



The process towards approving a comprehensive tobacco control legislation: the case of Suriname.

Ministry of Health Suriname

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Purpose of the tobacco law

- To protect current and future generations from the effects of tobacco consumption and to **reduce tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.**

Key components of the tobacco law

- Measures proved highly effective in reducing tobacco consumption and have health benefits

Tobacco Law SB 2013 no 39

- **Smoking ban in indoor public places**
- **Tobacco advertising ban**
- **A ban on the sale of tobacco products to minors**
- **A ban vending machine and a ban on importation and distribution of electronic cigarettes**
- **Pictorial health warnings required on packaging**
- **The development, implementation, and monitoring a national tobacco control strategic plan**
- **Promote research and epidemiological surveillance of tobacco use**
- **Promote intersectoral collaboration for legislation implementation**
- **Compliance and enforcement regulations**
- **Strict penalties for non-compliance**
- **Allows for the development of future regulations to ensure full implementation of the law**

Legislation Timeline 2004-2013

- **Suriname signed the FCTC on June 24, 2004**
- **Suriname ratifies the FCTC on December 16, 2008**
- **World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2012 includes over 5,000 supporters**
- **The National Assembly passes comprehensive, smoke-free legislation unanimously on February 7, 2013**



Legislation Timeline, cont'd

- **President Bouterse signs legislation on February 20, 2013**
- **The smoke-free legislation goes into effect on June 7, 2013**
- **Implementation, enforcement, and monitoring & evaluation efforts are ongoing**



Legislation Context

- **Worldwide FCTC implementation with model case studies in the region**
- **Support of key decision makers throughout the policy process**
- **National legislation developed and refined through intersectoral input**

Important steps before the Passing since signing in 2004

- Activities taken place in the area of:
 - Leadership (signing; ratification)
 - Data to action: tax increase on tobacco & tobacco products (2006)
 - Research: Global Youth Tobacco Survey/Global School Health Survey/ AQM
 - Capacity building: Legislators / Law students
 - Advocacy/coalition building: Parliamentary Briefing/ Fact sheets

Important steps before the Passing

- **Dec 2011: draft Tobacco Law sent for approval to Council of Ministers**
- **May 2012: State Council received final version of MoH**
- **Oct 2012: Approval State Council**
- **Nov 2012: Submitted to Parliament**
- **Nov 2012: Commission of Rapporteurs installed**
- **15 Jan 2013: On agenda of Parliament**
- **15 Jan 2013: amendment version of Tobacco law submitted to Parliament**
- **16 Jan 2013: Parliament closed session to discuss situation**



Important steps before the Passing

- **During deliberations at Parliament:**
 - **Teleconferences with PAHO Regional Tobacco Control and NCDs to provide technical support**
 - **Building coalition in Parliament by providing data on studies**
 - **Public awareness activities**



Results/Achievements

- The legislation is designed to protect vulnerable populations
 - Children
 - Pregnant Women
 - Employees
 - Residents in the Interior
- Anecdotal evidence of socialization



Key Elements of Success

- **The political will of key decision makers**
 - **Members of the National Assembly**
 - **President Desi Bouterse**
- **Regional countries are models for successful implementation of the FCTC guidelines**
 - **Intersectoral approach (different line Ministries)**
 - **Advocacy, education and building coalition with strategic partners > Network of interdisciplinary partnerships**

Lessons learned and challenges

- Be aware and prepared that the industry might obstruct the development of the law and or the passing of the legislation.
- Evidence on your tobacco control situation is crucial: Make sure you have good data at hand to push when your parliament needs it.
- Never go alone as Ministry of Health; a health sector shouldn't act alone. It's important to have a common goal with other sectors involved
- Learn from other countries to build strong laws.

Lessons learned and challenges

- Continue education of policymakers and the society that tobacco use is not just a health issue
 - but also a development
 - human right and
 - an environmental issue

Lessons learned and challenges

- Keep building on the momentum created from one successful initiative to address other policy issues.

Project Partners & Donors

- Ministry of Health
- PAHO
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Environment
- Members of the National Assembly
- Sports Groups
- Youth organizations
- District Commissioners and District Councils
- Informal Transportation Organizations (bus and taxi drivers)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Anton de Kom University, Law Department for legislation consultation

2013



No. 39

**STAATSBLAD
VAN DE
REPUBLIEK SURINAME**

**WET van 20 februari 2013, houdende regels ter beperking van het gebruik van
tabak en tabaksproducten (Tabakswet)**

[http://www.dna.sr/media/82287/S.B. 2013 no. 39 Wet van 20 2 13
TABAKSWET .pdf](http://www.dna.sr/media/82287/S.B._2013_no._39_Wet_van_20_2_13_TABAKSWET_.pdf)

Thank you!

Bedankt!