Media Statement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT DOES NOT INTERRUPT NATIONAL LOTTERY OPERATIONS

Tshwane, 4 November 2026 - The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) notes the judgement of the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, delivered on 2 November 2026, concerning the award of the Fourth National Lottery and Sports Pools Licence.

The NLC is currently considering the judgement. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition will announce his decision on the judgement and its effect in due course. In terms of section 10 of the Lotteries Act, 1997, one of the NLC's statutory functions is to advise the Minister on the issuing of the National Lottery Licence. The Board of the NLC will fulfil this legislative role by providing the Minister with advice on the licence. The Minister has already commenced the process of consulting the NLC as they both await legal counsel on the judgment.

The Court has not impugned substantive considerations taken by the Minister in coming to his decision. Although the Court set aside the decision to award the licence to Sizekhaya Holdings RF (Pty) Ltd and declared the licence agreement invalid on procedural grounds, referring the matter back to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition for reconsideration, the Court also suspended its order of invalidity for 12 months to allow the Minister to reconsider the matter. The National Lottery will thus continue to operate without interruption. Players, retailers and beneficiaries can continue to participate in and benefit from the National Lottery as normal.

The NLC recognises that public confidence in the National Lottery depends on transparency, accountability and good governance. We remain committed to these principles and to ensuring that the National Lottery continues to serve the millions of South Africans and organisations who benefit from its contribution to good causes.

Further updates will be provided as appropriate.

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