



CASINO THEATRES GALLOP FORWARD

Greatest Star of All - Sunset Boulevard

It's been many years since one of the great stars of South African theatre stepped off the stage and the death of Joan Brickhill at the age of 89 on January 15, 2014 was a tremendous loss for theatre and musical theatre in particular in South Africa. She had tried in vain to save *His Majesty's Theatre* in Johannesburg but the venue sadly closed its doors to the ironically triumphant score of *Hello Dolly!* in 1981. The growth of Johannesburg and the hunger for retail space saw the demise of many theatres as landmark buildings such as *20th Century*, *The Palladium* in Simmonds Street and *The Carlton* which were demolished in the mid 1930's. Not long after the curtain came down at His Majesty's, Pieter Toerien reopened the *Alhambra Theatre* in Doornfontein after extensive renovations in 1983.

What's the Buzz - Jesus Christ Superstar

The increase in crime and the general exodus from the CBD precipitated another wave of closures and demolitions and while the First Lady of Musical Theatre had previously left town altogether, Lady Luck merely packed her bags and moved across the city to a casino in Fourways as Toerien opened the first theatre at Montecasino. While theatres such as the *Market* and the *Joburg Civic* in the Johannesburg CBD have continued to enjoy a measure of success, the declining audiences at venues such as the *Alhambra* was one of the push factors behind the opening of a theatre that was perceived as being safe and offered patrons a broad offering of entertainment. Following the introduction of the National Gambling Act of 1996 casinos became hives of entertainment activity. Adding a theatrical offering to the gambling, dining and other



Brinkoff Mogenburg

activities offered at the casinos seemed a logical step and one that the country's most established theatre producer jumped at. In November 2000 Toerien opened the doors to his first theatre at Montecasino with the much loved comedy *Defending the Caveman*. Eleven years later in August 2011 Toerien celebrated the remarkable landmark of his 500th production with the *History Boys* at the refurbished theatre at Montecasino

Money - Cabaret

The numbers related to theatres in the casinos are mind blowing. Currently thirty five casinos across South Africa are members of CASA (Casino Association of South Africa). Between them there are sixteen theatres with a cumulative capacity of 18 115 seats. Gauteng has the most theatres, seven, while there are none in the Northern Cape, Mpumalanga or Limpopo. There were 1 683 shows which sold 1 071 947 tickets generating revenue of R118 million in the 2012/2013 financial year as reported in

the 2013 Survey of Casino Entertainment in South Africa. With 1 840 seats the *Teatro* at Montecasino is the theatre with the most capacity in South Africa. Prior to it being built the *Civic Theatre* in Johannesburg with 1 000 seats and *The State Theatre* in Pretoria with 1 300 seats were the largest theatre venues. It is precisely the size of the *Teatro* that enables Toerien to produce high calibre international musicals such as *The Lion King*, *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables*. An added benefit and spin-off from the building of the *Teatro* and Toerien's collaboration with British theatrical producer, Sir Cameron Macintosh was the enlarged capacity of the *The Artscape Opera House* in the Western Cape from 1 120 to 1 520 seats with the assistance of his architect to enable the staging of *Cats*. This increased capacity and that of the *Teatro* makes the staging of the large scale internationally shows financially viable. Considering that it costs R20 million to get a production such as *Phantom of the Opera* through rehearsal to opening night

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CEO'S COLUMN



On reflection, as 2014 draws to a close, for the Casino Industry it has been a year of real socio-economic achievements, limited growth and some legislative and regulatory frustrations.

On the socio-economic side, our newsletters this year have covered some of the major contributions our Industry made to education, sport development, health, housing and other community development projects. This will continue to grow as we seek to assist in addressing development along the same lines as that

of Government's priorities. Whilst it has always been the view and approach of our Industry to co-operate and work with authorities to achieve a healthy balance of regulated and responsible gambling and maximum socio-economic benefits for the government and its priorities, there is an alarming apparent trend that authorities are found wanting in their responsibility to provide an environment which would enable the Industry to maximise the aforementioned socio-economic benefits.

