

No cheers for Zim wines and spirits

It's no longer cheers for local wine and spirit lovers. Come August, they will pay more for wines and spirits, after finance minister Tendai Biti increased customs duty on these products.

By [Dumisani Ndlela](#) 20 Jul 2009



Excise duty on wines and spirits had been maintained at modest levels for quite some time. The reason, E said, was to “promote consumption of quality products which are not hazardous to society.”

But simply because current rates are low compared to what is charged in the region, Biti said wine and spirit lovers will have to fork out more: excise duty on wines will go up from 10% to 15%, and that of spirits will increase from 15% to 20%. There is already a retail tax of 15% on these items.

African Distillers (Afdis), which makes a range of wines and spirits, including brown spirits (whisky, brandy, and golden rum), white spirits (gin, rum, vodka, ouzo) and a variety of wines (sparkling wines, still wine and fortified wine), could be hit harder by this move. It reported in February that demand for its products had been weakened by consumer impoverishment in Zimbabwe.

ABOUT DUMISANI NDLELA

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