



National Gambling Board
South Africa
a member of **the dtic** group



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Africa, 18 February 2026

NGB AND NSFAS PARTNER TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' SUCCESS AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHEN RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AWARENESS

The National Gambling Board (NGB) and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) have initiated a strategic partnership aimed at raising awareness at tertiary institutions, protecting students from gambling-related harm, and safeguarding the public funds allocated for education.

This collaboration arises from growing concerns about the increasing exposure of young people to gambling, particularly illegal online platforms, and the unintended use of student allowances for gambling activities. Research indicates that financial pressure, aggressive digital advertising, ease of online access, and targeted promotional offers have contributed to increased gambling participation among youth, potentially affecting academic performance, financial stability, and overall well-being.

NSFAS remains firmly committed to its mandate of enabling access to education and supporting student success by providing funding for tuition, accommodation, meals, and essential learning needs. The partnership seeks to empower students with knowledge, awareness, and responsible decision-making skills so that these resources fulfil their intended purpose, supporting education and improving life opportunities.

The NGB remains committed to its mandate of ensuring that gambling operates fairly, transparently, and in accordance with national laws and that the public, including minors and vulnerable persons, are protected from the risks and socioeconomic impact of gambling.

Both organisations share a strong commitment to consumer protection, harm minimisation, and safeguarding vulnerable groups, particularly young people and students. The two entities will, in the coming weeks, formalise this collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), establishing a governance framework for joint interventions.

Purpose of the Partnership.

The partnership provides a collaborative framework to:

- Promote responsible gambling awareness among students.
- Discourage the misuse of NSFAS-funded allowances for gambling, including illegal online gambling, and
- Strengthen preventative education and early intervention initiatives across universities and TVET colleges.

In his remarks, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of NSFAS, Mr. Waseem Carrim, stated, “NSFAS funding is intended to support students’ educational journey and essential living needs. When these funds are diverted to gambling, it can undermine academic success and long-term financial well-being. This partnership focuses on prevention, awareness, and empowering students to make informed choices that support their future”.

Key areas of Collaboration

Through this partnership, the NGB and NSFAS will jointly:

- Implement nationwide outreach and on-campus education programmes,
- Deliver targeted education and awareness campaigns on financial literacy, and the risks of online and illegal gambling, and
- Engage students through workshops, dialogues, and on-campus activations focused on prevention, harm reduction, and informed decision making, and
- Share information, within the framework of applicable legislation, to strengthen education, monitoring, and preventative interventions.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the NGB, Mr Lungile Dukwana, emphasised, “This partnership prioritises the protection of young people through harm reduction approaches that prevent the development of harmful gambling behaviours. Particular attention will be given to the growing normalisation of gambling through digital advertising platforms, social media, and mobile applications, which increasingly affects students.”

This partnership underscores a shared commitment by the NGB and NSFAS to support student success and well-being, protect students from gambling-related harm, safeguard public education funds, and promote responsible behaviour and informed financial decision-making.

“Expanding access to education while protecting students from gambling-related harm and promoting responsible decision-making.

- Your skill is the bag; don’t gamble with it. #YSBDGI

Issued by:

National Gambling Board (NGB)

For media enquiries: info@ngb.org.za

Website: www.ngb.org.za

National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

For media enquiries: media@nsfas.org.za

Website: www.nsfas.org.za