



National Gambling Board

South Africa

a member of **the dti** group

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MEDIA RELEASE

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TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

THE NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD EMBARKS ON A MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING.

As the National regulator, the National Gambling Board (NGB) is committed to ensuring that the gambling industry is well regulated, and that all those operating in the gambling sphere in South Africa do so in compliance with the National Gambling Act 7 of 2004 together with the accompanying Regulations. The NGB is also responsible for the oversight of the regulation in the gambling industry throughout the country and to preserve the integrity of South Africa as a responsible global citizen and protect gamblers.

According to the Accounting Authority of the NGB, Ms Caroline Kongwa, “the NGB will launch an awareness campaign which will be rolled out in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Western Cape. The campaign will be running from 21 September to 30 November 2016 through the use of billboards, live radio reads, newspaper adverts and small advertisements on social media.”

The development of the campaign was informed by the findings of Research conducted by the NGB on the Prevalence of Gambling, Socio Economic Impact of Illegal Gambling and the need to increase awareness amongst South Africans particularly on illegal (online) gambling, the presence of illegal gambling establishments and the consequences when participating in illegal gambling activities which is not permissible in the country.

The campaign will provide an opportunity for South Africans to become fully aware of consequences when gambling and to encourage them to gamble legally and responsibly.

In regulating the gambling industry, there are only four forms of gambling that are legal in South Africa, provided that licences have been obtained from Provincial Gambling Boards. These are casinos, bingo, limited pay-out machines (LPMs), and wagering. These include totalisators, Bookmakers Horseracing and sports betting through operators licensed in South Africa.

To safeguard against the harmful impact of gambling, the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation (SARGF) is an organisation that offers support and intervention to persons and families who find themselves dealing with a gambling problem.

Ms Kongwa further adds “There is also an Exclusions Register, which is utilised as a monitoring system for persons who have identified that they have a gambling problem and requested to be excluded from gambling in the country. A person or their family member should approach the NGB or any Provincial Gambling Board to assist in having oneself or their loved one voluntarily self-excluded when symptoms of addiction of gambling are identified.

The legal gambling industry contributes significantly to the economy of the country, and is responsible for the creation of thousands of sustainable jobs for South African citizens.

For assistance with problem gambling, call the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation toll free number 0800 006 008 or sms 076 675 0710.

The public is encouraged to phone the NGB on 0100033475 to obtain more information regarding gambling, assistance to be excluded from gambling, and/or to report illegal gambling to the NGB at fraudalert@ngb.org.za or 012 686 8800.

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