

# Draft National Alcohol Policy diagnosed

By Konrad Kodjo DJAISI

A third, in a series of workshops, aimed at developing a National Alcohol Policy was held in Accra last week with key stakeholders diagnosing the first draft.

Organized by IMANI, a social think-tank dedicated to researching economic trends under the banner Centre for Humane Education, its Executive Director, Franklin Cudjoe told B&FT that delegates were there to “tear the document to shreds” by making suggestions before forwarding it to the appropriate authorities for consideration and finally laying it before the House of Parliament.

A key facilitator, Dr. Keith Evans, who is a consultant to the Australian Government on Alcohol and Drugs and a major player in the draft, indicated that the frame-work is a guide based on best practices and is not an imposition.

In a foreword it notes: “The Government of Ghana acknowledges that alcohol enjoys popularity and a place of significance in Ghanaian society. Alcohol and the alcohol beverage industry also play a significant role in the economy of Ghana, generating substantial employment, retail activity and providing considerable tax



Franklin Cudjoe, Executive Director, Centre for Humane Education – IMANI

revenue which assists the government to put in place wide ranging social services for the benefits of the entire community.

However, it points out that alcohol misuse is associated with significant harms, including illness and death and imposes wide-ranging negative effects on

individuals, families and communities. The Policy therefore aims to change behaviour by encouraging positive and discouraging negative patterns, reduce harm due to alcohol misuse, create an informed society and ensure public safety among others.

As agreed, Dr. Evans asked for

the reconvening of the original delegates and interested parties to consider the draft policy, the purpose of which is to consider, approve and introduce amendments where appropriate and debate and agree on the process to introduce the policy to government for adoption.

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