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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO. 359

**Mr R W T Chance (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

- (1) With reference to the Annual Report of the National Gambling Board (NGB) for the 2024-25 financial year, which reflects a 31% increase in the incidence of problem gambling, what (a) research and (b) data informed the statistic;
- (2) what is the (a) overall incidence of the (i) gambling and (ii) betting problem and (b) breakdown thereof in respect of (i) regulated and (ii) unregulated sites;
- (3) whether he has found the mechanisms his department has in place are effective in monitoring (a) regulated and (b) unregulated sites; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the details of the monitoring mechanisms? NW375E

#### REPLY:

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

**1. (a) Research which informed the statistic**

NGB 2023/24 National Study on socio-economic impact of gambling in South Africa.

**(b) Data which informed the statistic**

Data was based on a national household survey.



2. **(a) Overall incidence of the (i) gambling-**

The overall incidence of gambling based on the 2023/24 research study was 65.7%. The incidence of betting is 22% for retail betting and 46% for betting conducted online.

**Overall incidence of the (ii) betting problem-**

The overall incidence of **problem gambling** was 31% of gamblers. Of these problem gamblers, 32% engaged in retail betting while 50% engaged in online betting.

**(b) Breakdown thereof in respect of (i) regulated-**

The gambling incidence by **regulated** modes was as follows:

- Lucky draws – 47%
- Scratch cards – 31%
- National Lottery – 66%
- Bingo (Traditional) – 4%
- Bingo (Electronic) – 5%
- Casino – 27%
- LPM – 7%
- Betting on sports and other contingencies (retail) – 22%
- Betting on sports and other contingencies (online) – 46%
- Betting on horse racing (retail) – 9%
- Betting on horse racing (online) – 12%

**Breakdown thereof in respect of (ii) unregulated sites-**

The incidence of **illegal and unlicensed** gambling is 57%. (This indicates the percentage of gamblers who engaged in at least one mode of gambling that is either illegal or undertaken at an unregulated site).

*\*Note: survey participants could select multiple modes of gambling, and some would partake in both legal and illegal/unlicensed modes; hence the participation rate is high for both regulated and unregulated modes.*



3. Whether he has found the mechanisms his department has in place are effective in monitoring -

**(a) regulated:**

Yes, the mechanism are effective although there are areas of continuous improvement

**(b) unregulated sites:**

Yes, the NGB is making progress on illegal land-based gambling outlets. Raids are organised in collaboration with provincial licensing authorities and law enforcement agencies. In these raids, machines are confiscated and later destroyed in the relevant province. There are arrests effected but mostly these are admissions of guilt cases.

However, in relation to illegal online gambling the NGB is struggling to prosecute. When websites are identified, they are shared with Google Africa for possibly take down process. This is a temporary measure as the websites are swiftly reinstated through another link. But the NGB will continuously monitor this to ensure that each time another link is created, they are reported to Google Africa. The NGB has also written to foreign licensing jurisdictions of these illegal websites to work around a plan to stop the practice. Banks are engaged together with the FIC, SABRIC to help in detection of illicit funds movement related to gambling. The NGB is engaging ICASA and other stakeholders to ensure that there is assistance to block unlawful websites.

**If not**, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the details of the monitoring mechanisms -

The monitoring mechanism in place under the National Gambling Act 2004 (Act 7, 2004) and relevant Provincial Gambling Acts of monitoring licenced operators includes:



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### **Licensing and Suitability Investigations**

- Fit-and-proper assessments of operators, shareholders, and key employees.
- Ongoing suitability reviews.

### **Regulatory Oversight by Provincial Gambling Boards**

- Routine compliance inspections.
- Surveillance of casino floors and Limited Payout Machine (LPM) sites.
- Monitoring of betting outlets.

### **Technical Certification & Testing**

- Mandatory testing and certification of gambling equipment and systems.
- Compliance with South African National Standards (e.g. SANS 1718 series).

### **Central Monitoring Systems (CMS)**

- Real-time electronic monitoring of LPMs and, localised CMS in casinos.
- Automated reporting of turnover, payouts, and tax calculations.

### **Financial and Compliance Reporting**

- Submission of audited financial statements.
- Regulatory returns and operational reports.
- Anti-money laundering compliance under FIC requirements.

### **Advertising and Responsible Gambling Oversight**

- Enforcement of advertising standards.
- Responsible gambling obligations and exclusion registers.

**-END-**