



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO. 224

DATE OF ORAL REPLY: 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Mrs Y N Yako (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What interventions has his department made to ensure the tracking and elimination of illegal online gambling in the Republic? [NO2690E]

REPLY

I am advised by the Department as follows:

The National Gambling Board (NGB) has oversight responsibility to ensure compliance with the National Gambling Act, 2004 (Act 7 of 2004). In keeping with Section 41 of the Constitution, the NGB uses intergovernmental forums to combat illegal gambling.

In this regard the NGB has facilitated the establishment of the Law Enforcement Forum and serves as the Chairperson. The Provincial Licensing Authorities (PLAs) report on activities undertaken within their respective jurisdictions to combat illegal gambling and the NGB obtains consensus from respective jurisdictions where collaborative efforts are required.

The NGB co-chairs the National Stakeholders Priority Committee, made up of National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), SAPS detectives, Visible Policing, Training and Communications, Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigations/Hawks, which collaborates activities by relevant law enforcement agencies in combatting illegal gambling. Consequently, Provincial Priority Committees were established to implement the national strategies to

address illegal gambling at provincial level. The NGB participates in planned joint liquor and gambling raids in the provinces and encourages all PLAs to participate within their jurisdictions.

Through the National Stakeholders Priority Committee, the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (cybercrimes) developed a standard operating procedure with a special focus on internet based illegal gambling. The standard operating procedure is being workshopped across provinces by SAPS to improve SAPS and specialised investigations units' capacity to investigate online (internet) gambling activities.

The NGB maintains a whistle-blowing facility through its fraud hotline where illegal gambling activities may be reported by the public. Detected illegal operations are verified and submitted to the relevant agencies for further execution of their statutory mandates. Progress is monitored through the frequent law enforcement engagements such as quarterly Law Enforcement Forum and Stakeholders Priority Committee meetings.

The NGB has, through collaborations with banks, identified a number of online gambling websites offering both online gambling and lotteries. The site names identified are verified and recorded in an NGB database. The sites are further reported to the relevant law enforcement agencies for investigation and further action. Public awareness campaigns are undertaken to inform the public about these illegal platforms and the consequences of using these illegal online platforms.

The NGA does not empower the NGB to directly combat illegal online gambling and to enable this, amendments to the NGA were proposed to the National Gambling Amendment Bill, 2018. Some provinces have not supported this and the matter is with the NCOP. The NGB is only permitted to operate within the ambit of the NGA pending the finalisation of the National Gambling Amendment Bill, 2018 which sought to ensure that the NGB and PLAs have concurrent jurisdiction over the combating of illegal gambling. It is only PLAs who are empowered to combat illegal gambling and NGB exercises oversight over the PLAs activities.

-END-