that seizure and treatment demand indicators for heroin show an increase in Gauteng in the second half of 1998."

The surveillance data is based on information from specialist drug treatment centres, psychiatric

hospitals, the police, mortuaries, trauma units and research at schools, clinics and rave parties and with sex workers and street children.

This is what they found in Cape Town:

● Alcohol: The indicators are stable or down. Alcohol still dominates treatment admissions, but is down on previous figures. The number of alcohol-related psychiatric discharges are stable or down. The number of alcohol-related non-natural deaths and injuries is high.

● Cannabis (dagga): Continues to dominate drug scene, alone or in combination with Mandrax. The demand for treatment is up, while arrests and seizures are down. The price has also gone up. The number of people visiting trauma units

who have dagga in their system is stable (30% of all admissions).

● Mandrax: The indicators are mixed. Arrests and seizures are up and the price is stable.

● Cocaine/crack: Arrests are up; seizures down. The demand for treatment and price are stable.

● Ecstasy: The number of arrests and seizures have increased. The price is stable or down. The demand for treatment is down.

● Heroin: Indicators are mixed. Demand for treatment is down, but the average age of users in treatment is also down. Arrests and seizures are down. Price is stable or down.

South African Narcotics Bureau drug seizures in 1998 were estimated to be worth R23 million (49% cannabis, 31% cocaine powder, 10% Ecstasy, 9% Mandrax).

(87) CT 8/6/99

HARD DRUGS 'LEGALISED'

# Govt drug boob backfires

(183) (87)

**A CAPE TOWN** Magistrate's Court case, in which two men are accused of possession of Ecstasy, could provide the answer to a legal conundrum resulting from the premature promulgation of an act controlling the manufacture and distribution of drugs. **GUSTAV THIEL** reports.

ON April 30, President Nelson Mandela gave the go-ahead to the promulgation of the SA Medicines and Medical Devices Regulatory Act, on the advice of then-minister of health Nkosazana Zuma.

The promulgation is now considered to have been a massive administrative blunder which legalised a number of hard drugs, including Ecstasy, morphine, Rohypnol and methadone.

The promulgation took place before any of the regulations and schedules — which categorise drugs and stipulate who can buy, sell, prescribe and administer these drugs — were fixed.

After the administrative blunder became known, the depart-

ment of health lodged an application in the Pretoria High Court to reinstate the old law, which existed before April 30. The application was rejected by Judge Hans Fabricius.

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association then appealed against the decision and the appeal was heard on Friday in the Pretoria High Court. Judgment was reserved and no indication was given as to when it will be delivered. Legal experts now say a case in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court could provide the answer for the first time, as to whether the existence of the new act made drug traffickers safe against prosecution.

On October 31 last year, War-

ren Smit and Youssef Ben Halima from Morocco were arrested in Joeville Street in Vredehoek with 50 tablets of Ecstasy in their possession. They were charged with the possession and could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison or a fine of R40 000.

The state, represented by prosecutor Conrad Heydenreich, argued yesterday that, because the men were arrested before the promulgation of the new act, they should be tried within the bounds of that act.

Ben Halima's legal representative, Keith Gess, said they will try to show that the new act is binding on arrests made before its promulgation and that his client is therefore safe from prosecution.

"It is safe to say that there are a lot of outstanding cases involving the alleged possession of ecstasy where the arrests took place after April 30 so it is not accurate at this stage to say that this case will function as a test case."

The case has been postponed until August 4 by magistrate L Scheepers and Gess said the judgment on that day could depend on whether the Pretoria High Court has delivered its judgment on the status of the SA Medicines and Medical Devices Regulatory Act.

The acting director-general of health, Harm Pretorius, says the act is still in place, which could mean that Smit and Ben Halima could be acquitted if the Pretoria High Court reserves its judgment until after August 4, and if the state is unsuccessful in its argument that the arrests were made before the new act came into being — and that the old act should then be considered valid for the case.

