

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIROMENT AND TOURISM, MR NORMAN MOKOENA, MPL, TO THE BOARD OF THE MPUMALANGA GAMBLING BOARD.**

**Thursday, 10 March 2011**

Chairperson of the Board of MGB, Mr Jerry Vilakazi;

Deputy Chairperson of the Board, Ms Mildred Sephiri, and other board members;

The CEO, Mr Bheki Mlambo and management;

**Good morning!**

It is my pleasure to meet with you this morning, primarily to get to know each other better, and further share our experiences and expectations. Let me start off by expressing our appreciation to the manner that this entity has been, and is continuing to be run and managed.

**1. The Board**

We appreciate that the Board is functioning very well. Its leadership and vision continues to direct the operations of this entity in the right direction. All we could urge is for you to continue on the same wavelength or better off, to even take this entity to greater heights.

**2. Management**

We congratulate the CEO, Mr Mlambo and management, for continuing to run the entity efficiently and professionally, which in turn has kept the staff morale very high. This is a sign of good management. If staff morale continues to be high, there is no doubt that the entity will continue to perform better. It is because they support the vision of the entity – they feel that they are an integral part of it.

### 3. Governance issues

We congratulate the entity to have once more, received a **clean audit with no matters of emphasis** in last financial year's audit outcomes. This can only mean that the entity is following and adhering to financial prescripts with no exception. It is a sign of good leadership and management from the Board and the CEO. You are a shining example to all of us, and we do not doubt that you will continue to produce clean audits in the current financial year and beyond. Once more, congratulations.

### 4. Key priorities

We note from your Annual Performance Plan, the following priorities for the 2011/2012 financial year:

- That you intend to continue to **effectively regulate the industry**;
- That you will ensure policy amendments in the coming financial year in relation to the **fourth Casino License**. We take note that you will ensure that the license is awarded in the 2013/2014 financial year;
- That you will invite applications for the Limited Payout Machines, Bingo Operations, Totalisar and Bookmakers in the coming financial year; and
- That you will also strengthen and roll-out your campaigns encouraging responsible gambling, especially at schools level.

What we require therefore, in relation to these key priorities, is clarification regarding implementation of these projects in terms of legal requirements, preferred location for the fourth casino license, for example.

### 5. Challenges

In terms of the challenges you've raised, we have noted the following:

- That you've got the challenge of **technological advancement**, that is, the industry is always ahead of regulators worldwide.

We agree with you wholly, that we must always be on par with worldwide technological advancement, in order to ensure that the provincial fiscus is not cheat off what is due to it.

Indeed, we must continue to sustain investment in the latest gambling technology.

- You've also raised **illegal gambling** as another challenge you are facing. Given your track record, I believe that you will effectively deal with such illegal activities and expose the perpetrators.
- Sustaining **campaigns on responsible gambling** also appears to be your challenge. I believe this is one area which you've performed well on in the past, hence I am not worried because I trust that you will overcome it.
- You've also raised **financial projections** as a challenge. We therefore need a bit of an explanation as to how and why they are a challenge to you.

Chairperson and Board Members, we appreciate that this entity is in good hands. We urge you to continue to lead and manage the MGB the way you've done in the past. You will continue to receive our support at all times, and promise to always listen to your cries when in need.

**Working together, we can do more** to effectively regulate the gambling industry in our province, thereby facilitating the creation of decent jobs and sustainable livelihood for all our people.

I believe we will have fruitful discussions this morning.

**I thank you!**