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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 232

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

- (1) Whether, with regard to the gambling industry governance and regulation in the Republic, he has convened the National Gambling Policy Council (NGPC) in line with the National Gambling Act, Act 7 of 2004, since 3 July 2024; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, on what date was the NGPC last convened;
- (2) What has been the impact of the NGPC not sitting?
- (3) When was the last time the National Gambling Board (NGB) had a full and functional board;
- (4) On what date will the NGB have a fully constituted board;
- (5) Whether he has found that the current (a) gambling legislation and (b) regulatory framework is adequate to curb the runaway gambling crisis; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?NW240E

REPLY:

- (1) The Minister has not yet convened the National Gambling Policy Council (NGPC) and is planning to hold the meeting soon. The last NGPC was held on 12 March 2018.
- (2) The statutory mandate of the NGPC in terms of section 62 of the National Gambling Act, 2004 is among others, to consult on the determination and establishment of the national gambling policy and laws including the promotion of uniform national and provincial laws in respect of gambling norms and standards; and any matter concerning gambling within the national and provincial spheres of government. The NGPC enables provinces and national government to debate and deliberate on policy and ensure alignment of policy and enforcement interventions across the country. Gambling is a functional area of concurrent competence between national and provincial government in terms of the Constitution, therefore it requires intergovernmental cooperation. When the NGPC is unable to sit, finalisation of policies and legislation is affected and policy decisions cannot be taken. With the gambling environment evolving, there has been a growth in the industry which also paved a way for illegal activities, such as online gambling to thrive. In addition,

the inability to meet affects uniformity and harmonisation of gambling policy and legislation which leads to fragmentation in the gambling regulation in the country.

- (3) The National Gambling Board (NGB) has been without a board since September 2014. The former Minister of Trade and Industry at the time suspended the members of the board pending an investigation. Pursuant to their suspension, the board members resigned around November 2014. The Minister appointed two Administrators in 2014 to continue with the work of the National Gambling Board. There is currently one Administrator as the accounting authority of the NGB.
- (4) The department is finalising the appointment process and will make an announcement in due course.
- (5) (a) and (b) The gambling industry has in the past decade evolved with various challenges. **the dtic** has drafted the National Gambling Amendment Bill that was adopted by Cabinet and introduced to Parliament in 2018. The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry at the time, due to time constraints decided to only address and include issues that were seen to be urgent and did not address the entire Bill. The National Gambling Amendment Bill of 2018 remain in Parliament and was in Mediation in the 6th Parliament. The Bill is revived in the current Administration. The remaining policy issues that were in the Bill and removed in 2018, remain relevant and are being reviewed for further consideration by the Department. The issues include restrictions in advertising, the issues of B-BBEE, recognition of self-regulation in the horse racing industry, illegal gambling and electronic bingo and others.

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