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**GHANA ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

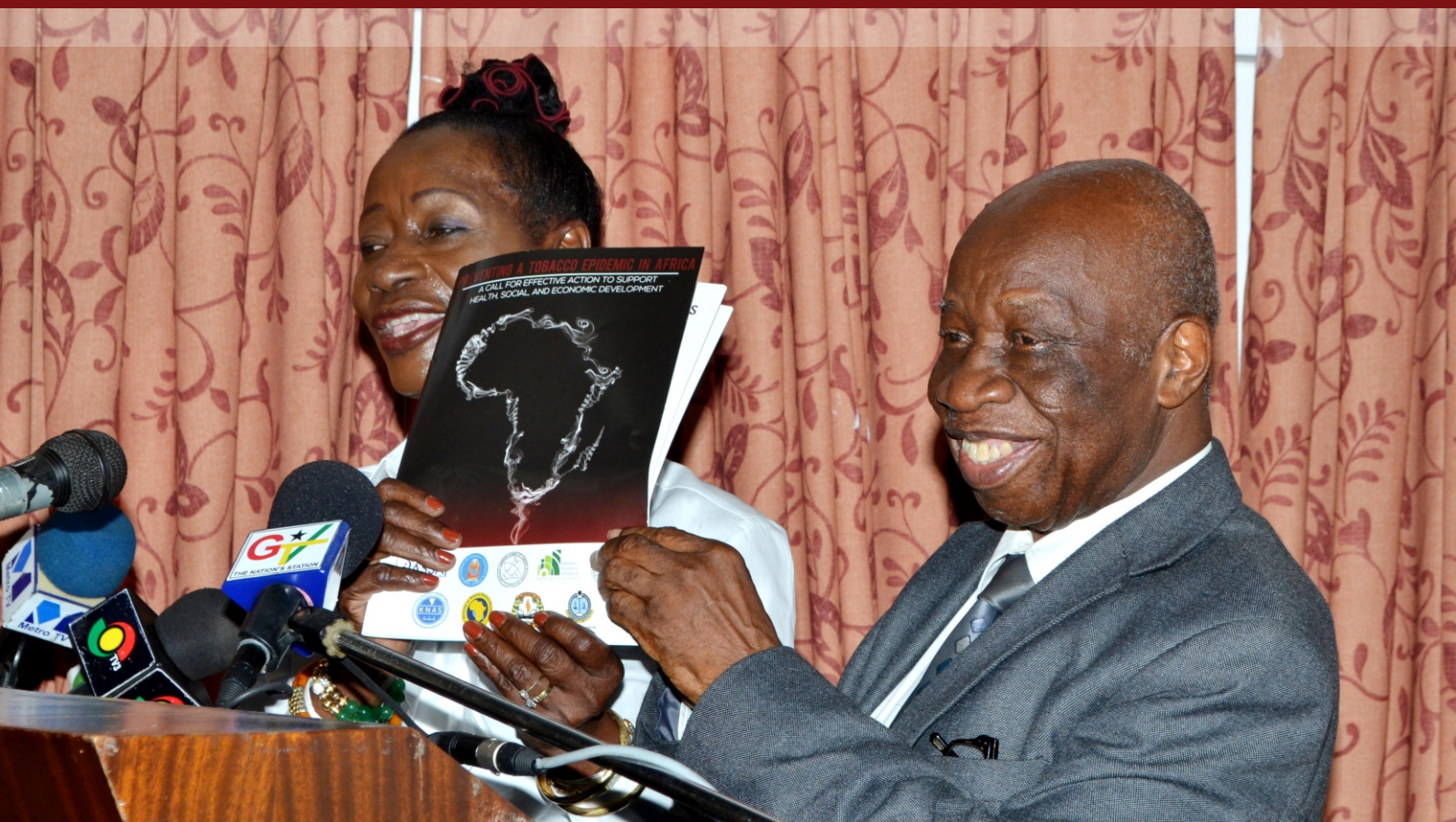


**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
GHANA**

GAAS-MOH

JOINTLY LAUNCH

**WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2014,
AND NASAC TOBACCO CONTROL REPORT**



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The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Ministry of Health have held a joint launch of 'World No Tobacco Day, 2014' and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) 'Preventing a Tobacco Epidemic in Africa' Report at the Science Technology and Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (STEPRI-CSIR) Hall on Saturday 31st May 2014. The theme for the joint launch was 'Raise Taxes on Tobacco'.

