

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34964603>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.bbc.com/news/business-34964603. The page features the BBC logo and navigation menus for News, Sport, Weather, Shop, Earth, Travel, and More. A red banner at the top contains the word "NEWS" and a secondary menu with links to Home, Video, World, Asia, UK, Business, Tech, Science, Magazine, and Entertainment. Below this, a sub-menu for "Business" includes links to Market Data, Markets, Economy, Companies, Entrepreneurship, and Technology. The main article title is "The secret bribes of big tobacco" by Richard Bilton, BBC Panorama, dated 30 November 2015. A video player is embedded below the text, showing a man in a blue shirt.

The secret bribes of big tobacco

By Richard Bilton BBC Panorama

- 30 November 2015
- From the section [Business](#)

Media caption Paul Hopkins: "My job was to make sure the competition never got a breathing space"

A BBC investigation has uncovered evidence of bribery at one of the UK's biggest companies.

Panorama found British American Tobacco illegally paid politicians and civil servants in countries in East Africa. The payments were revealed when a whistleblower shared hundreds of secret documents. BAT told the BBC: "The truth is that we do not and will not tolerate corruption, no matter where it takes place."

Paul Hopkins, who worked for BAT, a British company, in Kenya for 13 years, said he had begun paying bribes after being told it was the cost of doing business in Africa. "BAT is bribing people, and I'm facilitating it," he said. "The reality is if... they have to break the rules, they will break the rules."

Documents

From: bode[REDACTED]@aol.co.uk
Subject: Consultants
Date: 16 May 2012 at 04:57
To: spartan30063@gmail.com



We have the following consultants due for payment (To discuss details later)
1. Bonaventure Nzeyimana - Rwanda - Cell no [REDACTED] - US 10,000
2. Chaibou Bedja Abdou - Comoros - Cell [REDACTED] - US - 3000

Thanks

Find out more about the secret documents:

The secret bribes of big tobacco: The paper trail

Emails now shared by Mr Hopkins reveal BAT made illegal payments to two members and one former member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a United Nations campaign supported by 180 countries, aimed at reducing deaths from tobacco-related illness.

An FCTC representative from Burundi, Godefroid Kamwenubusa, and a representative from the Comoros Islands, Chaibou Bedja Abdou, were both paid \$3,000 (£2,000). A former representative from Rwanda, Bonaventure Nzeyimana, was paid \$20,000. All three men deny taking bribes from BAT.

Dr Vera Da Costa e Silva, from the WHO, said BAT "is irresponsible to say the least". "It is using bribery to profit at the cost of people's lives, simple as that," she said. "BAT should be investigated by the government and should be punished accordingly."

Secret recording

The secret documents also show the company paid bribes to undermine anti-smoking legislation.

In return for the illegal payment to Mr Kamwenubusa, a Burundian senior civil servant, BAT also wanted a draft copy of the country's Tobacco Control Bill. And an email from a contractor working for BAT says Mr Kamwenubusa would be able to "accommodate any amendments before the president signs". Under the UK Bribery Act, British companies can be prosecuted for bribery anywhere in the world if they fail to take steps to prevent it.

BAT could also face prosecution and huge fines in the US.

Bribery expert Jeremy Carver said: "It will set in train about their operations globally, so that suddenly everything they're doing all over the world is now being scrutinised and not just by prosecutors in this country but in the United States and anywhere they are operating."



Image caption BAT told the BBC: "We do not and will not tolerate corruption, no matter where it takes place."

BAT said any company could fall victim to an employee acting inappropriately.

"We are rightly proud that any alleged breach of our very high expectations of transparency and honesty is swiftly investigated," its statement added. "Any proven transgression will lead to appropriate disciplinary action. "Our accusers in this programme left us in acrimonious circumstances and have a vendetta against us, clearly demonstrated by the false picture they present of how we do business."

Shortly before he left the company, Mr Hopkins secretly recorded a discussion with a BAT lawyer about making final payments to his informants. He can be heard telling the lawyer some contacts would need paying "to keep their mouths shut". The lawyer, Naushad Ramoly, is recorded saying: "That is what we are going to be paying. Yeah, OK, fine. Anything else that you think we will need to be paying for?"

Mr Ramoly, who no longer works for BAT, said he had never been involved in illegal activities or with bribes and he had reported Mr Hopkins to senior BAT management.

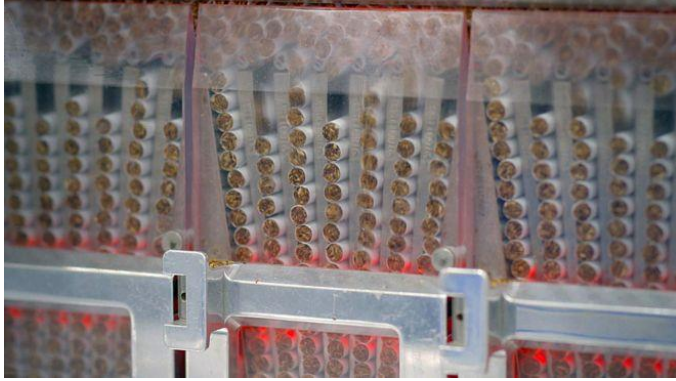
Mr Hopkins plans to meet with investigators from the Serious Fraud Office in the UK this week.