Illegal online gambling is rife, alive and flourishing through the guise of internet cafés and entertainment lounges throughout South Africa, offering no protection for players, no socio-economic benefits to Government and communities and certainly no financial benefit to state coffers through tax with very limited employment benefits. Despite lip service, authorities in South Africa seem unable, or unwilling, to clamp down on this illegal activity.

Various Provincial Gambling Boards have started on an aggressive roll-out of Electronic Bingo Terminals ("EBTs"). This is happening despite a moratorium by the Minister of Trade and Industry ("the Minister") on the roll-out of EBTs. This, despite the fact that the Gambling Review Commission, appointed by the Minister as far back as 2010, specifically warned against this practice as an uncontrolled proliferation of the gambling offering, without any substantial financial investment in infrastructure or job creation by the operators of EBTs. Thankfully, community

groups have come out in strong opposition to this practice, prompting the Department of Trade and Industry to commit early in October 2014 that they will adapt the National Gambling Act to stop this process of EBT roll-outs. Whether this will happen and in fact be adhered to by provinces is yet to be seen.

Other State institutions, such as the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority and the Financial Intelligence Centre continue to view our Industry with suspicion in spite of our best efforts to work with these institutions to ensure the most effective and efficient regulation of gambling in South Africa. Many of our inputs to Provincial Governments and Provincial Boards on amendments to provincial acts and regulations are also often ignored and sometimes not even an acknowledgement of receipt is easily forthcoming.

In spite of these obstacles, CASA will continue to seek reasonable growth of the entertainment offering of gambling and the other activities offered by our licensed casino operators and continue with its efforts to form a positive, co-operative partnership with relevant authorities to enhance the Government's priorities of socio-economic development, job creation and reasonable tax earnings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Themba Ngobese', written in a cursive style.

Themba Ngobese
Chief Executive Officer

CASINO THEATRES GALLOP FORWARD continued from front page

and a further R3 million a week to run the availability of large theatres cannot be underestimated. *The Lion King* opened the *Teatro* at Montecasino in 2007 and since then Toerien has produced ten shows at that venue. At the run of *The Sound of Music* earlier this year, Noeleen Bruton of Tsogo Sun announced that patron number three million was in the audience. The following day Toerien tallied up the ticket sales for

the shows he had produced and came to the staggering answer of two million and seven. The combined patronage at the two smaller venues at Montecasino is also approaching the two million mark. Given that there are 550 seats per night and the theatre runs for fifty two weeks a year and has been doing so for fourteen years, this is no mean feat. While *Phantom of the Opera* has been the most popular show

at the *Teatro*, Andi Shaughnessy, Group Entertainment Manager at Emperor's Palace says that aside from Bonnie Tyler, *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark* and South African Musicians, Nataniel and comedy have been the most popular events at the theatre at Emperor's Palace. The theatre has recently been refurbished with improved sight lines and a multipurpose layout and can seat an audience of one

thousand. While many shows are attended by patrons of the casinos, the venue is increasingly being seen as a stand alone destination for theatre and other live entertainment. Sizwe Jantjie, Marketing Manager at Montecasino says that *Bitches*, *Trevor Noah*, *Buckled* have been the most popular shows at the Lyric at Gold Reef and that for patrons with children the availability of entertainment for the whole family is a particular draw card.

I Dreamed a Dream – Les Miserables

During the 2012/2013 financial year the casino theatres employed 146 staff directly, 903 staff indirectly and offered great opportunities particularly for new graduates from Dance and Musical Theatre programs. Each major musical involves approximately 120 people including the musicians, technical staff and the cast. Numerous graduates from the drama schools have been employed by the casino venues including students who have been involved in holiday programmes for children which have also been produced in the theatre venues. The commercial interest of the venues tends to favour Juke Box style musical shows which are beneficial to the all round students who can sing, dance and act. A lecturer at one of the Performing Arts schools says that while their curriculum hasn't been modified to cater specifically for these requirements the option of a career in this particular genre is very promising for young students.



