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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2194

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

- (1) What (a) approach is utilised by the National Gambling Board (NGB) to identify illegal gambling websites and (b) amount of resources has the NGB allocated towards this;
- (2) regarding the engagements undertaken by the NGB with SA network operators to block illegal online gambling websites in the past five financial years, what is the breakdown for each specified financial year in terms of (a) the total amount of illegal online gambling websites identified by the NGB, (b) the Operators the NGB engaged with and (c) if the Operators followed through in blocking the illegal sites;
- (3) regarding the engagements undertaken by the NGB with Google Africa to remove illegal gambling websites from their search engine, (a) what total number of websites have been reported to Google Africa each year for the past five financial years, (b) what total number of the reported websites were removed from the search engine and (c) has the NGB engaged directly with the offices of Google Africa to address the issue of illegal gambling websites in the Republic? NW2229E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the National Gambling Board (NGB) as follows:

- 1) (a) Illegal gambling sites are identified by reliance on third party information; namely when unlawful winnings are confiscated by third parties and the websites through which the illegal online gambling activity has occurred are mentioned in a prescribed NGB form. Other instances of identification of illegal online gambling websites include complaints received from the public via a dedicated NGB email address or the NGB fraud hotline. The NGB, upon receipt of such information relating to the gambling website, the NGB confirms with the relevant province whether a gambling operator is registered in South Africa. Where the gambling operator is licensed outside South Africa, they are deemed to be an illegal gambling website operator. To further aid in the identification process, the URL of the gambling website is used in the determination process.
- (b) The NGB has allocated two (2) human capital resources to deal with the challenges posed by the illegal gambling websites. In addition to the human capital utilised, the NGB

has allocated financial resources to the extent of five hundred and ninety-six thousand rands (R596, 000) for the identification of illegal gambling websites. This includes travel costs and Legal Enforcement Forum meetings to be held in the 2025/26 financial year period.

- 2) (a) The current NGB database indicates ninety (90) illegal gambling websites. The illegal gambling websites listed are registered and licensed overseas (List of illegal gambling websites is attached – **Annexure A**), (b) The NGB did not engage with the operators of the illegal gambling websites and (c) Operators did not block their illegal sites as the NGB did not engage with them.

The process that the NGB follows for the blocking of illegal gambling website, involves engagement with various stakeholders that are responsible for the provision of the platform for the website to operate in South Africa. The NGB does not engage directly with the illegal website operator.

- 3) (a) For the financial year ending 2024/2025, the NGB forwarded ten (10) websites to Google Africa for removal from the search engine (List of websites for removal from Google SA search engine is attached – **Annexure B**), (b) To date, none of the websites have been removed from the search engine and (c) Yes, the NGB has engaged with Google SA. (Refer to **Annexure B**).

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