

## VEGAS BINGO OPERATIONS IN FULL SWING A BEING AWARDED LICENSES BY THE NORTH WEST GAMBLING BOARD



It's a lucrative industry with a turn-over of hundreds of millions per annum. And sadly, it hasn't reached the shores of the previously disadvantaged communities many years since the dawn of democracy. In an instance where Blacks occupy the high echelons of these companies, they are simply there for cosmetic purposes. But this narrative is slowly but surely changing when one looks at the conditions that been put forth by the North-West Gambling Board in obtaining a license. One key element is for the gambling operations to have at least sixty percent (60 %) ownership by previously disadvantaged individuals.

During the opening of the Rustenburg Bingo Site by Vegas Gaming, CEO of the North West Gambling Board Mr Fortune Sekhaphane indicated that the cites have created much needed jobs in a country battling with the scourge of unemployment.

"This will surely contribute to the fiscus of the province through taxes and levies. But over and above this we are delighted that as the Board we are creating an enabling environment for the gambling industry to thrive. Sixty percent ownership of these operations is in the hands previously disadvantaged individuals."

Close to hundred permanent job opportunities have been created in the two operations which includes the recently opened in operation in Vryburg in the Naledi Local Municipality. More in-direct jobs were created during the construction phase of these operations. Business is in full swing and there are prospects of more job opportunities being created in the long run. Group Compliance Manager of Vegas Gaming operations, Thando Mathebula has indicated they have put systems in place to make sure there is compliance in the daily running of the operations. And transformation is high on the agenda of their diverse operations.

“Transformation is happening here because local PDIs (Previously Disadvantaged Individuals) are appointed as directors and we are also training them so that they are involved in the day to day running of these operations” Mathebula said.