

Media Statement

Issued by the Board of the National Lotteries Commission



National Lotteries Commission Addresses Allegations

[Tshwane, 2 October 2024] The Board of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has noted media reports following the appearance of the Chairperson and Commissioner before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Trade, Industry and Competition on 18 September 2024.

In particular, the Board is concerned about various allegations seemingly centered on the conflicts of interests and the appointment of the Commissioner, including casting vague aspersions on the reputation and integrity of the members of the Board. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee subsequently requested the dissolution of the NLC Board, citing a perceived conflict of interest.

The NLC firmly refutes these allegations and clarifies the following:

- **Board Appointments:** The Board members were appointed by the Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition in accordance with the Lotteries Act, and the appointments were approved by Cabinet. All members underwent a rigorous selection process and there are no conflicts of interest either declared or identified.
- **Commissioner Appointment:** The Commissioner was appointed through a transparent process that included a public advertisement, headhunting, interviews, and subsequent approval by the Minister and endorsed by the Cabinet. There is no evidence of irregularities or conflicts of interest in this process.
- **4th Lottery License Process:** The NLC has followed strict procedures for the appointment of the 4th lottery license operator in adherence to the Lotteries Act including the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the Minister. The process is well underway, and the bids are undergoing a rigorous process of evaluation and adjudication. Various experts are involved at different stages of the process and all participants are undergoing rigorous probity checks and conflict declarations.

The entire selection process is subject to an independent quality assurance process of both the Board and the Minister. The Minister will in due time receive the reports and make the appointment of the operator.

The NLC is committed to transparency, accountability, integrity and good governance. The Board will perform its duties without fear or favour. We call upon everyone to allow the process of selecting the 4th National Lottery operator to continue unhindered.

We are at one in the view that we wish to be judged only by the product of the work that we have had the privilege of undertaking and the quality of the product that we shall in the fullness of time have the honour to present to the people of South Africa.

End.

On behalf of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission:

N Barney Pitsofale Tsebe GCOB FKC MASSAf

CHAIRPERSON

ABOUT THE NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION

The National Lotteries Commission is established in terms of the Lotteries Act No 57 of 1997 to regulate lotteries and sports pools in South Africa. From these regulatory activities, we collect revenue to distribute funds to qualifying organisations that work for the public good across South Africa.

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