



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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the dti AND THE NATIONAL GAMBLING BOARD TO EMBARK ON A NATIONAL GAMBLING AWARENESS ROADSHOW

The Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**) in collaboration with the National Gambling Board (NGB) will undertake a national education roadshow to create awareness among members of the public about responsible gambling and the socio-economic consequences of gambling. The roadshow will start in Bochum, Limpopo on 19 September 2016 and end in Gauteng in November 2016.

According to the Acting Deputy Director-General of Consumer and Corporate Regulation at **the dti**, Mr MacDonald Netshitenzhe, the main purpose of the roadshow is to educate the South African society about the advantages and disadvantages of gambling in order to encourage them to gamble responsibly.

“As a national department, we recognise the positive socio-economic benefits derived from gambling in terms of job creation and contributing to the country’s Gross Domestic Product. But we are also cognisant of the negative socio-economic impact of gambling, hence the education and awareness roadshow is aimed at encouraging people to gamble responsibly and within the legal limits,” says Netshitenzhe.



He adds that the roadshow will go a long way in assisting members of the public to be able to distinguish between licensed and unlicensed gambling operators, as well as identifying symptoms of problem gambling or addiction amongst friends and family members, and seek help.

“We would like communities to become aware of legal and illegal gambling activities as well as penalties imposed by the National Gambling Act. We would also like them to know that operators also have responsibilities and obligations that they must comply with in line with the legislation. One of these is the National Responsible Gambling Programme that the industry and government are working together on, to encourage responsible gambling and provide guidance and assistance to gamblers who require it,” adds Netshitenzhe.

The Accounting Authority of the NGB, Ms Caroline Kongwa has expressed her support for the campaign and says she trusts that this initiative will raise awareness levels in terms of responsible gambling and participation in legal and illegal forms of gambling.

“The NGB will reinforce the roadshows with a multimedia campaign which will run from 21 September to 30 November 2016 and will target areas where gambling has been found to be prevalent based on research conducted by the NGB. The campaign will also focus on illegal (online) gambling and the consequences of participation,” she adds.

Ms Kongwa emphasises that the public should report fraudulent and illegal gambling activities to the NGB or the relevant Provincial Licensing Authority. She says the NGB remains aware and concerned about the existence and growth of illegal gambling in the country.

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