



National Gambling Board
South Africa
a member of the dlc group

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD (NGB) WARNING AGAINST IMPERSONATION OF NGB OFFICIALS AND FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES

Pretoria, 08 May 2026

The National Gambling Board (“NGB”) wishes to alert all Provincial Licensing Authorities (“PLAs”), licensed gambling operators, stakeholders, and members of the public to an incident involving an individual/s falsely claiming to be an employee/s or authorised representative/s of the NGB.

The NGB received reports that the suspect/s has reportedly been visiting both licensed and illegal gambling establishments in various parts of the North-West Province and Centurion, Gauteng, falsely claiming to be conducting inspections and demanding money from gambling operators.

The NGB strongly condemns these fraudulent and criminal activities.

In terms of section 76 of the National Gambling Act, 2004 (“NGA”) only duly appointed inspectors of the NGB may perform inspection and enforcement functions, and such inspectors in terms section 77 must conduct inspections and investigations in the company of a Provincial Inspectors as well as the South African Police Services, where applicable.

Furthermore, section 81(1)(e) of the NGA expressly provides that “A person who falsely claims to be (i) an inspector; or (ii) a regulatory authority; (iii) a person authorised to act on behalf of a regulatory authority; commits an offence. The NGA further provides for criminal sanctions relating to offences and unlawful conduct within the gambling industry. Section 83 (1) provides that “Any person convicted of an offence in terms of this Act is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 000 000, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

The NGB therefore urges all PLAs, licensed operators, suppliers, and members of the public to exercise extreme caution and to verify the identity and authority of any individual claiming to represent the NGB before engaging with them or disclosing any information.

Stakeholders are advised to:

- request official identification from any person claiming to represent the NGB and confirm the details of such persons with the NGB on 010 003 3475 or at info@ngb.org.za;

- refrain from making any payments or sharing confidential information with unauthorised individuals;
- immediately report suspicious conduct, impersonation, fraud, or intimidation to the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the NGB using the following email address: info@ngb.org.za.

The NGB remains committed to protecting the integrity of the gambling industry and will work closely with law enforcement agencies and PLAs to ensure that any persons involved in impersonation, fraud, corruption, or illegal gambling activities are investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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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