



Wits Faculty of Health Sciences
School of Oral Health Sciences
Department of Community Dentistry

✉ 7 York Road, Parktown
2193, South Africa
☎ +27 11 717-2241
Fax: +27 866461106
e-mail: Mpho.Molete@wits.ac.za

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance


Submission on Proposed Tax on Sugary Drinks

As a specialist in community dentistry and the chair of the PHASA Dental Public Health Special Interest Group I support the SA government in its proposal for the implementation of the sugary drinks tax and strongly advocate for this.

Implementing a sugary drinks tax will not only reduce the number of obese people in the country and address the growing metabolic disease burden but will also have a positive impact on oral health. In South Africa tooth decay is the most common condition affecting approximately 60% of the children in the country, more of concern is that 80% of them go untreated. Evidence over years has shown a strong link between consumption of sugary drinks and dental caries and therefore the implementation of the sugary drinks tax is of importance in our field.

I therefore request to present at the upcoming parliamentary hearing on 31 May 2017 and I hope the government will stand strong in its commitment to implement the tax.

Kind Regards


Dr Mpho Molete
Specialist in Community Dentistry (Wits University)
Chair – Dental Public Health Special Interest Group (PHASA).