If the state is successful, says Gess, it will still leave many cases pending, where arrests were made after April 30, "and these cases will then probably function as test cases".

# Drug use a headache in schools

21/8/09 (87)

More and more school pupils are using drugs, SOLLY MOEIA reports

JUVENILE crime remains unacceptably high. Youth involvement with gangs and associated gang-related criminal activities, such as drugs and substance abuse, continue to be a problem in many communities.

According to research conducted by the Department of Health in Gauteng, drug abuse has grown among high school children in Soweto and other nearby areas, from 16 percent in 1994 to 35 percent in 1998.

The study claims that marijuana and alcohol are the substances mostly abused by high school pupils.

More than 40 percent of pupils said they had smoked marijuana, compared to 28 percent two years ago who admitted using it.

The study shows that the use of "gateway drugs" such as alcohol, tobacco and marijuana at an early age is usually an indicator of future problems associated with illegal substances.

Law enforcement authorities and substance-abuse researchers concern that the nature and scale of illicit drug trafficking, consumption and related problems increased dramatically in schools during the 1990s as the country emerged from political isolation, opening itself up to worldwide travel and travel links.

According to a social worker at Christiana prison, Joseph Polori, the fight against drugs is being waged every day.

"This problem of drugs in schools is a national problem and it must be addressed in a short space of time."

"Drugs and schools don't mix. Today in our country's public schools, despite our best efforts, we are losing the war against drugs."

"There is a drug problem in schools and our members deal with it every day."  
"It is serious and not only hin-

ders children's studies but destroys their lives," said Polori.

He said drugs, particularly marijuana, have become fashionable among schoolgoing teenagers.

"Young teens are being bombarded by many voices, such as the lyrics of popular songs and fashion movies, that are creating awareness of marijuana use and promoting the notion that marijuana use is normal and widespread."

"While not all of these voices are advocating or condoning use, they contribute to many teens' inaccurate perception that everyone is getting high," said Polori.

According to the principal of a Soweto high school who preferred to remain anonymous: "We are not in the business of hassling kids. But the message we want to send is, first of all, that drugs are illegal, they are not acceptable and they won't be tolerated in schools."

The principal said there were many reasons why some children and teenagers started smoking marijuana in schools.

"We have serious problems in our schools. Most young people smoke marijuana just because their friends, brothers or sisters are smoking. Some young people use it because they see older people in the family using it, or some may feel the need for marijuana and other drugs to escape from problems at home, at school or with friends."

Thabo (14), a pupil at Orlando High in Soweto, recalls a good friend who was a good sportsman and fun to have around, until he started taking drugs.

"He is now mean and rude and always making fun of people," said Thabo.

"Friends and others have tried to tell me I should try to smoke at parties. Some have even brought drugs to school and to school functions."



DAGGA IS BETTER... These young boys believe marijuana is better than alcohol

"But the best way to deal with it is to stay out of the situation altogether," said Lesego.

Lesego (16) is also a pupil at Orlando High. He once tried drugs but no longer does.

"I tried drugs before and now my mother doesn't trust me anymore. I don't do drugs now."  
"Sometimes people try to pressure me with beer and marijuana

but I avoid it by saying that I am allergic to it," said Lesego.

According to a psychologist at the University of North West, Abel Nkosi, marijuana affects memory, judgement and perception.

"The drug can make you mess up in school, in sport or with your friends. If you are high on drugs or marijuana, you are more likely to make stupid mistakes that could

embarrass you or even hurt you, and you could start to lose interest in how you look and how you are getting along at school or work."

He said children were curious about alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

"Kids are smart and very quick to pick up mixed messages in the media, at school or at the dinner table. Even if you have done an out-

## Crimes linked to drugs

THE use of drugs, especially marijuana and alcohol, prevents many young people from reaching their full potential.

According to a study conducted by the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, more than half the men and almost half the women under 25 in South Africa have at some time dabbled in illegal drugs, mainly marijuana.

