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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2388

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

Given the prevalence of online gambling (details furnished), what (a) total number of times since 1 July 2025 has the National Gambling Policy Council (NGPC) been convened to assess the prevalence of gambling addiction in the Republic and (b) resolutions has he and/or the NGPC undertaken in such meetings to stop the spread of gambling addiction in the Republic?NO2283E

REPLY:

- a) The total number of times the NGPC has convened, is two meetings since 1 July 2025. The first meeting was on the 8 July 2025, and the second meeting was on 30 October 2025. The NGPC discussed gambling issues and challenges faced by the country with an intention to come up with tangible and enforceable solutions. The NGPC has noted that advertising has an impact on propensity to gamble and the impact thereof, which includes addiction. The National Gambling Board (NGB) in its attempts to address issues of gambling addiction, is currently developing norms and standards in collaboration with Provincial Licensing Authorities (PLAs) with the intention that they be implemented as licensing conditions. This is further to align with the preamble of the National Gambling Act, 2004 ('the Act') to emphasise that there must be uniform norms and standards which would safeguard people participating in gambling and their communities against the adverse effect of gambling throughout South Africa. This may protect the society and the economy against over stimulation and latent demand for gambling. The NGB has also conducted a surveillance of gambling advertising in print, broadcast, outdoor, and digital media and have worked closely with PLAs during oversight to detect and address non-compliance with legislation including providing interventions and policy



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proposals for advertising to address issues of overstimulation which leads to addiction. These interventions include ensuring that advertising is not directed or placed where the majority of the audience is under the age of 18, including schools and youth centres; ensuring that all gambling adverts include responsible gambling warnings to highlight the risk of addictive and compulsive gambling; among others.

- b) The resolution was to fast-track the development of a Bill to address gambling challenges in South Africa. The NGPC have also established a Gambling Technical Committee, whose mandate is to review the National Gambling Amendment Bill, 2018 to ensure that the National Gambling Act and Provincial laws are addressed effectively and sufficiently at NGPC for cohesion and harmonisation of gambling policy, law and enforcement in South Africa. The mandate extends to engage on the agenda items for the NGPC meetings; and to engage on any other gambling related matters to be discussed at the NGPC meetings. **the dtic** has since October 2025 undertaken the review of the Act, to come up with a Policy document that will inform the drafting of the Bill. The Bill is envisaged to be tabled in Cabinet later in the year. The department has also noted that advertisement has a major role in enforcing the enticing perceptions on gambling; therefore, Regulations on gambling advertising are being developed parallel to the Bill to strengthen section 15 of the Act and Regulation 3 of the National Gambling Regulations, 2004.

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