**AC English examples of non-partisan fact-checks IFCN renewal**

1. A claim by government about alcohol use during a national lockdown

<https://africacheck.org/reports/more-than-an-inconvenience-alcohol-ban-could-help-south-africans-fight-covid-19-infection/>

Actual claim: "Alcohol weakens the immune system and makes it difficult for the body to fight infections like COVID-19."

South Africa has banned the sale and transport of alcohol during a five lockdown that extends to the end of April 2020. Industry bodies have been agitating for a relaxation of this under strict social distancing measures, including threatening to sue.

This claim was made by government in a tweet, though it did not offer a source. We contacted them for their evidence. We looked for the most recent and credible research on the topic, and spoke to the authors of these studies to make sure we had interpreted their findings correctly. We also spoke to independent experts and asked them for their assessment of the claim as stated.

In using the weight of the research and the we found that most South Africans don’t drink, but of those who do, the majority are binge drinkers, a fact that weakens the immune system and leads to impaired defences to infections.

We thus rated the claim as correct, despite the immense lobbying for sales of alcohol (and that a number of our staffers to drink!)

This is the same process for all our fact-checks. We establish if the claim as stated is accurate by contacting the person who made the statement or relying on video if available.

We also ask the person making the claim for their evidence, and if provided, we interrogate this further including through asking if this evidence has been accurately interpreted.

We will also speak to variety of experts in the specific field for extra context. We then set out this evidence in a report and assess the findings as a team of at least two editors and the researcher, and let the balance of this dictate our rating of the claim.

If the finding is inaccurate we will give the person who made it a chance to reply, and after publishing we seek a public correction from them.

2. The mayor of a large South Africa metro from the ruling party said he planned to use taxpayer funds to import a ‘vaccine’ for Covid-19. He went on the offensive against our finding that a vaccine for the new coronavirus does not yet exist and accused us of batting for unspecified interests.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/south-african-mayor-incorrect-that-interferon-alpha-2b-a-covid-19-vaccine/>

3. South Africa’s president claimed that the government has built 4 million houses. We found it hasn’t. We also found that South African media falsely attributed a second claim to him.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/no-sa-government-hasnt-built-4-million-houses-and-ramaphosa-didnt-promise-a-million-in-alex/>

4. South Africa’s police minister, in making a case for more policing, cited a United Nations policing ratio as justification. We found the ratio does not exist.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/south-african-police-minister-cites-dubious-un-standard-as-he-calls-for-60000-more-officers/>

5. The nationalisation of South Africa’s reserve (central) bank has split its political parties down the middle. We found a claim pushed by the ruling ANC party that one individual owns more than half the banks shares as inaccurate.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/german-national-michael-duerr-owns-0-5-not-57-5-of-south-africas-reserve-bank/>

6. We fact-checked Nigeria’s vice president about the burden of cancer in Africa’s most populous country. He got a few facts wrong about a major disease.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/nigerias-major-cancer-problem-did-vice-president-osinbajo-get-his-facts-straight/>

7. A senior public official in Nigeria claimed the administration has created millions of jobs for Nigerians. We found no evidence for this.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/no-evidence-for-millions-of-jobs-claim-by-nigerian-senior-official/>

8. We found Kenya president Uhuru Kenyatta incorrect on three of five claims he made about the country, including on health and trade.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/fact-checked-5-claims-by-kenyan-president-kenyatta-in-national-day-speech/>

9. Kenya’s then health minister claimed that the government had increased its national health budget to 30% over two years. This was accurate.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/yes-kenyas-health-budget-has-risen-30-in-last-two-fiscal-years/>

10. A not-for-profit campaigning against child hunger claimed that “nearly half of all child deaths in Africa” were from hunger, attracting international attention. While a noble cause to raise awareness on, we found no evidence for this statistic.

<https://africacheck.org/reports/no-evidence-nearly-half-of-all-child-deaths-in-africa-stem-from-hunger/>