Official statistics also reveal that nearly two thirds of all those arrested on suspicion of crime and then checked for drugs test positive for at least one substance, usually marijuana, cocaine or alcohol.

These facts about the huge scale of the illegal drug culture were included for the first time under an analysis of social trends, as a guide to the way the country is changing, published by the office for national statistics.

The drug study prepared by the Institute for Study of Drug Dependence said information about drugs is vital to support the efforts of the government. One of its aims is to stifle the availability of illegal drugs on our streets. The study estimates that the drug trade is worth up to five billion rand, more than the combined estimated criminal receipts from prostitution, sale of stolen goods and illegal gambling.

According to this study the drug trade is thought to provoke vast levels of crime. It is also calculated that, to feed their habit, cocaine addicts commit crimes costing millions of rands a year.

One reason for the wide spread of drug use, the survey suggested, is that they are getting cheaper. Despite regular seizures by police, top prices for cocaine have fallen in the past two years, the study said. Marijuana is fetching at most R50 an 'arm' compared to R70 in 1993.

Better news is that in the North West drug use is said to have been declining among teenagers since 1994. However more teenagers are trying drugs in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu-Natal, the study said.

It found that 49 per cent of those aged between 16 and 24 had used drugs, and almost one in five had used drugs in the month before they were asked.

Picture: George Mashini/standing job of educating and nurturing the children in your care, there are some children who will remain innately curious about alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. They are going to find out a lot about drugs from unreliable sources," said Nkosi.

His final warning: "Be sure to talk to your children about drugs before their friends do."

# Cape Town teenagers most likely to take drugs

AR 2/8/99

(87)

## Many blame 'peer pressure'

**Teenagers in Cape Town experience more peer pressure and are offered hard drugs more often on social occasions than in other areas in the country, a survey has found.**

Research Surveys found Cape Town teenagers were also more likely to know of friends who experimented with drugs.

Durbanites appeared to be less fearful of the consequences of using drugs, and were less likely to see dagga as an addictive substance.

Researchers said respondents were between 12 and 19 years old. Half were boys and half girls.

The sample was drawn from major metropolitan areas and was representative of the white and black urban, teenage population in terms of size and distribution.

Overall, more than one in five respondents claimed that some of their friends had experimented with drugs," one researcher said.

"More white (38%) than black (18%) respondents made this claim."

Results were skewed towards teenagers from Cape Town, of whom 39% claimed to be aware of friends who had experimented with drugs, compared with 24% in Gauteng, 16% in Durban and 13% in East London, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein.

Researchers said more than a third of the respondents felt peer pressure was the main reason for trying drugs.

White and black respondents felt equally pressurised by peers when it came to experimenting with drugs.

More Capetonians (59%) felt peer pressure played a large part in encouraging experiments with drugs than teenagers from other parts of South Africa.

Cape Town again topped the list when it came to the accessibility of drugs. Many teenager claimed "rave" parties were the easiest source. - Sapa

# Dogs to sniff out drugs at schools

Government plan to smash the spiralling scourge among children  
*ST (fm) 8/8/99*  
*(52)(87)*

WETTE VAN BREDA

**T**HE government is planning to smash the scourge of drug abuse by schoolchildren in the wake of damning research which shows that teenagers are increasingly turning to drugs in the Western Cape.

In a national first, the provincial education department is to send sniffer dogs into schools. They also plan to increase the use of surveillance cameras which have already been effective in rooting out drugs at some schools.

Neighbourhood watches, police community forums and peer counsellor training for older students, are also being used to combat drug use.

The drastic steps come in the wake of statistics released this week which show that drug abuse is rife among Cape Town teenagers.

Figures show local teens are the most susceptible to peer pressure when it comes to taking drugs. Capetonians between the ages of 12 and 19 are more likely to be offered drugs than their national counterparts. And they are more likely to



**SCHOLAR PATROL:** Sniffer dog Flash, a border collie, gets to know the pupils at one of the schools at which canines will be used to root out drugs

Picture: DAVID BLOOMER

have friends who have experimented with drugs.

