GLOBAL ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE OCTOBER

The Global Alcohol Policy Conference (GAPC2023), "Investing in People before Profits: Building Momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control," will be held from 24 - 26 October 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Media Release

Global Alcohol Policy Conference [#GAPC2023] welcomes Mr Filomeno S. Sta Ana III to South Africa

17 April 2023

Cape Town: The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) and its co-sponsors are pleased to announce that Mr Filomeno S. Sta Ana III will be a speaker at the upcoming 7th global alcohol policy bi-annual conference which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24 – 26 October 2023.

Filomeno S. Sta. Ana III is the executive director and co-founder of Action for Economic Reforms (AER). AER is a Philippine policy research, analysis and advocacy organisation focusing on key economic or development issues. One of its singular achievements is being the lead civil society organisation that has partnered with the government for the passage of sin (health) taxes, particularly alcohol and tobacco. The Philippines has been considered a global model in securing a series of health tax reforms.

Further, he is an officer or adviser of several civil society organisations in the Philippines and in the Southeast Asian region. Mr Sta. Ana has written for different publications, including scholarly journals, and has edited several books. He also writes a column for Business World, a leading Philippine business newspaper.

The 7th bi-annual conference is co-hosted by GAPA, the SAMRC, and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA). It is co-sponsored by the Department of Social

Development (DSD), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the DG Murray Trust and SA National Convention Bureau (SA Tourism). The bi-annual conference theme is *"Investing in People before Profits: building momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control"*.

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For more information contact: Mr Julian A. Jacobs on 061 917 9661 (#GAPC2023: Media Liaison)

*Conference website: https://gapc2023.samrc.ac.za/index.html

Note to News desks:

GAPC Co-hosts

1. Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) [Co-Host]

It is a network of non-governmental organisations and people working in public health agencies and researchers in academic and other institutions who share information on alcohol issues and advocate evidence-based alcohol policies, free from commercial interests. Regional and national alliances affiliated with GAPA operate in Africa (Southern Africa, East Africa, and West Africa), the European Union, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, the USA, and Western Pacific regions. The bi-annual GAPA conference is the leading forum for the world's alcohol policy makers, advocates, researchers, civil society activists and practitioners. - https://globalgapa.org/

2. SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) [Co-Host]

The SAMRC was established in 1969 with a mandate to improve the health of the country's population, through research, development, and technology transfer, so that people can enjoy a better quality of life. The scope of the organisation's research projects includes tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases, gender and health, and alcohol and other drug abuse. https://www.samrc.ac.za/

3. Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) [Co-Host]

SAAPA was established in 2012 as a platform for civil society organisations in the Southern African region to share resources and experiences in the lobby for evidence-based alcohol policy that promotes the well-being of citizens. https://saapa.africa/

GAPC Sponsors:

1. **Department of Social Development [Sponsor]**

Management and oversight over social security, encompassing social assistance and social insurance policies that aim to prevent and alleviate poverty in the event of life cycle risks such as loss of income due to unemployment, disability, old age, or death occurring. Developmental social welfare services that provide support to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and the impact of HIV and AIDS through sustainable development programmes in partnership with implementing agents such as State-funded institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs). - https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php

2. **National Research Foundation [Sponsor]**

The NRF is an independent statutory body established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No 23 of 1998), following a system-wide review conducted for the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST). The NRF promotes South African research and innovation interests across the country and internationally, and together with research institutions, businesses, industry, and international partners, we build bridges between research communities for mutual benefit that contributes to National Development. - https://www.nrf.ac.za/about-us/

3. **SA National Convention Bureau (SANCB) [Sponsor]**

The SANCB is a 'one-stop solution' for independent information and assistance, giving neutral advice on all aspects of hosting and organising any business event in South Africa. - https://www.southafrica.net/za/en/

4. **DG Murray Trust [Sponsor]**

The DG Murray Trust (DGMT) is a public innovator that aims to develop South Africa's potential through strategic investment. Together with other funders, NGOs, and government, DGMT studies and supports work being done in the critical areas of early childhood development (ECD), youth unemployment, school dropout and education quality, as well as innovation in the civil sector. As such, our team is well-placed to share critical insights or provide comments on a range of issues in these areas – or if we are unable to, connect the press to people in our network who can. - https://dgmt.co.za/

5. The Department of Health (DOH) [Sponsor]

The Department of Health's vision is for all South Africans to have a long and healthy life. Its mission relates to improving citizens' health status through the prevention of illnesses and the promotion of healthy lifestyles and to consistently improve the healthcare delivery system by focusing on access, equity, efficiency, quality, and sustainability. - https://www.health.gov.za/