

Media Statement

Issued by the National Lotteries Commission



NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION (NLC) WELCOMES AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION FROM AUDITOR-GENERAL SOUTH AFRICA FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

[Pretoria, 16 October 2025]. The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) welcomes an unqualified audit opinion by the Auditor-General of South Africa on the Commission's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This announcement follows the tabling of the NLC's Annual Report by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr. Parks Tau to Parliament on 30 September and marks a significant milestone in the strengthening of governance, accountability, and transparency. The outcome reflects NLC's continued efforts to entrench good governance practices and demonstrates remarkable progress in stabilising the organisation. The last time the organisation was issued with an unqualified audit opinion was in the 2019/20 financial year. In the past financial years, the Commission obtained qualified audit opinions.

The NLC Board implemented a turnaround strategy underpinned by digitisation and modernisation of grant funding application process and implementation of revised internal controls that include the requirements of Identity numbers and valid Tax clearance certificates from prospective grant recipients from February 2023.

In line with legislative processes, the audited annual report is now a public document and has been published on the NLC's website.

The key highlights of the 2024/25 Annual Report are:

- 80% of Annual Performance Plan (APP) targets were achieved (12 out of 15 targets). The Auditor-General did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

- Disbursements to community projects increased from **R523 million** to **R988 million** underscoring the important contribution lotteries make to community development and social upliftment.
- The Commission initiated the modernisation of its grant management system, Thuthuka, aimed at streamlining application and adjudication process. Through the Thuthuka online grant portal, the NLC has made it easier for non-profit entities to apply for funding and for the NLC to process applications.
- Ticket sales rose from **R1,83 billion** to **R1,96 billion**.
- The group achieved an operating surplus of **R707 million** and an accumulated surplus **R4,3 billion**.
- A total of 4 823 invoices were received, 4 430 paid within 30 days, 184 paid after 30 days and only 207 unpaid invoices were older than 30 days at the time financial statements were prepared.
- Irregular expenditure declined considerably from **R44,9 million** to **R6,8 million** attributed mainly to historical contracts.

In the last two financial years, the commission has strengthened governance systems, tightened internal controls and prioritised consequence management.

“This is a historic moment for us as the National Lotteries Commission. It hasn’t been an easy journey and credit must go to the collective efforts of Executive Authority, Board of Directors, executive management team, officials and stakeholders,” said NLC Commissioner, Ms. Jodi Scholtz. She said while the commission is celebrating this milestone, the focus now shifts to sustaining good governance.

She added that the achievement was not just about numbers, but about accountability, integrity, and serving the civil society sector with honesty. “This achievement proves that clean governance and strong financial management translate into better service delivery. We are not just managing the disbursement of grant funding and regulating the national lottery, we are also enhancing public trust and restoring public confidence in the whole system.”

ENDS

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