

Media Statement

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NLC'S COLLABORATION WITH SIU AND NPA ADVANCES THE RECOVERY OF FUNDS FOR BENEFICIARIES

Johannesburg, 25 March 2026 – The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has welcomed meaningful progress in efforts to restore funds to their intended beneficiaries, following a strategic engagement with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

The engagement marks a strengthened, coordinated approach to accelerate investigations, prosecutions and asset recovery, with a clear focus on ensuring that resources are safeguarded and returned to the communities they were meant to serve.

A key outcome is the alignment between the NLC, SIU and NPA to fast-track:

- Finalisation of forensic financial analyses, with capacity expected to be fully operational by April 2026
- Prosecutor-guided investigations to support timely prosecution decisions
- Asset recovery processes, including the tracing and preservation of funds

This integrated approach ensures that investigations are not only thorough but also legally resilient.

“The Board is encouraged by the level of cooperation between the Commission, the SIU and the NPA, which reflects a shared commitment to accountability. At the heart of this work are the beneficiaries, and our focus remains on ensuring that they receive the support intended for them, while continuing to strengthen governance systems across the organisation,” commented Professor Barney Pitjana, Chairperson of the National Lotteries Commission.

While legal processes remain underway, this collaboration is already enabling progress in securing assets and advancing recovery efforts. These developments are critical in restoring value to the sector and ensuring that legitimate beneficiaries are not disadvantaged by past irregularities.

“At the heart of this work is a simple commitment to ensure that beneficiaries are not disadvantaged. Through our collaboration with the SIU and NPA, we are steadily moving towards restoring both funds and trust,” says Jodi Scholtz, NLC’s Commissioner.

The NLC’s current leadership continues to work closely with law enforcement authorities to prioritise accountability and strengthen institutional integrity. This reflects a deliberate shift towards a more responsive, transparent and outcome-driven organisation.

Beyond addressing historical matters, the NLC is strengthening governance and oversight measures to protect future allocations and reinforce confidence in the system.

Stakeholders and beneficiary organisations can take assurance that:

- Funds are being actively traced, secured and, where possible, recovered
- Cases are progressing through the appropriate legal channels
- Safeguards are being reinforced to prevent recurrence

The NLC, together with the SIU and NPA, remains committed to sustaining momentum across all processes, ensuring that accountability translates into tangible outcomes for communities.

ENDS

For Media Enquiries:

Mr. Rudzani Tshigemane

Head: Stakeholder Management Communications and Marketing

Cell:082 728 4603


Mediadesk@nlcsa.org.za

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 Contact Centre: 0860 065 383 | nldtf@nlcsa.org.za