

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The deadline for the Public Submission Process on vapour products regulations is now closed.

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

[Pretoria, South Africa] – The 4th of September 2023 marks the last day for stakeholders to make written submissions on the Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill published for comment on 25 June 2023 by Parliament. The Bill seeks to repeal the Tobacco Products Control Act 83, 1993, and extends amended tobacco regulations to Electronic Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems (vaping). This includes control over outdoor vaping, indoor vaping, a ban on display of vaping products, bans on advertising, marketing, and customer communication. The Bill also gives the Minister the power to introduce further regulations, including flavour bans.

Over the past two months, stakeholders from across the vaping industry, consumers and public health experts have made extensive submissions on the Bill. The overwhelming response demonstrates a collective commitment to tobacco harm reduction and upholding human rights while addressing concerns about youth vaping.

The Vapour Products Association of South Africa is grateful to all stakeholders and interested parties who have thus far made submissions on the Bill. “We believe that the extensive submissions made by all stakeholders in support of tobacco harm reduction will play a key role in shaping a comprehensive regulatory framework for vaping products in South Africa,” says Asanda Gcoyi, CEO of VPASA.

There is no doubt that South Africa needs clear, fair, and scientifically grounded regulations for vaping products. The industry requires a balanced approach that ensures accessibility for adult smokers seeking alternatives while keeping the youth from accessing these products. Striking an appropriate balance between regulation and innovation is crucial in effectively achieving public health priorities and goals for South Africa.

The industry remains committed to collaborating with the South African government towards an evidence-based regulatory framework when it comes to tobacco harm reduction matters.

All interested parties including the vaping community are urged to stay engaged throughout this process by regularly visiting the [VPASA website](#) and the social media channels for updates regarding further developments on the Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill. This includes information about the next steps regarding all submissions received during this period. This will help finalize the regulations that will govern the vaping industry moving forward, concluded Asanda Gcoyi.

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