Panorama: The Secret Bribes of Big Tobacco, is on BBC One at 20:30 GMT on 30 November 2015 and available later via BBC iPlayer.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34944702>

The secret bribes of big tobacco paper trail

- 5 hours ago
- From the section **Business**



The BBC's Panorama programme has spent five months investigating bribery at British American Tobacco.

BAT says it conducts its business with honesty, integrity and **transparency**, and has strict **anti-bribery rules**. But the BBC obtained hundreds of documents that reveal how BAT employees bribed politicians, public officials and even people working for a rival company in Africa. The documents appear to show:

- Bribes to public officials
- Bribes to MPs
- Bribes to damage a rival company

BAT says it is committed to the "highest standards of corporate conduct and transparency" and its anti-bribery rules are "strictly enforced".

It told Panorama: "The truth is that we do not and will not tolerate corruption, no matter where it takes place."

Bribes to public officials

In 2012, BAT lobbyist Julie Adell-Owino arranged bribes totalling US\$26,000 for three public officials in Rwanda, Burundi and the Comoros Islands. All three officials were connected to a United Nations effort to reduce the number of tobacco related deaths, the **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**.

Find out more

Read Richard Bilton's **news story** or watch Panorama: The Secret Bribes of Big Tobacco, is on BBC One at 20:30 GMT on 30 November 2015 and **available later via BBC iPlayer**.

Adell-Owino used a pseudonym (Amanda) and a non-BAT email address (boda.XXX@aol.com). She sent the emails to a BAT manager, who was also using a pseudonym (John Smith) and a non-BAT email (spartan30063@gmail.com). The manager forwarded them to a contractor known as "Andrew" to facilitate the bribes.

Document

Tribunal documents [150KB]

Most computers will open PDF documents automatically, but you may need Adobe Reader

Download the reader here

In one document from a UK employment tribunal, BAT describes the payments to these officials as "unlawful bribes".

Adell-Owino "categorically denied" involvement in bribery and said BAT "mistakenly believed" the payments were bribes.

In one email, Adell-Owino requests that US\$3,000 be paid to Godefroid Kamwenubusa, an official at Burundi's Ministry of Health and one of its representatives to the **FCTC**.

From: Boda boda [REDACTED]@aol.co.uk
Subject: Burundi
Date: 9 July 2012 at 15:47
To: Spartan spartan30083@gmail.com



Hi John

Kindly have your friends call Godefroy on [REDACTED]. He supported us at INB so we owe him \$3000 but this is also in exchange for the draft TCB he shd give a draft that the minister has thx. Pse let me know how rwanda goes thx.

Amanda

Adell-Owino explains that the payment was because Kamwenubusa "supported us at the INB" - a reference to the FCTC's **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body**. The fifth session of the INB met in Geneva between 29 March and 4 April 2012 to agree a draft protocol on illicit trade of tobacco products. **Kamwenubusa attended it.**

The email says the payment was also for "the draft TCB... that the minister has". TCB stands for Tobacco Control Bill, so this is a bribe to undermine an anti-smoking law.

Eight days later, a contractor emails a BAT employee, saying: "The guy can accommodate any amendments before the president signs."

The following month, Kamwenubusa emailed a copy of the draft tobacco bill to a BAT email address.

From: kamwenubusa godefroid <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]@bat.com
Date: 17/08/2012 11:13 AM
Subject: Loi antitabac

Hello [REDACTED], see below Loi antitabac
For the apointment to Nairobi, can you send me ticket for flight?

Kamwenubusa denied taking \$3000 from BAT and says the emails are "not official".

But in documents submitted to an employment tribunal, BAT described the payment as one of a series of "unlawful bribes".

Bribe to Rwanda

In May 2012, Adell-Owino requests US\$10,000 be paid to Bonaventure Nzeyimana, an official at Rwanda's Ministry of Health official and a former FCTC representative.

From: boda [REDACTED]@aol.co.uk
Subject: Consultants
Date: 16 May 2012 at 04:57
To: spartan30063@gmail.com



We have the following consultants due for payment (To discuss details later)
1. Bonaventure Nzeyimana - Rwanda - Cell no [REDACTED] - US 10,000
2. Chaibou Bedja Abdou - Comoros - Cell [REDACTED] - US - 3000

Thanks

Another email says the payment is in exchange for "draft regulations being prepared." Although Adell-Owino is using a pseudonym and an anonymous email address, she signs this email "Julie".

From: Boda [REDACTED]boda [REDACTED]@aol.co.uk
Subject: Rwanda consultancy
Date: 2 July 2012 at 08:06
To: spartan30063@gmail.com



Hi

Please pay Rwanda uss 20000. Kindly cross charge immediately. Also ask them on delivery to share with you draft regulations being prepared.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPad, Julie

A contractor working for BAT reports back that Nzeyimana asked for US\$20,000 instead.