Opening the event Prof. Francis K.A. Allotey, President of the Ghana Academy said the Academy was delighted that in line with the 2014 World No Tobacco Day theme, the NASAC Tobacco Control Report, among other recommendations, calls on Governments to adopt effective use of taxation measures, including reform of tax structures if necessary as well as regular tax increase that in turn raises the price of tobacco products thereby reducing demand among the youth and the poor and vulnerable, at least. He said given that the recommendations in the report are a result of the best available evidence on tobacco use,

prevention and control in Africa, the Academy was optimistic that the Ghanaian Government will act swiftly and decisively on the recommendations to avert a tobacco use epidemic before it occurs.

The Honorable Ms Sherry-Hanny Ayittey, Minister of Health delivered the Keynote Address. She noted that as effective taxation reduces demand, the plight of those addicted will need serious consideration. She said the Tobacco Cessation Guidelines under preparation in the Ministry of Health will soon be finalised with the support of the World Health Organisation to be used by the



Hon. Ms Sherry-Hanny Ayittey,
Minister of Health

trained regional and mental hospital teams for cessation support. The required medicines for replacement therapy are under consideration and shall also be made available to the treatment centres. The Minister applauded NASAC for the report and challenged the Ghana Academy to make tobacco control awareness a part of its regular annual programming.

Speaking on behalf of the WHO Representative in Ghana, Dr. Sally-Ann Ohene congratulated the Ghana Academy of Arts And Sciences and the Ministry of Health for the joint launch of World No Tobacco Day 2014 and NASAC's Tobacco Control Report saying it was a step in the right direction and also very timely considering that tobacco use is still a menace confronting the world. She expressed the desire that Government would be bold to implement the recommendations in the NASAC report.



A total of three 30-minute presentations germane to the joint-launch were delivered on the following topics:

- I. The Ban on Smoking in Public Places-What the Law Says;
- II. The State of Control and Usage of Tobacco in Ghana; and
- III. Highlights of the NASAC Tobacco Control Report.

The resource persons who treated the above-listed presentations were:

- I. Mr Labram Musah of the Vision for Alternative Development (VALD)
- II. Dr. S. Kyei-Faried, Deputy Director and Head of Disease Control Programme, Ghana Health Service; and
- III. Dr. Peter Lamptey, a member of the Committee of Experts commissioned by NASAC to put together the Tobacco Control Report.



Mr Labram Musah
Vision for Alternative
Development (VALD)



Dr. S. Kyei-Faried,
Deputy Director and Head of Disease Control
Programme, Ghana Health Service;



Dr. Peter Lamptey
Member of the Committee of
Experts commissioned by NASAC

Among the highlights of particular relevance that the three presenters touched on are the following:

1. In Ghana 9.7% males and 0.4% females aged between 15-49 years use tobacco products
2. Young men are more likely to smoke cigarette than men in their 30s and 40s
3. The prevalence is highest in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions of Ghana
4. Ghana has instituted a comprehensive ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship
5. Illicit trade in tobacco products is still a problem in Ghana
6. Changing determinants of tobacco usage in Sub-Saharan Africa comprise rapid increase in population, increase in disposable income, increased exposure to tobacco and second-hand smoke resulting from rapid urbanisation, aggressive marketing of tobacco and insufficient tobacco control policies
7. As per Act 851 Section 58 smoking in an enclosed or indoor area of a workplace, or in any other public place except in a designated area is proscribed.

Over 150 persons drawn from Fellows and Staff of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, Officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, UNICEF, Food and Drugs Authority, Vision for Alternative Development, Public Health Nurses Training School, School of Hygiene, Korle Bu, Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health, Accra Wesley Girls Senior High School and Accra Technical Training Centre participated in the joint-launch event. There were also representatives from the Police Hospital, Ghana Education Service (School Health Education Programme), Ghana Muslim Mission and Aid for Needy Children Foundation.



A Session of Guests in Attendance

Ghana Television, TV3, Multi TV, Metro TV, VIASAT 1, GBC Radio, Radio Gold, Daily Graphic, Public Agenda, New Crusading Guide, Ghanaian Times, and the GNA provided coverage for both electronic and print media.

The Opening and Closing Prayers were said by Mr Francis Davis of the Ghana Health Service. Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi, FGA and Assistant Honorary Secretary (Sciences Section) of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences moderated the 3-hour programme.

In April 2013, NASAC under the auspices of the US-NAS convened a committee of experts to discuss the evidence, obstacles and opportunities for implementing and enforcing tobacco use prevention and control policies in Africa. The Committee consisting of 16 experts drawn from 8 countries in Africa. Their work was funded by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Based on the evidence gathered the committee reached consensus on actions that African leaders and other stakeholders should take to combat the growing tobacco-smoking menace. The report launched outlines strategies that should place tobacco control policy on the African leadership agenda and also challenges civil society to share in the responsibility of protecting those most vulnerable to misleading and deceitful messaging by the tobacco industry.



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