A freelance director who has been commissioned to create a show for one of the casinos says that the show brief is quite specific and the focus is on creating something fun and entertaining that would successfully put the patron in the mood for using the casino facilities. In his opinion the theatres in casino complexes tend to be more geared towards achieving commercial ideals than creative ideals. They are extremely well resourced financially

and with fewer and fewer venues having the ability to produce work independently feels that these theatres are essential as employers within the theatrical industry.

Actress and singer, Candice Van Litsenborgh has performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2006), *Chess* (2008), *Evita* (2010) and *Sunset Boulevard* (2014) at the Teatro. Aside from the rather unusual experience of being searched by security personnel on entering the building she describes her experiences of performing at the venue as positive. "Working in a venue where the sole purpose is not theatre does require a bit of an adjustment for performers", she says but the cast adjusts and you learn the tricks of dealing with any theatre. "With the Pieter Toerien Theatre, once you're through the theatre doors you pretty much forget you're in a casino for the most part."

Can you feel the love tonight – The Lion King



The growth of theatre is dependent on the interest of youth in the arts and general audience development. Emperor's Palace hosts the PSSP (Peerment School Support Programme) Performing Arts Festival annually with a view to developing both talent and appreciation for the arts amongst students. Seven high schools participate in the programme and in 2012 the winning performance was staged by General Smuts High School from Vereeniging. Sun International is a founding member of the *Arts and Culture Trust* and contributes R100 000 annually to the Trust. Tsogo Sun uses arts as a catalyst for change and 480 learners from six schools in Diepsloot and six schools in Mayfair are supported by the *Suncares Arts Academy*. They are offered training in all disciplines within the theatrical arts including drama and singing. The presence of theatres and the growth of audience and interest in the performing arts are closely allied. While the *Suncares Arts Academy* spent R 1 391 791 in the period April 2012 to March 2013 in Gauteng

there was no corresponding expenditure in Kwa Zulu Natal, the Western Cape, Eastern Cape or the Free State for that period. No coincidence then that millions of tickets have been sold in Gauteng.

Bring him Home – Les Miserables

The benefit of casino stages to the broader theatrical audience in South Africa is encapsulated by *War Horse* galloping on to the stage in Cape Town and Johannesburg in December and January. *War Horse* is based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo with breathing, galloping, full-scale horses brought to life on the stage. The puppets with their flanks, hides and sinews built of steel, leather and aircraft cables were designed and created by the Cape Town based *Hand Spring Puppet Company* and Joey, the star of the show will finally be coming home after an unparalleled international success. In the words of Louis Armstrong from *Hello Dolly* "It's so nice to have you back where you belong." The show has been seen by more than 5 million people and staged in 29 cities breaking the record for the highest weekly gross for a play in the West End. Toerien hopes that audiences will be as captivated by the play as international audiences have been and be inspired to attend more theatre in addition to the musicals generally associated with casino venues.



Theatres in casinos have made an immense contribution to the growth of theatre across the country and one hopes that the rumours of a theatre being opened in the Eastern Cape in 2015 will contribute to the growth of the arts and cultural sector in South Africa. As they say in *Sunset Boulevard*, "You can choose whatever heaven grants, as long as you can have your chance", so next time you visit your local casino make sure that you choose some song and dance alongside your game of chance.

*Article by Tracy Saunders:
Freelance Arts Journalist.*



Gambling with the law...

Internet lounges: The new face of illegal gambling?

Over the past several months, civil courts in this country have been confronted with a swathe of applications for spoliation orders brought by persons who have been dispossessed of *inter alia* cash, documentation and equipment, primarily computer terminals, during the course of search and seizure proceedings undertaken by the police. Raids of this nature have taken place on business premises in the North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces, and all found their origin in allegations that unlawful gambling was taking place on such premises. In most, if not all these cases, the businesses in question were reported as having traded as internet lounges or cafes.