The survey found that 39 percent of Capetonians questioned claimed to have friends who took drugs, compared to Gauteng's 24 percent, Durban's 16 and 13 in East London.

Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein.

Now, the Education Department's Safer Schools Project has embarked on a 40-school pilot project in Mitchell's Plain in conjunction with security companies. If successful, it will be used in problem schools

across the peninsula and eventually the country.

Project Programme manager Eugene Daniels said the dogs would be used as a means of detection and deterrent rather than to criminalise pupils. The dogs would operate in

conjunction with other strategies, such as the hidden cameras.

He said neighbourhood watches supplied intelligence to school authorities on drugs, and police community forums were playing an increasing role.

A programme in which senior students were trained to counsel their peers had proved successful, Daniels said.

Schools also ran the usual drug awareness programmes.

Hard drugs like crack cocaine, ecstasy and heroin were being sold in schools, but alcohol and dagga remained the biggest problems, said Daniels.

This week Cape Metro watched as Flash, a border collie, sniffed out a package of dagga which had been confiscated from a primary school child and placed in a safe in the principal's office.

Imperial Primary School principal Colin Barron said the governing body of his school had agreed to run the programme there because of the "drug scourge".

"I've confiscated drugs from pupils in the past and it does not help having drug dealers living in the area," said Barron.

Drug surveys show SA youths spend R22-million a year on dagga, mandrax, cocaine and increasingly heroin, often at schools.

The Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre, which treats 700 new patients a year, says 40 percent of those they help are teenagers.

Research showed that 87 percent started taking drugs before the age of 20.

# Dagga debate smokings again

of 18/8/99 (87)

**JUDITH SOAL**  
HEALTH WRITER

LEGALISING dagga for medicinal purposes in South Africa would provide relief to millions of people who are unable to afford conventional treatments, Valkenberg Hospital professor emeritus Frances Ames said yesterday.

Ames, a long-time campaigner for the de-criminalisation of dagga, told a meeting at the hospital yesterday that the banning of the drug was "crazy".

"In a country where 80% of the people do not have medical aid, where we produce such high quality dagga, it is absurd not to make use of it for the multiple medical purposes (for which) we know it is effective."

Ames said she had applied to former health minister Nkosazana Zuma for permission to prescribe dagga to some of her patients, but had been refused.

Zuma's reply to Ames' request

read: "South Africa is a signatory to an international drug treaty which places an obligation on parties to limit the use of drugs ... an authorisation as requested in your letter cannot be granted as this would have adverse political consequences for South Africa."

She recommended that Ames prescribe one of the synthetic drugs based on TCH (tetrahydrocannabinol), one of the psychoactive ingredients in dagga, instead.

"But these drugs are expensive," said Ames. "I have a patient with multiple sclerosis who takes dagga to relieve his muscle spasms and pain. The synthetic version would cost him R1 000 a month. Instead he just grows it in his back garden."

Ames said dagga could also be used to:

- Alleviate the nausea and vomiting associated with radiotherapy for cancer patients.
- Treat people with HIV-Aids.

- Relieve the symptoms of epilepsy.

- Treat glaucoma, which can cause blindness.

- Treat asthma.

- Help people with anorexia nervosa gain weight.

- Relieve pain, with none of the side effects of drugs like morphine.

- Fight infection; as a powerful anti-bacterial agent.

The de-criminalisation of dagga for medicinal use has become a serious topic of debate in the US, with certain states voting to allow patients with serious diseases like HIV-Aids, cancer and migraine, to take the drug legally.

"Even the US Drug Enforcement Agency has admitted that cannabis is the safest therapeutically active substance that we have," Ames said. She said criminalising dagga while condoning the widespread use of alcohol, with all its associated health problems, was hypocritical.



# Drugs-at-schools epidemic grows

## 12-year-old boy caught with dagga in Table View

JASLINA VILJOEN

A 12-year-old boy was caught with dagga at his primary school in respectable middle-class Table View this week. He was arrested and appeared in court and now faces expulsion from school.

