

NWGB ISSUES TWO NOTICES TO ALLEGED ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATIONS IN VRYBURG.



NWGB STAFF INTERACTING WITH RESIDENTS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING

VRYBURG-Illegal gambling operations remains a major concern for the North-West Gambling Board in Vryburg in the DR. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District in North West. Despite numerous efforts to contain the situation illegal gambling sites continue to show a stubborn presence in the area. Recently the Gambling Control Department issued two notices to alleged illegal operators in the Vryburg area.

In one of the operations the Board and the South African Police discovered forty-one machines and several computers which are used for alleged illegal gambling activities. The issuing of notices correlated with the responsible gambling campaign of the Board. More than one hundred residents who interacted with the Board during the campaign which was held in the local Taxi Rank raised concerns about the scourge of illegal gambling in the area.

In the 2016/17 financial year the Board uncovered that, the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, which includes Vryburg has over nine illegal gambling sites. The investigation also revealed that the area has one hundred and eighty-four illegal gambling machines and one hundred ninety-five illegal computers. Working hand in glove with the South African Police Service six suspects have been arrested in and around the Vryburg area for running illegal operations and they are soon to appear in court.

North West Gambling Board CEO Mr Fortune Sekgaphane maintains, efforts and various measures have been put in place to respond adequately to the scourge of illegal gambling in the area and the province at large.



GAMBLING MACHINES ALLEGEDLY USED FOR ILLEGAL OPERATIONS

“We have an agreement with police to clean up all illegal operations because we consider them parasites on the system. Despite costing government millions of rands in taxes and levies, the danger that these sites bring in society is that, people who go there are in the dark about these illicit operations. And since the start of the financial year we have conducted several campaigns in an effort to educate our people about the dangers of illegal operations.”

Moreover, the province losses over thirty million rand in taxes and levies due to illegal gambling with places like Rustenburg and Klerksdorp as well as Vryburg leading the pack.

“More often than not these sites target unsuspecting punters promising them huge amounts as returns. We often tell our people to avoid these sites and play at registered operations which are strictly regulated. Despite this our people continue to go to sites that are not licensed, and in most cases when they win they are not given what’s due to them. Only when they feel short-changed they would turn to us for help.”

Efforts by the Board to deal with illegal gambling operations are often met with tedious legal processes where alleged violators repeatedly take the Board and the police to court to have search warrants issued by the magistrates nullified. The search warrants grant the Board the permission to search and seize items and machinery allegedly used for illegal gambling operations.