

Media Statement

Issued by the National Lotteries Commission



NLC BOARD REAFFIRMS STRONG GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON IT'S OPERATIONS

[07 November 2025] The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) notes the recent opinion piece by Build One South Africa (BOSA) Member of Parliament, Ms. Nobuntu Hlazo-Webster, published in the *Business Day* newspaper dated 31 October 2025, and wishes to reaffirm its continued commitment to good governance, transparency, and accountability on its operations.

NLC Board under the leadership of Professor Barney Pityana and with the support of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), has made significant strides in strengthening institutional integrity and restoring public trust. Over the past two years, the Commission has implemented far-reaching governance reforms and internal control measures designed to foster ethical conduct, compliance with legislation, and responsible management of public funds.

The NLC has successfully completed a comprehensive review of its governance and operational policies which are now aligned to relevant legislation and best practice. These reforms include **enhanced internal controls to safeguard financial resources, improved oversight, and strengthened monitoring and evaluation mechanisms**. All Board Committees — including **Audit and Risk, Legal, Human Resources, and Ethics** — are fully functional and play a key role in ensuring that accountability and oversight remain central to the Commission's operations.

As part of its institutional renewal, the Commission introduced an online Grant Management System that integrates verification mechanisms of various government entities such as the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), South African Revenue Service (SARS), Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of Social Development. This system ensures that all funded projects are subjected to rigorous due diligence and continuous monitoring, thereby reinforcing transparency in grant allocation.

Strong ethics and risk management frameworks are now embedded in the NLC's operations. The establishment of a confidential Whistleblower Hotline and the implementation of a Lifestyle Audit Policy have strengthened accountability and promoted a culture of ethical behaviour across all levels of the organisation. The Internal Audit function, reporting independently to the Audit and Risk Committee, continues to provide regular assurance on key operational areas, ensuring that the Commission maintains the highest standards of governance and financial control.

These concerted efforts have contributed to the restoration of stakeholders' confidence and reaffirmation of NLC's commitment to its mandate of serving communities through transparent and impactful funding. The recent Auditor-General South Africa's **unqualified audit opinion on the NLC's 2024/25 Annual Financial Statements** is a demonstration of progress made thus far and a clear reflection of the NLC's turnaround and adherence to sound financial management principles.

In addition, the current Board has undergone an independent performance evaluation in a form of a 360-degree process for the financial year 2024/25. The NLC Board achieved an overall performance rating of 3.9/5 with recommendations of capacitation having noted the notice of resignation by the current Chairperson Prof B Pityana and the long-term vacancy of one Non-Executive Director. These recommendations were submitted to the office of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition and are receiving necessary attention in line with the Lotteries Act in as far as recruitment process of the Board is concerned, to ensure that corporate governance principles are upheld.

The NLC remains steadfast in its mission to uphold integrity, fairness, and transparency in its operations, ensuring that lottery funding continues to benefit underserved communities of South Africa. The Commission will continue working closely with the dtic, the Auditor-General South Africa, National Treasury, and Parliament to sustain the progress achieved and to further strengthen governance within the organisation.

-Ends-

On behalf of the Board of the National Lotteries Commission:

N Barney Pityana GCOB FKC MASSAf

CHAIRPERSON


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