

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD WELCOMES SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATION IN LIMPOPO

Pretoria, 22 June 2026

The National Gambling Board (NGB) welcomes the successful prosecution of individuals involved in an illegal gambling operation in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, following a joint enforcement operation conducted by the Limpopo Gambling Board and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The court outcome, delivered by the Hoedspruit Magistrate's Court on 13 May 2026, demonstrates the effectiveness of coordinated law enforcement efforts in combating illegal gambling activities and protecting the integrity of South Africa's regulated gambling industry.

The operation, executed on 24 March 2026 under a duly authorised search and seizure warrant, resulted in the arrest of five individuals and the confiscation of seventeen (17) computers used in the illegal gambling operation. Following investigations, two accused persons were convicted of illegal gambling offences and contraventions of immigration legislation.

The court imposed the following sentences:

- Six months' imprisonment or a fine of R2 000 for illegal gambling offences.
- Seven months' direct imprisonment, without the option of a fine, for contravention of the Immigration Act.
- An order directing that the convicted individuals be deported to their country of origin upon completion of their sentences.

The State was further advised to pursue forfeiture proceedings of the seized computers through the Asset Forfeiture Unit. Investigations regarding the ownership and operation of the illegal gambling site remain ongoing.

Protecting Consumers and the Regulated Gambling Sector

The National Gambling Board reiterates that illegal gambling operations undermine the regulated gambling sector, expose consumers to significant financial and legal risks, facilitate criminal activity, and deprive the State of lawful revenue.

Commenting on the outcome, NGB Acting Chief Executive Officer Lungile Dukwana said, "This successful prosecution sends a clear message that illegal gambling activities will not be tolerated. The NGB commends the Limpopo Gambling Board, South African Policing Service (SAPS), the National Prosecuting Authority, and all stakeholders involved in securing this outcome. Continued collaboration among regulatory and law enforcement agencies remains essential to safeguarding the integrity of the gambling industry and protecting the public."

Members of the public should be aware that enforcement action is not limited to the owners and operators of illegal gambling establishments. This case serves as an important reminder that patrons who knowingly gamble at illegal establishments may face legal consequences. The NGB therefore urges members of the public to ensure that they only participate in gambling activities offered by duly licensed and authorised operators.

The NGB thus encourages consumers to verify the licensing status of gambling operators through the NGB's Verified Gambling Operators Web Portal on available on the NGB website through this link <https://www.ngb.org.za/verified-operators/> 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.

Participation in illegal gambling operations carries significant risks, including the possibility of not receiving winnings, lack of consumer protection mechanisms and potential criminal prosecution.

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