Other Cape Town schoolchildren in suburbia have graduated from dagga to harder stuff like LSD, crack, Mandrax, Ecstasy, heroin and cocaine.

Some addicts are as young as 10. They come from affluent and poor areas - the pushers don't discriminate.

Table View police captain Siebie Siebrits is used to dealing with high school pupils on drugs but this is the first time he has seen the arrest of a 12-year-old. He says the police have been aware that primary schools in the area are having drug problems but they have not called in the police - until now.

He said other primary schools should also alert the police so the problem could be tackled head on. The 12-year-old's apprehension was followed by the arrest of a 16-year-old pupil the next day.

Captain Siebrits said the problem had reached outrageous propor-

tions, becoming so bad that school junkies were buying drugs on credit. When they could not pay, merchants would demand the money from shocked parents, he said.

In some cases the pushers threatened to kidnap members of the family if the parents did not pay. In one incident parents had to flee their home because they did not have the cash to pay their child's drug debts.

Grant Jardine of the Cape Town Drug Rehabilitation Centre said this was not surprising because drug abusers were becoming younger and drug addiction among the youth had reached crisis proportions in the Western Cape.

About 13% of addicts coming to the centre are between 10 and 13 and 74% are in their teens. He said what used to be a problem in high schools was fast becoming a problem in primary schools as well. There wasn't a high school in the Peninsula not affected by the problem, he said.

Mr Jardine believes a vigorous drug awareness campaign in schools is needed. He said when people started taking drugs at a very young age, the chances of addiction were high and recovery difficult.

Mr Jardine, who heads the centre's youth outreach unit, said

because Cape Town was a major port and popular on the global rave circuit. It was fast becoming the country's "teen drug capital".

Earlier this year the University of Cape Town and the Medical Research Council conducted a survey among Grade 8 and Grade 11 pupils in 39 state schools in Cape Town. They found youths were spending R22-million a year on dagga, cigarettes and alcohol, most of it on dagga and alcohol.

Mr Jardine said youths started with cigarettes and alcohol and moved on to dagga, Mandrax, heroin, Ecstasy and crack-cocaine. The type of drug used depended on the user's economic background.

Dagga and Mandrax are extremely popular and crack-cocaine is gaining popularity on the Cape Flats and in black townships. In upmarket areas Ecstasy, heroin and cocaine are popular.

He said if the trend of abuse continued, the province would enter the new millennium with thousands of teenage addicts, with serious social and economic consequences.

Hennie Marais, head of the city's police narcotics unit, said youths had easy access to drugs in Cape Town - it could be found everywhere

by the schoolgoing population.

Superintendent Marais said dagga and Mandrax were fairly affordable, with dagga selling at R2 a packet and Mandrax at R35 a tablet. Ecstasy sold at R80 a tablet, crack between R60 and R80 depending on the amount and the going price of cocaine was R250 a gram.

He said the narcotics unit worked hard to seize drugs before they reached the streets, but the high demand created a problem.

The demand could be reduced only by educating children about the dangers of abuse. His unit was involved in drug awareness programmes at schools but this was not enough, he said.

A spokesman for the Western Cape Education Department said an awareness programme had been incorporated in the new Curriculum 2005 education programme. He pointed out that pupils were also becoming addicted to cough mixtures and diet pills.

Twenty-five teachers have been trained to identify pupils with drug problems and refer them to expert centres. The department is also working towards an integrated approach to the problem with other branches of government.

ARU 4/9/99 (87)

## Elite school plans to test for drugs

JANET HEARD (87)

ST 19/9/99

ONE of South Africa's most prestigious boys' schools has asked parents for permission to conduct random drug tests on pupils.

From next term, Cape Town's Diocesan College (Bishops) will do urine tests to detect various drugs such as dagga, mandrax and cocaine.

The alarming rise in teenage substance abuse has become critical at government and private schools countrywide.

