



Specialised Security Services



PROJECT:

ILLEGAL CIGARETTE TRADE DURING THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF RESTRICTION

A DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE SELLING OF ILLEGAL CIGARETTES



Cheap and readily available illicit cigarettes are a highly beneficial source of income for criminals, especially during the tobacco ban in South Africa.

It is important to not only blame and arrest the sellers and traders but to pay special attention to certain government officials higher up the chain.

All cigarettes currently sold in South Africa have likely been produced on the black market.

Illegal Cigarettes

Definitions:

1. The illicit cigarette trade: The supply, distribution, and sale of smuggled, genuine, counterfeit or illicit 'white' tobacco products,
 2. Counterfeit cigarettes: Are identical copies of branded products manufactured without the authorisation of the rightful owners,
 3. Illicit white cigarettes: Are produced with the approval of a licensing authority in one country but smuggled and sold in another without duties being paid. (Chelin and Nyoni, 2020)
- The illicit cigarette trade costs South Africa's economy billions of rand annually through lost tax revenue.
 - This trade is associated with high-level corruption, political party funding, and other criminal endeavors.

Dangers of Smoking Illicit Cigarettes

“Unlike legal cigarettes, illicit cigarettes do not adhere to safety standards and can, therefore, contain foreign particles dangerous for an individual’s health.” (De Villiers, 2020)

- Illicit cigarettes do not comply with certain manufacturing and safety standards.
- Illicit cigarettes have higher nicotine and tar levels and therefore may be associated with serious and dangerous health risks.
- Illicit cigarette dealers and sellers have been dramatically increasing their prices and therefore this may have a further financial impact on certain individuals.

Dangers of Smoking Cigarettes in General

- Lung damage.
- Heart disease.
- Fertility problems.
- Early menopause.
- Pregnancy complications.
- Risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- A weakened immune system.
- Vision problems.
- Poor oral hygiene.
- Wrinkly skin.
- Stained fingers.
- Risk of developing various types of cancers. (Dresden, 2019)

Benefits of Quitting Smoking

After 20 minutes–12 hours:	Heart rate and carbon monoxide in the blood drops to normal levels
After 1 year	The risk of a heart attack is much lower, coughing, and upper respiratory problems begin to improve.
After 2–5 years	The risk of stroke drops to that of someone who does not smoke.
After 5–15 years	The risk of mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder cancer is reduced by half.
After 10 years	The risk of lung and bladder cancer is half that of someone who currently smokes.
After 15 years	The risk of heart disease is like that of someone who has never smoked. (Dresden, 2019)

**SMOKING MAY CAUSE COVID-19 RELATED
COMPLICATIONS!**

**ALL ILLEGAL TRADING & SELLING OF CIGARETTES CAN
BE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO MIKE BOLHUIS.**

Bibliography

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Regards

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