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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO. 864

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

- 1) What efforts (a) has and (b) will his department undertake to implement gambling reforms?
- 2) Which key stakeholders has his department identified as playing an essential role in the specified gambling reforms?
- 3) What efforts (a) have been made and (b) will be made to strengthen coordination and collaboration with the stakeholders on gambling matters? NW975E

#### REPLY:

- 1) Efforts undertaken and efforts to be undertaken to implement gambling reforms:

(a) In recent years, new ways of offering and accessing gambling services have emerged due to technological advancements and the widespread availability of mobile devices. This development affects both regulation and enforcement, as it has led to increased participation in illegal online gambling. The current legislation did not anticipate such evolution in the industry and therefore requires amendment. Online gambling has gained significant traction, and South Africa requires legislation that will address all gaps identified within the industry.

(b) The Department is currently reviewing the National Gambling Amendment Bill, which aims to address issues related to online gambling, illegal gambling, and gambling advertising. Enforcement measures will also be strengthened as a way to curb illegal gambling activities. The legislative reform process will follow the normal



legislative procedures, including Parliamentary processes, interdepartmental consultations, stakeholder engagement, and public participation.

- 2) Key stakeholders identified by the Department as playing an essential role in the specified gambling reforms are:

National Gambling Board (NGB), Provincial Licensing Authorities (PLAs), other relevant Departments such as National Treasury and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, the banking sector, including the Reserve Bank, South African Responsible Gambling Foundation, gambling industry associations and advocacy groups.

- 3) Efforts undertaken and to be undertaken to strengthen coordination and collaboration with the stakeholders on gambling matters:

- (a) The Department has been in engagements with the National Gambling Board, other stakeholders such as Google SA, the National Treasury and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies on issues of taxation, prolific advertising and illegal gambling sites.

As the Minister, I have convened the National Gambling Policy Council meetings as required by the National Gambling Act, 2004. Matters relating to policy and necessary legislative reforms have been discussed during these meetings. These engagements assist in ensuring policy alignment between national and provincial authorities. The Department acknowledges the invaluable input provided by these stakeholders in shaping coherent and enforceable gambling legislation.

- (b) The Department will establish clear communication channels through continuous engagement with the identified stakeholders. It will also define roles and responsibilities and set clear expectations to ensure alignment with the mandates of each stakeholder in addressing gambling-related matters.

**-END-**