The move at Bishops follows Gauteng's St Stithians College, which started random tests this term.

A few other schools — including one Gauteng primary — have embarked on similar measures, and a project is under way at Mitchells Plain, in the Cape, using sniffer dogs.

Narcotics experts have warned that hard drugs are being sold at schools. Also, 15 percent of high school pupils claimed to know dealers operating at schools, according to a report by Cape Town's Research Surveys.

About 90 percent of parents had consented to testing so far, said Bishops principal Clive Watson. Pupils whose parents refused consent would not be tested, he said.

The tests form part of a drug policy designed to help boys resist the temptation of drugs and to make Bishops a drug-free zone, said Watson.

Last year, the school called a drug amnesty and offered confidential counselling to pupils instead of taking disciplinary action.

He stressed that the school did not have a drug problem. "We are just like any other school. The reality is that there are drugs in Cape Town and young people are targeted.

"The main objective is to serve as a deterrent; the tests will also assist pupils to resist peer pressure and say no," he said.

Pupils would be tested randomly. If positive, they would undergo rehabilitation. They would face expulsion only if they tested positive again six weeks later.

Where drug trafficking was suspected, police would be alerted.

Cynthia Eloff of Bishops' Parents Association said though the tests raised ethical questions, "they are voluntary and the association supports them".

In spite of known health risks, young people still regard smoking as sophisticated, writes **Chené Bignaut**

# SsssSmoking! SA's cool youth continue to light up

It is 9pm on a Wednesday and a popular city pub is filling up fast with funky teenagers and young people out for a night of fun. At a table near the door a group of trendy young women are engaged in lively conversation. Their excited comments and laughter are punctuated by long drags from their cigarettes. A thick haze of smoke fills the bar and at least one packet of cigarettes forms the centrepiece among the keys, cellphones and purses on every table.

In spite of the health risks and new anti-smoking laws, the youngsters still regard smoking as "cool" and sophisticated. The prevalence of smoking among South Africa's youth is one of the reasons behind the anti-smoking regulations proposed in the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act. The public have three months to comment on the controversial regulations, which were published at the beginning of the month. In terms of the proposals 75% of public places, including bars, restaurants, offices, hotels and schools will have to be smoke-free. The time for smoking in a non-smoking area will be R200.

A reduction in the tar content in some cigarettes and a clampdown on cigarette advertisements and sponsorships are also proposed. According to Medical Research Council statistics for 1998, 24% of South African men between 15 and 24 smoke, compared with 5,6% of women in the same age group. Although teenage boys tend to smoke more than girls, young coloured women smoke as much as their male counterparts, according to Krisela Steyn, leader of the council's chronic diseases of lifestyle programme. Another cause for concern was the sharp increase in smoking among urbanised African women, she said. Although adult smoking rates had dropped since the introduction of compulsory risk warnings on cigarette packets and advertisements, young smokers appeared more resistant to the measures.

Dr Steyn blamed peer pressure and continued exposure to adverts glamorising smoking for the unresponsiveness of the youth market. "And once they start, they are hooked. Nicotine is the most addictive substance known to man," said Dr Steyn. Young people were also not content with sick people suffering from lung cancer and other smoking-related illnesses, she said. "No one around them is dying yet." This was borne out by health psychologist Helgo Schomer, who said: "Smoking is seen as a sign of adult-

