

**AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC PLACES
AND THE SALE AND USE OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY PERSONS UNDER THE
AGE OF 18 YEARS.**

WHEREAS, Liberia is among many countries that have signed the World Health Organization (WHO) framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

REALIZING that the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control provides that member countries institute price and non-price measures, including appropriate legislations to reduce the demand for Tobacco produces;

RECALLING that in 1972 and 1974 respectively, the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia enacted Legislations, increasing tariff on cigarettes, as a way of reducing the demand for Tobacco products;

COGNIZANT of the attempts by the government of Liberia, especially the Legislature aimed at reducing the demand for cigarette has not yielded the desire result of reducing the consumption of the commodity in the Liberian society;

ACKNOWLEDGING that several studies show that the use of alcohol and alcohol-related products largely lead to the use of tobacco and tobacco related products, both of which have now become causes of major public health problems and motor accident in both developed and developing countries, including Liberia;

WHEREAS, tobacco and other narcotic substances have become the most common form of environmental pollution and public health abuse in Liberia;

WHEREAS, the impacts of tobacco and alcoholic substances on human health, especially children under the age of 18 no longer be ignored in the Liberian society;

WHEREAS, reversing the above situation and creating a cleaner environment for all citizens, especially teenagers, has become an immediate imperative;

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco, alcohol and alcoholic products in public places and by children below the age of 18 years is not only against the protection and promotion of the positive Liberian culture, but also poses serious social and medical challenges to the Liberian society;

Now therefore, it is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I

That from and immediately after the passage of this Act, the use of tobacco and tobacco products in public places, as defined in this Act, is hereby prohibited except in areas specifically authorized.

SECTION II

All public institutions and facilities as herein defined shall be in violation of this law, if they permit, encourage and or condone, whether by action or omission, the use of tobacco and tobacco products in premises not authorized.

SECTION III

That any person or persons found using tobacco or tobacco products in public places as described and defined in this Act, shall be in violation of this Act, and such violation shall constitute a second degree misdemeanor.

SECTION IV

That no business entity shall sell tobacco or products to any person or persons under the age of 18 years, and no such person or persons shall be allowed to purchase or sell tobacco products in any part of the Republic of Liberia.

SECTION V

Any business entity or public institution in violation of Section IV of this Act, shall upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, be fined not less than L\$10,000.00 or not more than L\$25,000.00.

SECTION VI

Any person or persons, who permit, encourage, condone and/or facilitate the purchase and/or sale of tobacco or tobacco products by person or persons under the age of 18 years shall be in violation of this Act. Such person or persons shall upon conviction be subjected to section V of this Act.

SECTION VII

This Act Shall Take Effect Immediately Upon Publication into Handbill

ANYLAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING

Approved: September 11th, 2008

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