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NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION
a member of **the dti** group

National Lotteries Commission (NLC)
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NLC RESPONSE TO SATURDAY DISPATCH ARTICLE

19 November 2018

The National Lotteries Commission has noted with grave concern the inaccurate report published in the Saturday Dispatch on 17 November 2018 under the heading **Lotto millions never reach the beneficiaries.**

The headline was totally misleading and was obviously intended to tarnish the reputation of the National Lotteries Commission by creating the impression that grant funding approved by its Distributing Agencies **never** reaches the intended beneficiaries. Allow us to furnish you with the facts that will dispel the confusion caused by this article.

There are two Early Childhood Development Centres that the NLC has funded in the Eastern Cape between 2015 and 2018.

Siyazama Day Care Centre (**NPO 080 -961**) submitted an application for funding on the 3rd April 2018, in which they requested funding for renovating a shack they operated in. On the 2nd August 2018 the Charities Distributing Agency requested them to submit a quotation for a suitable structure, which the beneficiary did on the 16th August 2018. The project was adjudicated again on the 26th September 2018 and an allocation of R371 110.00 was approved - R220, 110.00 earmarked for the container and the rest for capacity building, stipends and operational costs.

On the 2nd October 2018, the beneficiary was notified of the outcome and they submitted the signed Grant Agreement on the 5th of November 2018. It is now less than two weeks since the submission of the Grant Agreement and the project will be processed for payment shortly.

The assertion that the beneficiary received R1, 266, 667.00 as listed on page 177 of the NLC's 2016/17 Annual Report under project 82283 is untrue. The payment reflected in that Annual

CHANGING LIVES

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Report was for a different project altogether – Siyazama Day Care Centre (NPO 045 -652). Furthermore, the payment of R1, 266, 667.00, which you referred to in the article, was just a tranche of the total grant of R3,800, 000.00 made to Siyazama Day Care Centre (NPO 045 – 652), which was made in that financial year, whilst the remaining tranches were paid in the 2017/18 financial year. The NLC’s Monitoring and Evaluation officials have visited the site and are now awaiting the final report from the beneficiary, which will mark completion of the project. In essence, these are two different projects.

With regard to the application that was supposedly declined, our system has no record of such an application (as indicated to your journalist), but of another Siyazama that is based in Alice. In our view, the confusion regarding this school was in fact created by the Saturday Dispatch’s own journalist, who approached the school and told them that they had been allocated an amount of R1.2m – which was blatantly false.

Had the journalist been upfront and transparent about the intentions behind his deceptively straightforward enquiry, we would have assisted him with the facts above and saved the publication from publishing a fallacious article.

We remain open to further engagement with your publication to ensure that your readers are provided with clear and accurate information.

Regards

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