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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1921

Mr S S Zibi (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) With reference to his reply to question 390 on 28 March 2025, what are the further, relevant details on the approach of the National Gambling Board (NGB) to combat illegal online gambling;
- (2) Regarding the engagements of the NGB with foreign jurisdictions to stop foreign licensed operators from offering gambling activities in the Republic in the past five financial years, what is the breakdown for each specified financial year in terms of the (a) nature of the engagements, (b) outcome of the engagements and (c) foreign jurisdictions the NGB engaged with;
- (3) What difficulties has the NGB identified in engaging with foreign jurisdictions to stop foreign licensed operators from offering gambling activities in the Republic;
- (4) What steps has the NGB taken and/or intends to take to address the specified difficulties? NW2228E

REPLY:

- 1) The Stakeholders Priority Committee to Combat Illegal Gambling (SPCIG) meetings take place on a quarterly basis to assess updates on enforcement action undertaken in each province on land based illegal gambling operations including internet cafes which facilitate illegal online gambling.

The NGB partnering with the SAPS' Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigations Unit (DPCI), involves meetings with INTERPOL operation HAECHI VI and the focus is targeting illicit money crimes emanating from illegal online gambling amongst other

financial crimes. Information sharing in these meetings involves collaboration to share resources in fighting the 7 identified cyber enabled crimes. Prior to 23 May 2024 the NGB, through DPCI, submitted identified websites offering illegal online gambling in South Africa for their assistance.

A meeting was requested with Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to seek their assistance in facilitating engagements with the network operators for purposes of blocking the illegal online gambling websites and to identify unlawful winnings payouts through banking systems, respectively.

NGB established a relationship with Google Africa to remove identified illegal gambling websites from google search to prevent access to those websites by South Africans. The first batch of illegal gambling websites was sent and the NGB received a response that the illegal gambling websites will be removed.

- 2) The UK Gambling Commission was informally engaged in 2022. (Appointment with UK Gambling Commission was made:
 - a. At the International Association of Gambling Regulators (IAGR) Conference in 2022, the NGB met the UK Gambling Commission to discuss enforcement collaboration.
 - b. The UK Gambling Commission expressed willingness to assist the NGB if any of their licensees contravenes South African legislation.
 - c. United Kingdom.
- 3) The licensing jurisdictions like Gibraltar have licensed online gambling specifically for offshore markets. Attempts to contact these jurisdictions is difficult as the listed email addresses are often not working or they do not respond to email communication.
- 4) The NGB intends to lobby local network operators to help by blocking the illegal online gambling operators as indicated above.

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