



SNEAKY EXCISE HIKE IS A BLOW FOR CONSUMERS AND AN EARLY GIFT FOR CRIMINALS

NAIROBI, Tuesday, 9 November, 2021 – GOVERNMENT has stealthily forced up the price of consumer goods this month, presenting an early Christmas gift to criminals in illicit trade as hard-up Kenyans struggle to cope with the soaring cost of living, Stop Crime Kenya (StoCK) warns today.

An inflation-linked excise [increase of 4.97% came into force on November 2](#), despite protests that prevented its scheduled introduction a month ago.

The move by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) spells further bad news for consumers reeling from recent record fuel prices.

Stephen Mutoro, chairman of StoCK, said today: “Struggling Kenyans thought they had dodged this bullet when the [High Court stopped the KRA’s plan to hike taxes on 31 goods](#), including beer, fuel, bottled water and juice.

“But it has been pushed through on the quiet with little comment from politicians who are busy seeking our votes on the election trail.

“The increase now affects all excisable goods except fuel. It’s discriminatory and has not even been gazetted or tabled in Parliament for discussion and public participation.”

As a result of the increases, consumers will pay Sh5.77 more for a litre of beer while prices for spirits will rise by up to Sh13.20.

Duty on chocolate will increase by Sh10.43 per kg, the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes will rise by Sh3.29 and the duty on bottle water will go up from Sh5.74 to Sh6.03 per litre.

“Kenya’s high taxes are already to blame for the smuggling of a range of goods from neighbouring countries where rates are dramatically lower,” said Mr Mutoro.

“For instance, cigarettes are 25% more expensive in Kenya than Uganda and a bottle of beer is twice the price.

“The upcoming increases will widen the gap further and boost the profit margins of criminals involved in illicit trade, while stretching the resources of honest, hard-working citizens.

“It makes neither economic nor moral sense to take money from the people without stepping up measures to tackle the illicit economy, which robs us of Sh153 billion in tax revenue annually.”

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