



RSL destroys illicit tobacco products

Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) destroyed and buried 7,150 cartons of illegal cigarettes with an estimated street value of M505,900.00 on Thursday, 3rd April 2025, at Tšoeneng Landfill in Rothe, Maseru. The products were confiscated as part of RSL's ongoing strategy to deter non-compliance and combat illicit trade.

The cigarettes were also seized from street vendors across various locations in Maseru during a joint operation by RSL and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), known as Operation Osalama.

The destroyed brands included Boss, Red and Black, Ossum, Chief, Malimbo, Sahawi, R&G, and Chairman. In addition, eight boxes of 100-gram Best Blend tobacco valued at M25,200.00, and 15 bags of Tamputi valued at M1,350.00, were also destroyed.

The smuggled products had not been declared or subjected to excise duties. These counterfeit cigarettes are often sold for less than M20.00 per pack, undermining the legal market where products are properly declared and taxed.

RSL is mandated to protect the public from illicit products and will continue to confiscate and destroy prohibited cigarettes and other illegal goods. The organization urges all traders and individuals to refrain from importing illicit goods into Lesotho. RSL will also continue to collaborate with stakeholders to eliminate illicit products and prevent their entry into the country.

- Ends -

For clarification, please contact RSL's PR Desk: 62112502