



## THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

---

### MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release  
26 January 2012**

#### **Over 250,000 illegal cigarettes recovered in Newcastle**

Authorities from the South African Police Service (SAPS) recovered more than 250,000 illegal cigarettes from a reseller in the Newcastle (KZN) area on 16 January 2012. The illegal “Dullahs” cigarettes were confiscated after a routine raid by SAPS officials. One suspect has been arrested.

The bust comes only days after authorities discovered illegal cigarettes to the value of R160,000 hidden in washing powder boxes at another store in Newcastle.

“We commend the work being done by SAPS, SARS and the Hawks in addressing the illegal trade in cigarettes,” says Francois van der Merwe, CEO of the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa (TISA). “During 2011, around 1,2 billion illegal cigarettes were seized through over 7000 interventions by law enforcement officials. In addition, approximately 800 key players in the illicit industry were arrested on charges relating to the smuggling and trade of illegal cigarettes during 2011. The arrests should send a strong warning signal to other illicit traders that no-one is above the law.”

For more information contact:

- SAPS Newcastle

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

##### **Penalties:**

The penalties if a retailer, or reseller, is caught with illicit products and prosecuted under the Customs and Excise Act (evasion of taxes) are: A fine of R20 000 or three times the value of the goods, depending of which one is the greatest; or up to 5 years on prison. A person prosecuted can therefore pay a fine and go to jail.

**How to Spot Illegal Cigarettes:**

- 1) Paying less than R 14.50 for a pack of 20s (suspect price)
- 2) There is no excise stamp on the pack
- 3) The tar and nicotine readings are higher than 12 mg Tar and 1.2 mg respectively
- 4) There are no health warnings on the pack

**For Media Enquiries directed at the tobacco industry, please contact:**

**The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa**

**Chairman and CEO**

**Francois van der Merwe**

**Mobile: 082 891 6252**

**Tel: (021) 421-0011 (office hours Mon-Fri)**

**Ends**