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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**26 AUGUST 2025**

### **NLC BOARD CHAIRPERSON PROF BARNEY PITYANA TO RETIRE**

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) wishes to address recent media reports, stated that the Chairperson of the NLC Board, Prof. Barney Pityana, had resigned from his position.

"In July 2025, I received a formal request from the chairperson of the board to retire with effect from the 1st December 2025. This process was misinterpreted as a resignation. As the Executive Authority, I fully accept his retirement request, and a proper process will unfold with immediate effect to fill the vacancy of NLC Board chairperson. To ensure business continuity, Prof Pityana will continue to serve in his role steering the strategic and governance responsibilities of the Commission until 31 December 2025," Minister Parks Tau.

Prof. Barney Pityana joined the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) on 1st August 2022 following his appointment by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) in terms of the National Lotteries Act. He has steered the commission through extremely challenging period, following the November 2020 presidential proclamation granting the SIU permission to probe the NLC and reclaim any losses.

Prof Pityana has been responsible for driving the introduction of restorative governance measures and stabilising the commission since his appointment. During his tenure he has worked tirelessly with the board and senior management in the commission to introduce the following strategic interventions:

#### **A Record of Strong, Accountable Leadership**

Since his appointment, the Chairperson has played a pivotal role in advancing ethical governance, restoring public trust, and ensuring financial and operational reform within the NLC. Under his leadership, the NLC has taken significant strides in addressing



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historical irregularities, strengthening internal controls, and aligning with best practices in public finance management.

### Key achievements during his tenure include:

- **Oversight of Governance and Policy Reform:** A comprehensive review of 95% of organisational policies—including the Grant funding management policy, Supply Chain Management, Human Capital, and Performance Management—was conducted to ensure full compliance with legislative frameworks.
- **Rebuilding Grant Integrity and Oversight:** The Commission introduced a new grant management system with integrated verifications (e.g., RMB, CIPC, Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and SARS, with future expansion to other entities), mandatory site visits for applicants, and 100% monitoring of funded projects. Controls over research-based funding were strengthened, with due diligence and enhanced monitoring mechanisms. The Board now approves funding priority areas such as:

- o Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- o Food Security
- o Youth Employment (via the Safe Hubs concept)
- o Creative Industries

In addition, in response to an emergency funding shortfall affecting HIV/AIDS and TB programmes, the Board has committed R100 million to sustain these critical health interventions to bridge the pefar funding gap, including:

- o R10 million to the Eastern Cape
- o R14.6 million to the Western Cape for flood relief and disaster response efforts.

- **Robust Risk and Ethics Management:** A whistleblower hotline, a Lifestyle Audit Policy and its subsequent implementation, and an Ethics Management



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Framework were established. Fraud cases are subject to recovery actions and criminal referrals, and a dedicated Forensic Audit function investigates high-risk matters.

- **Internal Audit Strengthening:** The Internal Audit unit now reports independently to the Board Audit and Risk Committee and conducts regular audits on grant funding, SCM, and core operations.
- **Leadership Stability and Capacity Building:** Under the Chairperson's leadership, the Commission has prioritised the filling of critical vacancies and executive posts to ensure operational excellence.
- **Collaboration with Oversight Bodies:** The NLC continues to work closely with the Auditor-General, Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, relevant provincial gambling bodies, and National Treasury to align remedial actions with national oversight priorities.
- **Unqualified audit opinion 2024/25 FY:** Through his leadership, the commission obtained unqualified audit opinion 2024/25 FY.

“His leadership has helped to position the NLC as a public entity committed to transformation, compliance, and service delivery excellence. His continued stewardship is invaluable during this critical period of transition within the National Lottery sector, including the appointment of a Temporary Licensee and the pending launch of the Fourth National Lottery Licence,” Minister Parks Tau said. As the Executive Authority, I remain committed to transparent communication and will continue to engage openly with stakeholders, the media, and the public. “I want to take this opportunity to convey to Prof Pityana our best wishes and to express our gratitude for his dedication, selflessness and hard work in serving the commission during this critical time in its history”, Minister Parks Tau said.

Ends

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