



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Member of the Executive Council (MEC)

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our Ref: 099
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MS AWMK MOSUPYOE

Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature
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QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY TO BE TABLED BY MEMBER K M MORIARTY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA).

5. ECD 099. According to the National Gambling Board 2024/25 annual report, a total amount of R74.9 billion in Gross Gambling Revenue (GGR) was generated during this period. The Western Cape (31%) accounted for the highest amount of GGR generated across provinces, closely followed by Mpumalanga (30%). Both provinces have overtaken Gauteng, previously the largest gambling market, which now stands at 18% market share. Gauteng has lost its leading position in gambling revenue. This is largely due to the fact that many of South Africa's top online betting platforms have licences issued by the Western Cape and Mpumalanga provincial gambling authorities. Gauteng has not established a provincial licensing framework for online betting platforms.

In light of the above, could the MEC please indicate:

Madam Speaker

I refer to the above and enclose hereunder my response(s) thereto:

QUESTION 1: How much estimated revenue has Gauteng lost over the past five financial years due to online betting operators being licensed in other provinces;

ANSWER: With an estimated 5% annual increment, from year 2019/2020 to 2024/2025, Gauteng has lost an estimated 282 million rands.

QUESTION 2: How many online betting platforms currently operate in Gauteng while holding licences issued by other provinces.

ANSWER: All bookmakers operating online betting platforms advertise nationally across social media, television, radio, and print media. In addition, they engage in physical advertising through static and digital billboards situated along the major highways in Gauteng.

QUESTION 3: What impact has this loss of revenue had on the provincial fiscus and funding for economic development initiatives;

ANSWER: The decline in Gauteng's share of the GGR from an aggregate of 35% in previous years to 18% in 2024/25 has had a significant impact on the provincial fiscus and its ability to fund economic development initiatives. Gambling revenue forms a vital component of the province's own revenue base, contributing to public service delivery and socio-economic programmes through taxes, levies, and licence fees collected from operators. Consequently, the loss of revenue has adversely affected the province's capacity to finance key public service delivery projects.

This revenue shortfall has directly reduced the funds available for initiatives such as enterprise development, job creation, and community upliftment programmes. It has also constrained allocations to Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programmes, including those dedicated to responsible gambling awareness, education, and treatment interventions.

QUESTION 4: Why has Gauteng not developed and implemented its own licensing framework for online sports betting platforms;

ANSWER: Gauteng through Gauteng Gambling Board does not issue separate or distinct gambling licences for online sports betting. However, holders of bookmaker's licences are permitted to offer online sports betting on their platforms.

QUESTION 5: What are the specific policy or legal barriers that have prevented Gauteng from issuing such licences;

ANSWER: The Gauteng Gambling Act, 1995 does not make a special dispensation for issuing of separate online gambling licences over and above existing licences. The issuing of two licences may burden licensees with additional costs which is unnecessary. The draft amendment Gauteng Bill envisages relaxing some of the restrictions imposed on contingencies or bets which may be offered by licence holders.

QUESTION 6: Has the department considered aligning its regulatory framework with that of provinces like Western Cape and Mpumalanga;

ANSWER: Yes. The Department, through the GGB, has considered and continues to explore the alignment of its regulatory framework with that of provinces such as the Western Cape and Mpumalanga. Of importance, the GGB ensures that it is aligned to the National Gambling Act, 2004. Regular benchmarking and inter-provincial engagements are undertaken to identify best practices and areas for harmonisation, particularly in licensing regimes, compliance monitoring, and revenue optimisation.

Furthermore, the GGB is currently reviewing its legislation to ensure that online betting activities are conducted within a robust and compliant regulatory framework.

QUESTION 7: Has the department engaged the National Gambling Board or National Treasury on harmonising online betting regulations to prevent interprovincial revenue leak

ANSWER: The department participate in the National Gambling Policy Council on behalf of the provincial government where gambling related policy and regulations discussions takes place. The council is convened by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition and all provinces are represented.

Through these engagements, it was proposed that the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's (DTIC) Technical Committee collaborate with Provincial Licensing Authorities (PLAs) to urgently develop a policy framework on online gambling, accompanied by defined timeframes, noting that international jurisdictions have already advanced significantly in this regard.

QUESTION 8: What has been the outcome of these engagements, if any;

ANSWER: The engagements are on-going and some of the areas of concerns that are still being discussed relate to the following, amongst others:

- The regulation of online gambling, which remains unaddressed despite its growing prevalence and associated risks.
- Regulation and harmonisation of gambling advertising more effectively.
- Strengthen oversight of online betting.
- Proposal to introduce automated mechanisms for responsible gambling interventions.
- The operationalization and integration of the national self-exclusion register.

QUESTION 9: What plans does Gauteng have to introduce a provincial licensing framework for online betting platforms; and

ANSWER: Gauteng through GGB does not issue separate or distinct gambling licences for online betting, however holders of bookmaker's licences are permitted to offer online betting on their platforms.

QUESTION 10: How will the department ensure that any policy changes are accompanied by measures to address gambling addiction, illegal operators and compliance risks?

ANSWER: The Department, through the GGB, ensures that all policy changes are supported by initiatives aimed at promoting responsible gambling and enhancing regulatory enforcement. This includes working with the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation to tackle gambling addiction, conducting joint operations with law enforcement to combat illegal operators, and improving compliance monitoring to reduce regulatory risks.

Yours sincerely



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MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MEC)
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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