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A commission established in terms of the Gambling & Betting Act, 1997 (Eastern Cape) (Act No. 5 of 1997)

PRESS STATEMENT

The Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board wishes to inform members of the public that its Gambling and Betting Amendment Act 2002 (Act No. 8 of 2002) (Eastern Cape) recently came into operation. This Act *inter alia*

- (1) prohibits the use of amusement machines to play amusement games which allow the public to win a prize where the games played on such machines are the same as, similar to or derived from casino games such as blackjack, punto banco, poker, etc. An amusement game is where the player pays a stake which enables the player to win a non-cash prize;
- (2) prohibits the use of personal computers to play amusement games of a kind where the player pays money in order to play and is able to win a non-cash prize;
- (3) prohibits the offering or advertising of internet gambling to residents of the Eastern Cape unless the person offering the service is licensed as a bookmaker or totalisator in any Province of the Republic of South Africa and the service offered is betting on sporting events or horseracing respectively;
- (4) prohibits persons resident in the Eastern Cape from gambling on the internet except for bets on sporting events with bookmakers or bets on horseracing with totalisators licensed in this Province or another Province of South Africa; and
- (5) allows the Board to streamline certain time periods where no objections have been received to an application or the premises to be used for gambling are presently used by another licensee for gambling.

In addition to the above, the Act previously allowed persons who gamble excessively to apply to the Board to be placed on a list of excluded persons and once on such a list, any gambling establishment from which such person chose to be excluded would have to take all reasonable steps to exclude that person.

The Amendment Act introduces a new concept in that it allows the Board to involuntarily exclude a punter who –

- (a) has had his/her name placed on a similar list in another Province;
- (b) is, after application to the Board by an interested person, considered by the Board to suffer from a gambling problem in that he/she regularly gambles more than he/she can afford to lose and in doing so uses household funds to do so to the serious detriment of his/her dependants in that it causes them to be deprived of food or shelter;
- (c) after application by an interested party and submission of a report by a psychologist/psychiatrist is found by the Board to suffer from a pathological gambling addiction;
- (d) whilst gambling leaves a minor child under the age of 10 unattended for a time which in the circumstances is unreasonable, given the age of the child, the period the child was left unattended, the weather and time of day, the location at which the child was left and any provision made for the entertainment of the child.

The Act also provides that any money won at a casino or any other gambling establishment by a person under the age of 18 who illegally gambled or by any person whose name has been placed on the exclusion list is forfeited to the Provincial Revenue Fund.

(signed) **J LUKWAGO-MUGERWA**
CHAIRPERSON
Thursday, 29 May 2003