

Media Statement

Issued by the Board of the National Lotteries Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NLC Update on Progress of 2024/25 Grant Adjudications

Tshwane, 02 February 2026, The 2024/2025 Call for Applications opened on 2 December 2024 and closed on 19 December 2025. It was the first call to be handled through the Thuthuka online grant management system, which requires organisations to register their profiles and comply with the requirements of the Department of Social Development (DSD), the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS), amongst others. To date, the system has recorded 16, 687 registered organisations, of which approximately 7,000 were found to be non-compliant due to unverifiable or incomplete registration details.

During the current Call for Applications, 3,070 applications were received across all provinces, and adjudication commenced in August 2025.

The Commission recognises that many non-profit organisations experience compliance challenges that can affect their ability to access funding. We have embarked on capacity-building initiatives that focus on compliance and reporting requirements. These include education and awareness meetings, financial and operational reporting workshops and helpdesks that target stakeholders across the country. Furthermore, the details of the upcoming workshops will be published in all NLC social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram.

The NLC implemented the Thuthuka system, a web-based funding management platform that replaces manual paperwork with a streamlined online process. The Thuthuka online grant management system provides a centralised mechanism for registering and submitting funding applications.

The move aims to enhance efficiency, improve transparency and support the timeous processing of payments in the NLC's engagements with NPO partners. From funding applications and business plan submissions to the issuance of Grant Agreements (GAs), the full application and grant management process is now managed digitally through the Thuthuka system.

“We are investing in technology to improve the processing of applications and payments, an area that has historically presented challenges for the NLC. With this new online system, we are working to improve efficiency

and change the turnaround times. We continue to encourage NPOs to attend our education and awareness workshops across provinces to better understand the system and its requirements,” said Commissioner Jodi Scholtz.

The National Lotteries Commission acknowledges the frustration applicants have experienced during the current adjudication period. At the same time, operational challenges remain, impacting user experience and workflow efficiency. “The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) is aware of intermittent connectivity challenges affecting the system. These issues are linked to system upgrades and higher traffic volumes as part of the digital transformation programme. We assure beneficiaries that no application will be disadvantaged. Technical teams are implementing enhancements and providing additional user support to stabilise the platform. We appreciate the public’s patience and will issue further updates as improvements are completed,” said Jodi Scholtz, NLC Commissioner.

In July 2025, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr. Parks Tau approved the appointment of ten Distribution Agency members in terms of sections 26A and 26B (1) of the Lotteries Act, 1997, (Act No. 57 of 1997) as amended. The Distributing Agency members are responsible for consideration, evaluation, and adjudication of applications in terms of sections 28, 29, 30 and 31 of the Act, including recommendations for funding of worthy causes as per sections 26G (1) and (2).

The National Lotteries Commission unreservedly apologises to grant applicants for the delays experienced in the adjudication of applications. Distributing Agencies (DAs) are working tirelessly to process all received grant applications.

The NLC will provide a further update by 31 March 2026, outlining progress on the adjudication processes and the disbursement of approved grants.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION

The National Lotteries Commission is established in terms of the Lotteries Act No 57 of 1997 to regulate lotteries and sports pools in South Africa. From these regulatory activities, the NLC collects revenue to fund qualifying organisations that work for the public good across South Africa.