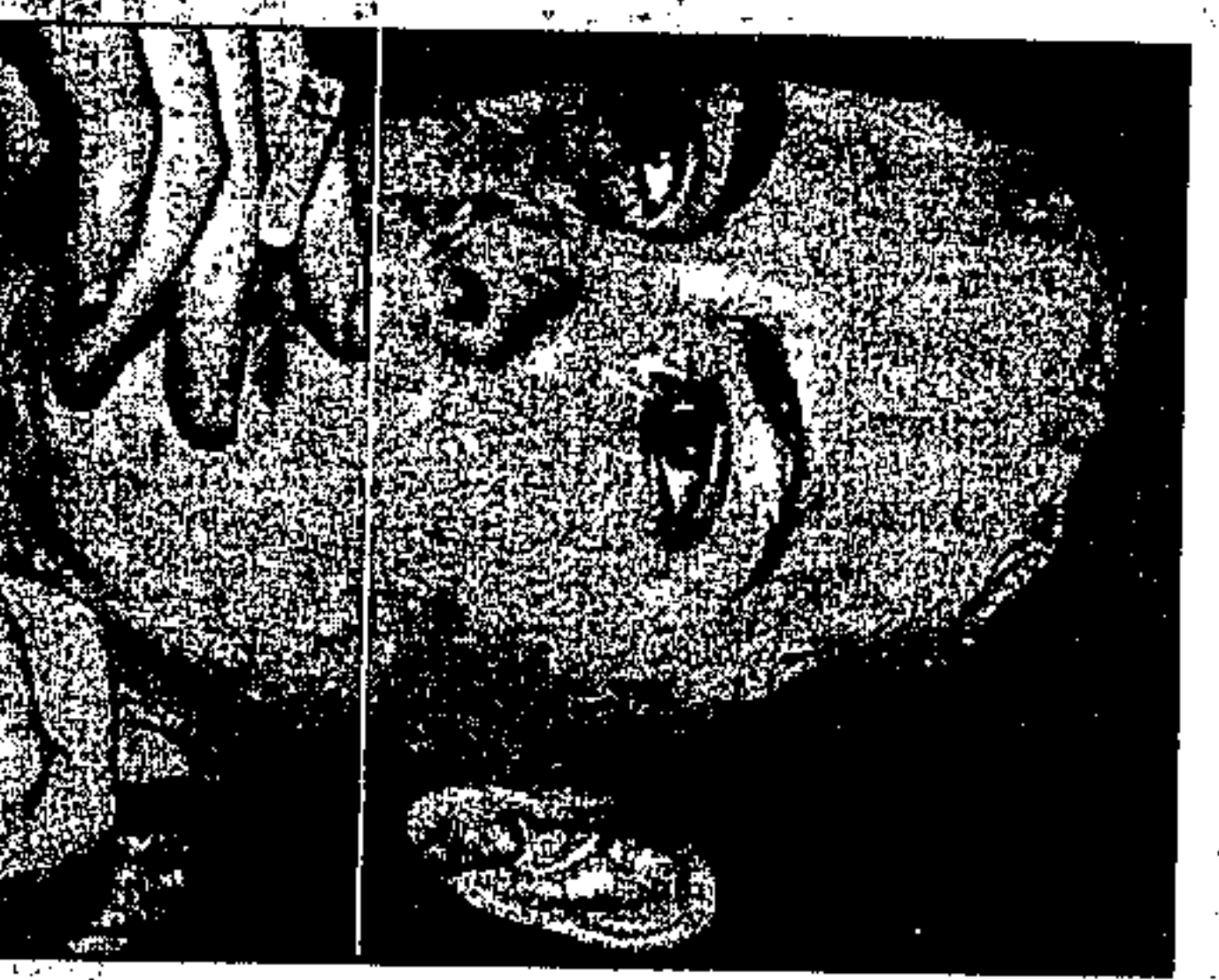
hood. Teenagers can pretend they are not children anymore by flouting adulthood. In the form of a cigarette." Dr Schomer said cigarettes were still seen as a symbol for "so many good things", including sophistication, happiness, adulthood, sex appeal and success. "Smoking is an acceptable coping mechanism, which is reinforced by society." Adverts portraying cool and sexy young men and women were the main culprits, followed closely by peer pressure. The reasons people became hooked included a physical addiction comparable to heroin, combined with a powerful physiological and mood addiction. "A cigarette can change your mood in seven seconds. It is a very powerful way to calm people down through a few small, quick hits or heightened concentration through slow, long drags." Smoking was a "socially acceptable calming ritual" and represented a "temporary hit of happiness". Another problem was that smoking was associated with many social events. "Try to find a smoke-free jazz club in Cape Town. It's impossible." Both doctors said they believed a ban on cigarette adverts would help prevent young people from smoking. "If fact we need to go further than that and promote advertisements of prominent sports people and heroes

