

# Tobacco industry commits to working with Sars

The fight against illicit trade in cigarettes and other tobacco products has received a boost with the South African Revenue Service (Sars), Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa (Tisa) and the Fair-trade Independent Tobacco Association (Fita) agreeing to work together.



Mark Kingon, Sars acting commissioner

“Fita and Tisa, which represent approximately 99% of the tobacco industry, have committed to taking action against any of their members that are found to be contravening the tax, customs and excise laws of the country, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion,” said Sars after the meeting.

The two associations also committed to ensuring that their members fully comply with the relevant legislation at all times.

Members, who may be in contravention of the laws, were also encouraged to take corrective action through the available avenues, including making full disclosure to Sars.

At the meeting, all parties acknowledged their shared responsibility in combatting illicit trade in cigarette and tobacco products, in the best interest of economic growth and compliance with tax, customs and excise laws.

Acting Sars commissioner, Mark Kingon, expressed his appreciation to both parties for their commitment towards improving compliance in the industry.

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