

BUDGET BLUNDERS

FAILURE TO TACKLE ILLICIT TRADE LEADS TO BUDGET'S TAX INCREASES

Thursday, 10 June - DRASTIC tax increases announced in today's Budget are forcing hard-hit citizens to pay for Government's failure to combat illicit trade, says Stop Crime Kenya (StoCK).

StoCK leader Stephen Mutoro says: "The cost of living is rising for Kenyans at a time when most can least afford it.

"They will have to pay more for essential goods, including bread, baby milk and cooking oil. Yet the Treasury continues to lose more than Sh150 billion in taxes annually as a direct result of illicit trade.

"Criminals dealing in smuggled and counterfeit goods don't pay tax, so these tax rises simply increase their profit margins.

"That's a kick in the teeth for Kenyans already hard hit by the pandemic, who are effectively being told that crime pays and they must pick up the tab.

"Government should make a concerted stand against illicit trade by plugging our porous borders and enforcing our trading laws. That's the best and fairest way to get money to build a better Kenya for all."

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