



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

MEDIA ALERT

Thursday: 10 October 2022

National Prosecuting Authority and the Courts not a Threat to Illegal Gambling Operators

Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism together with the Limpopo Gambling Board calls upon the National Prosecuting Authority and the Courts to introduce severe penalties for illegal gambling operators. Offenders are currently paying admission of guilt fines from as minimum as R500 and R1500.

The illegal gambling sector in Limpopo continues to thrive with repeat offenders happily paying fines and smuggling new illegal gambling machines into their money laundering businesses disguised as Spaza Shops. The repeat offenders are not deterred by the fines and confiscation raids nor fear the outcomes of the prosecution authorities.

The Limpopo Gambling Board together with the South African Police Service consistently conduct raids on suspicious operations and Spaza Shops, however such efforts alone cannot bear fruits without harsh penalties against those found with illegal gambling machines as well as harsher penalties against repeat offenders. The monies made by the illegal gambling sector far exceeds the minimal penalties for admission of guilt payments hence the appetite to openly re-establish such illegal operation post payment of fines.

The recent observation by the Limpopo Gambling Board has noted with great concern as the number of children and pupils under the age of eighteen who are found engaging in illegal gambling activities especially at Spaza Shops. All the districts in Limpopo are now hard hit by illegal gambling operations with Sekhukhune District leading the Province on illegal operations and possibly organised smugglers.

The Profits made from such illegal gambling operations are not accounted for through provincial financial platforms.

Members of the public are therefore urged to boycott all Spaza Shops and unregistered gambling businesses which conduct illegal gambling or are in possession of gambling machines such as Chinese Roulettes.

Once again illegal gambling, remains worrisome as 90% of those found guilty on possession of illegal gambling machines or operating such facilities are foreign nationals.

The Limpopo Gambling Board invites Members of the Media to the Disposal of Confiscated Illegal Machines as follows:

Date: Friday, 11 October 2024

Time: 10h00

Venue: Bosveld Scrap Metal, 23 Staal Street, Ladine, City of Polokwane, Limpopo

For more information, please contact:

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