

The Department supports the Tobacco Control Board in the recent regularising of the Tobacco Control Act, 2007 by the government. The act has now been put in an implementable form through The Tobacco Control Regulations, 2014 and comes into effect six months from date of publication of the gazette notice.

The detrimental effects of tobacco on humans as well as the environment have been realised for a long time especially its effects on non communicable diseases.

The tobacco Control Board is chaired by Professor Peter A. Odhiambo for the Department of Surgery. He has been a strong proponent for the Tobacco Control Board and has worked closely with the department throughout his tenure as chairman of the Board.

The department acknowledges partners in this effort who include the University of Nairobi, the Kenya Cardiac Society and the Ministry of Health.

Key areas the act will address include clearly defines action plans for;

- Packaging including the inclusion of appropriately placed health warning messages on cigarette packages. These are to be explicit, in a local language, on prominent locations and not obscured in any fashion. A clear audit trail of all tobacco products imported and manufactured locally with their chemical composition and tobacco content clearly defined.
- Protection against exposure of non smokers as well as other smokers. This will include prohibition of smoking in private vehicles and public places. The location and regulation of designated smoking areas will also come under regulation in the act.
- Tobacco industry interactions with public and public officers is proposed to be limited to prevent undue interference from industry.
- Setting up a tobacco Control fund to assist in compensation cases should these arise.
- Modalities of enforcement are also included as well as miscellaneous issues