



## ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

### FACTS ABOUT KWASO



#### What is Kwaso?

Kwaso is a name given to the illegal homemade brew in Solomon Islands. It is processed by condensation method and by boiling fruit cordials, adding sugar, and yeast and sometimes spirits.

When the mixture boils up, the steam is controlled by coil pipes which have cotton buds attached and water applied every minute to cool down the steam. At the end of the pipe when the steam cools down, droplets are collected in containers. These containers contain 100% pure alcohol.



This is very powerful and dangerous as the amount of alcohol content is not controlled.

It is very toxic and can poison the body even if you take a small amount or if you combine it with other drinks or drugs.

Kwaso is classed as a depressant and can rapidly slow down the central nervous system and brain power.

Thinking and vision become less clear and judgement is also affected.

#### Factors which determines the effect of Kwaso on your body

Kwaso affects all people differently. This is due to the interaction of factors associated with the alcohol volume inside eg;

- The amount drunk, the strength of Kwaso and how quickly it is drunk
- The person, their health, personality, mood they are in, body size, muscle mass, sex and age
- The environment if the person is alone or with the family or friends when kwaso is consumed

#### Problems associated with drinking kwaso

A person who drinks kwaso may experience problems in any or combination of areas;

- Problems related to health are most common effect
- Financial problems become a huge burden when purchasing kwaso. It means less \$ \$ \$ available to buy food for your family
- Social problem, injuries and violence occurs when drinking kwaso

#### What happens when you use kwaso?

The effects of alcohol in kwaso can generally be experienced within 5 - 10 minutes. There is an increase or decrease in the heart rate, lowering of body temperature, a sensation of warmth and relaxation and increased appetite.

In high quantities, kwaso may result in a hangover, fatigue, dry throat, headache, dizziness and other severe aches.

There may also be feeling of anxiety and depression.

### What are the long term effects?

Excessive drinking can cause problems like brain damage, hypertension, stomach inflammation, ulcers and liver damage. There can be confusion, permanent memory loss, cancer of the lungs, throat, stomach and mouth.

Tolerance and physical dependence to kwaso can develop with frequent use. Tolerance means a person needs more kwaso to get the same effects as they did previously on the small amount.

Physical dependence means a person is likely to experience withdrawal symptoms if they stop using or cut down the amount of kwaso they use. Signs of this are loss of appetite, feeling sick, anxiety, sleeplessness, irritability, confusion, sweating, tremors, cramping, vomiting and hallucination.

- Kwaso is a common factor in accidents involving drunk pedestrians on the roads. Drink-driving can also cause serious injuries and death.
- Kwaso-related street crime and violence is a major problem for our communities.

### What the law says about Kwaso

Brewing of kwaso in the Solomon Islands is illegal.

If you are caught with any equipment for producing it, assisting other person, producing it, conveying it, selling it, in possession, consuming or buying it you will be arrested and charged.

### Penalty for the offence of Kwaso

The law of Solomon Islands will punish you if you are arrested for the offence of Kwaso. There is a fine of SBD \$30,000. If found guilty you may be imprisoned for five years.

### What must you do?

Say no to kwaso and say yes to life. You can do better things for yourself and your family in life. Some good things that you can do in life are;

- Play sports
- Go fishing
- Gardening
- Do further studies
- Start reputable small businesses
- Secure a good job
- Get involved in Church activities
- Other useful things like community work that will earn you and your life value.



### TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Kwaso can KILL as it has 100% pure alcohol volume
- It has a very fast and bad effect on human health
- It will shorten your life span & ruin relationship
- You have only one life and don't let kwaso destroy it

***YOU ARE THE FUTURE LEADER OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. BE SMART SAY NO TO KWASO AND SAY YES TO LIFE.***



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