

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD CLARIFIES REGULATORY POSITION ON REMOTE GAMBLING SERVERS (RGS)

Pretoria, 27 February 2026

The National Gambling Board (NGB) has issued a formal notice to all Provincial Licensing Authorities (PLAs) clarifying the regulatory status of Remote Gambling Servers (RGS) in South Africa. The notice, issued in terms of sections 33 and 34 of the National Gambling Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004) (the NGA), provides guidance on compliance obligations in respect of remote gambling infrastructure and applicable technical standards.

The NGB reiterated that interactive and remote gambling activities remain unlawful in South Africa, except where explicitly authorised by national legislation. RGS, as systems designed to facilitate interactive or remote gambling activities, do not constitute lawful gambling systems under the current legislative framework.

The NGA defines an “**interactive game**” as “*a gambling game played or available to be played through the mechanism of an electronic agent accessed over the Internet other than a game that can be accessed for play only in licensed premises, and only if the licensee of any such premises is authorised to make such a game available for play.*” The NGA makes the offering and playing of such interactive games illegal. Section 11 of the NGA, entitled “**Unauthorised interactive gaming unlawful**”, expressly states that “*a person must not engage in or make available an interactive game except as authorised in terms of this Act or any other national law.*”

The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lungile Dukwana says “Gambling in South Africa is regulated and licensed through the National Gambling Act, 2004 (Act 7 of 2004) (“the NGA”) and the nine Provincial Gambling Acts. The NGA, which sets the national norms and standards, has expressly prohibited interactive gambling until a legislative framework to regulate interactive gambling is developed and passed by the President”.

Aligning with a directive from the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), the NGB places emphasis that the scope of technical standards that are applicable only to lawful gambling systems do not cover RGS. Specifically, the South African National Standard SANS 1718-4:2018 (Edition 3) applies only to Wagering and Record Keeping Systems (WRS) and as such does not provide for the testing or certification of RGS as standalone systems.

The NRCS has further formally directed that:

- RGS shall not be submitted for certification against SANS 1718.
- The NRCS will not issue, renew, or extend Letter of Certifications (LoCs) for RGS under SANS 1718.
- Any previously issued LoCs relating to RGS have lapsed or will lapse upon expiry, with no further certification activities to be undertaken.

The directive from NRCS goes on to stipulate that all certification activities conducted by the NRCS will continue to strictly align with the NGA and the intended scope and applicability of compulsory technical standards.

The NGB has thus issued a notice to PLAs advising them to:

- Align licensing and enforcement practices with the clarified legal position regarding RGS;
- Prohibit the approval or continued use of RGS in licensed gambling operations in accordance with the NRCS directive;
- Require operators to utilise duly certified WRS compliant with SANS 1718; and
- Take appropriate enforcement action against non-compliant operators.

“The NGB will monitor implementation of this notice across all provinces and will report to the Minister Trade, Industry and Competition on compliance levels, enforcement outcomes, and the broader industry impact”, says Mr Lungile Dukwana.

The notice comes into effect as also directed by the NRCS in its communication on the approval/certification of RGS against SANS 1718-4:2018 ED3, which was issued to industry stakeholders, testing laboratories and applicants.

Media Enquiries:

National Gambling Board

info@ngb.org.za

ABOUT THE NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD

The National Gambling Board (NGB), an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic), was established in terms of the National Gambling Act, Act No 33 of 1996 which was repealed on 01 November 2004 by the National Gambling Act, 2004, (Act No 7 of 2004) ('the Act'). The Act makes provision for the oversight of matters relating to casinos, bingo, betting and wagering and Limited Payout Machines (LPMs), and promotes uniform norms and standards in relation to gambling throughout South Africa.

The strength of the NGB is informed by multiple decades of regulating a gambling industry which was fragmented with low credibility from the pre-1994 era. Its performance outcome is an effectively regulated and continuously supervised gambling industry, which is a significant economic sector that upholds national and internationally recognised standards of compliance and consequently national and international industry reputation.

The NGB is a regulator with concurrent competencies with the provincial gambling regulators. Its work is to ensure harmonisation and consistency with the National Gambling Act and its statutes. The NGB provides a stable environment within which the gambling industry can grow its operations for the benefit of all.

Additionally, the NGB prioritises broad-based public education around illegal gambling and responsible gambling in the best interest of the South African public, balancing a capable state, with the economic growth of the industry and social cohesion.

Vision

To position South Africa as the pre-eminent jurisdiction with an exemplary and effectively regulated gambling industry.

Mission

Lead the regulation of the gambling industry in the fulfilment of the National Gambling Act, 2004, through an effectively regulated and supervised gambling industry that upholds domestic, continental, and internationally recognised standards of compliance.

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