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who speak out against smoking." Dr Schomer said public attitudes towards smoking were definitely becoming more negative and more non-smokers were becoming aware of and vocal about their rights. "However, we as non-smokers should make it clear that we don't hate smokers, we just hate their habit. The person is not evil, only the habit," he said. The tough proposals have provoked a fight between health authorities and the tobacco companies, who call the measures "draconian" and unconstitutional. The hospitality industry has also complained that if implemented the measures could hurt business. But the National Council Against Smoking counters their arguments, saying the regulations follow World Health Organisation guidelines and are consistent with laws in other countries such as Australia, New Zealand, France and Sweden. The council argues that the regulations will not be an imposition on restaurants. "On the contrary, the fact that they ignore the requirements of 75% of their potential customers has caused the need to legislate. "If restaurants voluntarily created smoke-free spaces, there would be no need for the government to act," the council said in a statement.



**HOOKED:** Cape Town fire fighter Craig van Reenen, 24. My parents smoke so I have been a passive smoker all my life. I'm addicted. Anyway, I inhale smoke all day long; cigarettes are not going to make a difference.



**PEER PRESSURE:** Joaqui, 18, of Cape Town, started smoking three years ago. Everyone else smoked and I wanted to see what it was about. I can't two days without buying a new packet. I'm not addicted.



**UNCOOL:** Andrea Toerien, 22. I have never smoked and sometimes young people get almost angry when I tell them that I don't smoke, or they can't believe it.



**SECURITY:** Stellenbosch student Michael Burgess, 25. I have just come from class and it is the nicest thing to have a cigarette with a beer. It is a behavioural habit!

# Tobacco regulations seen as 'draconian'

(87) (498)

Belinda Anderson

DURBAN stands to lose an annual R800m cash injection if the proposed tobacco advertising regulations come into force early next year.

Sponsored events such as the Rothman's July and Gunston 500 may fall away due to what the lobby groups call a "de facto ban" on tobacco advertising in SA.

"If the regulations went through as they stand, it would dry up all sponsorships by the second quarter next year," said Tobacco Institute CEO Edward Shalala.

Other tobacco sponsored events such as the Grand Prix and Superbike races bring in \$120m through international television rights.

"Tobacco advertisers self regulate by not advertising on television, so their ad-spend is pumped into sponsorships and cinemas.

"Those who do advertise on television will battle to pay for sponsorships as well," said Association of Marketers executive director Derrick Dickens.

The lobby groups, representing the interests of advertisers and the tobacco industry describe the regulations, drawn up to implement the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act, as "draconian" and the impact as "massive".

Radio stations lost R70m last year and the print media lost R176m from the advertising from the industry.

Dickens estimates that 50% of outdoor advertising and 60% of cinema advertising is for tobacco products.

The lobby groups say instead of discouraging smoking, the advertising legislation will stimulate job losses at all levels of the economy.

"Our concern is nobody has thought through the ripple effect this will have on our economy," said Dickens.

Dickens and Shalala say international experience shows the more smoking is discouraged the more young people are likely to smoke. "The biggest selling cigarette brand, Death, demonstrates this," said Dickens.

The draft regulations do not ban tobacco advertising, but restrict it to black and white lettering, of which 30% of the content must contain health warnings. "No marketer with any brains is going to throw money away like that," said Dickens.

Farmers' lobby group Tobacco RSA chairman Francois van der Merwe said the short-term reduction of tar yields might jeopardise the livelihoods of tobacco farmers and their 40 000 workers. Mpumalanga and the Northern Province would be most seriously affected.

Shalala said: "The industry has always supported reasonable tobacco control, but the conditions and time frames are impossible to fulfil. The drafting shows an intention to restrict even the little leeway which parliament has allowed."