

Media Statement

Issued by the National Lotteries Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NLC Funding Strengthens NPO Sector with 1,303 Jobs and Expanded Oversight

Pretoria, 24 February 2026 – The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) is pleased to announce that funding allocated during the 2025/26 financial year has contributed to the creation and retention of 1,303 jobs and supported programmes reaching nearly 10,000 beneficiaries across South Africa.

As the regulator of the National Lottery and Sports Pools, the NLC channels lottery proceeds to organisations operating in the charitable, arts and culture, and sports sectors. During the reporting period, 150 community-based projects were supported through targeted grant funding to strengthen social infrastructure and promote employment in the non-profit sector.

Employment Impact

Of the 1,303 jobs created or sustained through funded projects:

- Approximately 77% were held by women
- 29% were youth beneficiaries
- The majority of positions were within community-based service delivery organisations

These roles include programme coordinators, support staff, facilitators, administrative personnel, and community outreach workers.

The Commission notes that employment figures reflect positions directly linked to funded project implementation during the reporting period.

Geographic Reach

While projects were supported nationally, the highest concentration of funded initiatives during this cycle was in Mpumalanga, Free State, North West and Limpopo.

Funded projects in these provinces include community development centres, skills training initiatives, arts programmes, sports development platforms and social support services aimed at strengthening local capacity.

In addition to employment outcomes, funded initiatives collectively reached nearly 10,000 individuals through educational programmes, skills development workshops, counselling services, community sports development and cultural initiatives.

Strengthening Oversight and Compliance

The NLC has also reported a significant improvement in compliance performance among funded organisations.

Following the implementation of enhanced monitoring protocols and structured reporting requirements, the rate of non-compliance among funded entities has declined from 19% to 6%.

The Commission attributes this improvement to strengthened oversight processes, clearer reporting guidelines and increased support to grant recipients.

To further improve governance standards, the NLC introduced capacity-building workshops under the programme titled “**You Got the Grant – Now What?**”

During the current cycle, 80 community-based leaders in North West and Northern Cape participated in training sessions focused on financial accountability, reporting requirements, governance responsibilities and sustainable project management.

Moving Toward Evidence-Based Funding

The Commission has indicated that it is transitioning toward a more research-informed funding model.

This approach includes expanded oversight visits, improved needs assessments and enhanced impact tracking to ensure that allocations are aligned with identified community priorities and measurable development outcomes.

NLC Commissioner **Ms Jodi Scholtz** said the Commission remains focused on strengthening impact while safeguarding public funds.

“Our responsibility extends beyond the allocation of funding. We are strengthening oversight, improving compliance and working closely with funded organisations to ensure that lottery proceeds translate into measurable community benefit,” she said.

Commitment to Transparency

The Commission will continue to publish funding allocations and compliance performance data in line with its reporting obligations and governance standards.

ENDS

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