



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate release
Date: 25 January 2021

Enquiries: Doctors For Life Int.
Telephone: 032 481 5550

Medical Professionals Applaud ANC's Decision on Stricter Regulations Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse

As medical professionals, we bear witness to the destruction and violence alcohol and substance abuse inflicts on both the user of it and the victims. We have to break the terrible news to families who lose a breadwinner because of drunk driving, we have to treat the women and children who are abused by a person drunk on alcohol or intoxicated by other substances. We have to try and help parents with their drug addicted teens who are destroying their future and brilliant minds as heart-broken parents feel helpless and can do nothing but watch it all play out. We see the young people of South Africa being ravaged and their lives ending sooner than necessary because of drunk driving and drug abuse. We as medical professionals see this and try our best to pick the pieces on a daily basis.

For these reasons, we give the ANC government a standing ovation for zooming in on the heart of our nation's problem. According to *BusinessTech*, President Cyril Ramaphosa has decided to combat high rates of crime and violence by reviewing regulations to reduce alcohol and substance abuse which has shown to be major contributions to the perpetration of violence, trauma, reckless behaviour as well as being a burden on the Health System of South Africa. The government plans to achieve this by implementing: 1) Increasing the drinking age to 21 years, 2) Introducing 100-metre radius limitation of trade around educational institutions etc. 3) Banning alcohol sales and advertising on social and small media. 4) Introducing new liability clause for alcohol-sellers, 5) And remove any trace of alcohol in the blood for drivers on public roads. Currently the National Road Traffic Act currently enables those who have consumed alcohol to get behind the wheel provided they are under the blood alcohol limit.

As medical professionals we would like to compliment and support the President in this move and thank him for taking a stand against the factors that cause harm to our nation.

Original article:

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/459770/south-africa-to-look-at-stricter-alcohol-laws-heres-what-you-should-know/>

Copy of this press release: