



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLEGAL GAMBLING COULD COST YOU EVERYTHING: NGB WARNS THE PUBLIC AS MILLIONS IN UNLAWFUL WINNINGS ARE FORFEITED.

Pretoria, 27 May 2026

The National Gambling Board (“NGB”), in the execution of its statutory mandate in terms of the National Gambling Act, 2004 (Act 7 of 2004) (“NGA”), continues to take enforcement measures aimed at combating unlawful gambling activities in South Africa.

Section 16 of the NGA empowers the NGB to investigate the circumstances of unlawful gambling activities, including unlawful online gambling. Upon the determination of an unlawful gambling activity, the NGB applies to the High Court for an order declaring that the unlawful winnings derived from the unlawful gambling activity be forfeited to the State.

To give effect to Section 16 of the NGA, between 01 April 2025 and 10 April 2026, subject to investigations conducted, various amounts identified as proceeds from unlawful gambling activities were, by order of the High Court, forfeited to the State. The consolidated amount forfeited during this period is approximately R3 075 000.00 (three million and seventy-five thousand rand), comprising:

- Approximately R775 000.00 (seven hundred and seventy-five thousand rand) was forfeited to the State during the 2025/26 financial year (01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026); and
- Approximately R2 300 000.00 million (two million and three hundred thousand rand) was forfeited as at 10 April 2026 during the 2026/27 financial year (01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027).

The consolidated amount of approximately R3 075 000.00 (three million and seventy-five thousand rand) was deemed proceeds from unlawful gambling activities that have been derived in contravention of the NGA. Consequently, the High Court ordered that the various amounts be forfeited to the State in accordance with Section 16 of the NGA.

“The forfeiture of proceeds derived from unlawful gambling activities demonstrates the NGB’s continued commitment to enforcing the NGA and supporting lawful and accountable gambling practices in South Africa. These enforcement measures serve



to protect the public and reinforce the consequences associated with unlawful gambling activities,” says the Acting CEO of the NGB, Lungile Dukwana.

“This outcome further underscores the importance of a coordinated regulatory and judicial approach in protecting the public and maintaining the credibility of South Africa’s gambling industry. We remain committed to ensuring that all gambling activities take place within a legal, regulated, and accountable environment,” adds Mr. Dukwana.

The NGB therefore urges members of the public to exercise caution when participating in gambling activities, particularly members of the public must not gamble on platforms that are not licensed in South Africa. In terms of Section 16 of the NGA, any winnings derived from unlawful gambling activities may be declared unlawful proceeds and forfeited to the State by order of the High Court. Individuals who engage with illegal online gambling operators therefore risk losing all winnings obtained through such activities, with no legal protection or recourse available. The NGB encourages the public to verify whether a gambling operator is legally licensed before gambling and to only participate in gambling activities conducted within South Africa’s regulated legal framework.

Members of the public are encouraged to verify the status of gambling operators through the NGB Verified Gambling Operators Web Portal, available on the NGB website through this link <https://www.ngb.org.za/verified-operators/> before participating in gambling activities and to report any suspicious or illegal gambling activities by contacting the NGB switchboard on 010 003 3475 or sending an email to info@ngb.org.za. Alternatively, any suspicious or illegal gambling activity must be reported to the relevant Provincial Licensing Authority within the province in which such activities have been identified.

THE END

ABOUT THE NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD

The National Gambling Board (NGB), an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the 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.