



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10TH APRIL 2026

SABA has noted the media release issued by the National Gambling Board (“NGB”) on 8 April 2026, announcing the launch of the Verified Gambling Operators Web Portal. The initiative aims to protect the public and the economy by promoting responsible gambling with locally licensed operators and by combating illegal gambling.

SABA welcomes and acknowledges this initiative by the National and Provincial Gambling Boards in South Africa as part of the broader effort to address the illegal gambling market. This complements the work undertaken by SABA, which last month introduced a dedicated section on its website addressing illegal gambling: <https://www.bookies.co.za/illegal-gambling/>.

The effectiveness of the portal, however, depends on the accuracy and currency of the data underpinning its search functionality. It is essential that the database is consistently updated to ensure that newly licensed operators are not disadvantaged by outdated information. As of 9 April 2026, it appears that licenses granted by Provincial Licensing Authorities in March 2026 have not yet been reflected in the portal.

As an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), the NGB has a responsibility to provide clarity and stability within the gambling industry. Continued inconsistencies risk creating uncertainty. Notably, while the NGB has previously stated its interpretation that contingency betting is unlawful, the same licensed operators are simultaneously listed in the portal as “verified gambling operators.” This contradiction underscores the need for alignment and accuracy in regulatory communications.

SEAN COLEMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Founded in 1951, the South African Bookmakers’ Association is the leading voluntary association for bookmakers and represents the interests of its members in the gambling industry.

Mission Statement

To render to, for and on behalf of its members any services of mutual aid, whilst maintaining and promoting honorable practices amongst bookmakers and their stakeholders within the racing and wagering industry.