A bank transfer document shows the \$20,000 being paid.

Bonaventure Nzeyimana said the payment was nothing to do with tobacco or BAT. But in documents submitted to an employment tribunal, BAT described the payment as one of a series of "unlawful bribes".

Bribe to Comoros Islands

One document shows that in May 2012, Adell-Owino requested a payment of \$3,000 be made to Chaibou Bedja Abdou, an FCTC representative for the Comoros Islands. The documents do not detail precisely what this payment was for, but BAT has described the payment as one of a series of "unlawful bribes". Chaibou Bedja Abdou told Panorama: "I have never received any money from BAT and no-one can prove that I have signed any document in receipt of anything whatsoever."

Bribes to MPs

In July 2012, Adell-Owino requests the purchase of a business class plane ticket to London for Kenya's former minister for trade, Moses Wetangula. The email says Wetangula will be "hosted at Globe House" - BAT's London headquarters.

Adell-Owino's email said the transaction should be "paperless" and there should be "no receipts if any in his name".

When Panorama asked Mr Wetangula about the email, he said he was "shocked" and "upset" and would take legal action against anybody circulating "such a crude rumour" against him. He said: "I did not receive any ticket or any money... I never had dealings with BAT."

But in documents submitted to an employment tribunal, BAT described the purchase of the plane ticket as a one of a series of "unlawful bribes".

Former BAT lobbyist Solomon Muyita was fired by BAT in Uganda in 2013 after he was accused of giving cash gifts to 50 people, including seven MPs. He says he was following company orders and is suing BAT for wrongful dismissal. The company says Muyita is lying.

In court in August 2015, Muyita alleged that David Bahati, one of the MPs behind Uganda's new tobacco control law, was being paid by BAT.

(vi) A series of minutes of engagements with Hon. David Bahati which demonstrate clearly that he was recruited by BAT Uganda to infiltrate, influence and spy on the cohort of anti-tobacco activists in Uganda in order to minimize legislative/political/regulatory risk for BAT. It is no surprise that a few months after the engagements Hon. Bahati became the sponsor of the Tobacco Control Bill that was filed as a private member's bill. **(See Annex 21)**

Muyita's witness statement says that Bahati was "... recruited by BAT Uganda to infiltrate, influence and spy on the cohort of anti-tobacco activists."

Document

[Internal report - court paper \[150KB\]](#)

Most computers will open PDF documents automatically, but you may need Adobe Reader

Download the reader here

This internal BAT report shows that in March 2011 BAT met with the MP. It suggests BAT was using him to gather intelligence on anti-smoking activists and influence the drafting of the Bill. It says the MP told BAT he supported "...having most of our views accommodated in the proposed tobacco law".

BAT says: "Our accusers in this programme left us in acrimonious circumstances and have a vendetta against us, clearly demonstrated by the false picture they present of how we do business."

Thanks to the University of Bath Tobacco Control Research Group.

A-21

Uganda Tobacco Control Bill
Engagement Feedback Form

End Market	BAT Engagement Manager	Date(s) of engagement meeting
Uganda	Solomon Muyita	18/03/2011

Whom did you engage with?	Title	Department/Organisation
Hon. David Bahati	- Member of Parliament	Norwa West - Uganda 8th Parliament



General Comments:

Please describe your overall impression of your engagement efforts. How successful was your meeting? (tick the appropriate box and provide comments)

Very successful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: David was very receptive. He mentioned that he is also an executive member of the NRM Parliamentary Caucus, a position he can easily use to easily monitor and influence events in government. He mentioned that the caucus also participates in nominating members to the parliamentary watchdog committees</p>
Somewhat successful	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neither successful or unsuccessful / neutral	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Somewhat unsuccessful	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Very unsuccessful	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please rate how receptive the official was to the message you delivered.

Very receptive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: The MP was receptive of the message and mentioned that he was ready to work with BAT Uganda, especially because the company is not against the legislation but is interested in seeing sensible legislation in place. He said he had a personal relationship to the proprietors of the NGOs behind the TCB.</p>
Somewhat receptive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neither receptive or unreceptive / neutral	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Somewhat unreceptive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Very unreceptive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>He called [redacted] while we were in the meeting and sought an appointment with her for Monday 21st Feb 2010. He also called the clerk's office in Parliament</p>

Was the official strongly supportive of, or strongly opposed to, any particular BAT proposal? If so, please provide details.

The official was supportive of BAT's proposals to participate in the legislation process and having most of our views accommodated in the proposed tobacco law. He however says BAT and the tobacco industry should also be ready to compromise on a few things.

Were any follow-up activities recommended by the official as a result of your meeting? Did the official recommend others in government for you to speak with about these issues? If so, please provide details.

Hon. Bahati promised to get in touch with [redacted], the MOH Commissioner who is coordinating Draft TCB. He also undertook to get in touch with the First Parliamentary Council in AG's office to know who exactly is working on the Draft TCB, as well as getting us a copy of the latest version of the Draft TCB.