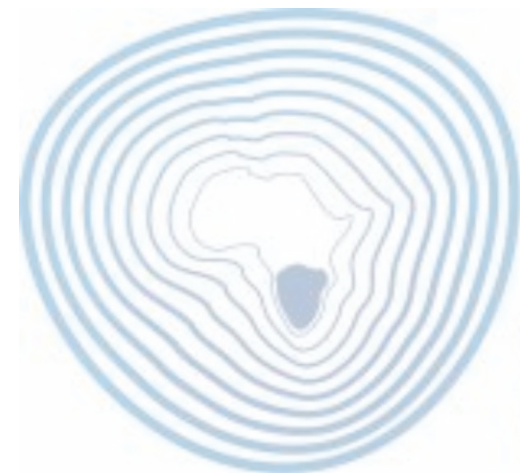


GLOBAL ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE 2023

TOPIC : The Impact of Changes In Political Leadership
On Alcohol Policy: The Case Of Botswana



Southern African
Alcohol Policy Alliance

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PRESENTED BY: MR JERRY MOLOKO
SAAPA BOTSWANA

Introduction

Botswana

- Constitutional democratic state
- Gained independence in 1966 and has held successful elections since
- Upper middle income country (17.6 billion GDP)
- Diamonds mining is the major revenue generator
- Good reputation for progressive policies and legislation



Botswana Policy Status

- Alcohol Trade is regulated by **Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry** through the **Liquor Act of 2003**.
- The **Ministry of Health and Wellness** is responsible for the **National Alcohol Policy** which seeks to *manage and reduce alcohol related harm*.



Political Leadership Influence on Alcohol Policy

- **Pre independence era:** alcohol was mainly used during traditional ceremonies and celebrations. Got commercialized when colonizers arrived. Regulation was by Traditional leadership by decree.
- **Sir Seretse Khama:** set up the new government post 1966 and develop a strong policy framework for economy and social development
- **Sir Ketumile Masire:** became known for his exceptional contribution peace and liberation all across the African region at national level he introduced strong Agricultural Programs.

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Advocated for enforcement of by-laws cont'

- **Festus Mogae:** Help the country through a tough era of HIV/AIDS. The Liquor trading act of 2003 was conceived during his rule
- **Gen Ian Khama:** Critic of alcohol abuse and related harm. Advocated for enforcement of by-laws. Introduced the Alcohol policy and set up the Alcohol Levy Fund.
- **Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi:** Increased trading hours and reduced alcohol levy by 30%. Lifted ban on alcohol sponsorship and marketing in sports. Now considering review the Liquor act with aim to facilitate business.

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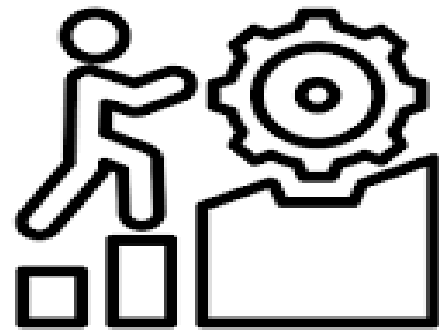
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Problem Analysis

- Among the most unequal societies in the world (9th Gini Coefficient: 2020 UNDP Study on Inequality in Botswana)
- High levels of poverty and youth unemployment
- Shortage of medicines, doctors and medical infrastructure
- According to the WHO Alcohol status report of 2012: Botswana had an alcohol per capita consumption of 8.4 litres of pure alcohol for people aged 15+ years. This is above 6.3 litres of pure alcohol average of the WHO African Region.
- Also characterizes Botswana as a country with a drinking problem with a prevalence of heavy episodic drinking of 19.0 % for people drinking alcohol aged 15+ years and 12.4% for people drinking alcohol aged between 15 and 19 years.

Challenges



- Poor coordination, monitoring and enforcement
- Inconsistent position of government on (i.e each ministry has its position which can change from time to time based on convenience)
- There is no policy or law to regulate 1. Number of alcohol selling spots in an area and 2. Alcohol marketing
- Growing alcohol related social ill e.g number of rape cases and GBV where Botswana is rated among the top in the world.



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