More recently, allegations have surfaced regarding a particular business enterprise situated in the Limpopo Province, also styled as an internet lounge, which is reportedly currently under investigation by the police and the Limpopo Gambling Board as a result of a complaint laid by a member of the public, which was reported as having been to the following effect:

"The resident said she and her husband went to the internet entertainment lounge with their two children, as their internet at home was off and they needed to make some internet bank transfers immediately.

"The internet entertainment lounge have (sic) stickers on the front door like Facebook, Twitter, Google and You Tube. As we entered the premises, a woman stopped us and said the place was not an internet café but a casino. We asked her why the names of social networks were displayed on the door and she couldn't answer us. She just said: 'Can't you see it is an internet entertainment lounge?' So we left," the resident explained.

It would appear that the internet entertainment lounge is indeed a casino.

Inside the premises, in the middle of the floor, there are internet cables but no computers. The only computer terminals are those on which casino games are played ...

*Money is paid to the cashier who then credits the computer terminal to be played on. When a gambler wins or wants to cash out, the cashier does the payout."*¹

Allegations of a similar nature were likewise made in respect of business premises, also trading as an internet café, in Mashishing in Mpumalanga, which were raided in September 2012, with a spokesperson for the Mpumalanga Gambling Board having reportedly indicated that "these illegal gambling houses are usually disguised as ordinary internet cafes, but then offer gambling services to their clients through computer terminals and casino-style gambling software". The Mpumalanga Gambling Board is also reported to have overseen the closure of three similar operations in Emalahleni, Middelburg and Ermelo during May 2012.²

Even more recently, in August and September 2014 respectively, search and seizure operations were carried out in Krugersdorp, during which members of the South African Police Service raided two premises of internet cafés/lounges after unlawful interactive gambling transactions had allegedly been concluded there. Fifty playing terminals and two computers were seized, and notices were reportedly posted regarding weekly and monthly lucky draws, as well as drums containing qualifying draw tickets. It has been reported that 28 people, including 24 members of the public, were arrested.

The picture which emerges from the above is of a mushrooming illegal online gaming industry which is systematically taking root in the various provinces

of the country. As a starting point, this industry capitalises on the reality that there is no legal basis on which access to the internet in broader terms can be either prohibited or even appropriately controlled, coupled with the fact that, given the large number of people in the country with limited or no access to the internet, there is an established, and completely legitimate, public demand for facilities of this nature. These conditions create fertile ground for abuse by unscrupulous operators.

The fact that the National Gambling Act, No 7 of 2004 ("the National Act") criminalises the making available of and participation in interactive gaming, as well as the conduct of gaming without the authority of a licence, and provides for penalties of up to ten million rand, or imprisonment of up to ten years, or both, does not appear to constitute a severe enough deterrent to operators of this nature. Similarly, the fact that a Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Appeals has unambiguously – and unanimously – confirmed the unlawfulness of offering, advertising and/or engaging in unlicensed interactive gambling in a highly publicised landmark judgment³ has failed to abate the appetite of unlawful online gaming operators. This suggests that the benefits of engaging in unlawful activities of this nature are regarded as outweighing what can only be described as substantial risks. Perhaps more disturbingly, this in turn suggests that there must be a reasonably substantial market served by operators of this nature, despite the fact that players engaging in unlawful interactive gaming are equally exposed to the threat of prosecution and conviction in terms of the National Act, as well as the imposition of the above penalties.

From this, the question must arise: Taking into account the plethora of appropriately licensed facilities which are available

¹ [<http://makhadoreview.co.za/13407/lounge-a-front-for-gambling/>]

² [http://www.ziwaphi.com/ziwaphi/Mpumalanga_cracks_down_on_illegal_gambling.html]

³ *Casino Enterprises v The Gauteng Gambling Board* (653/10) [2011] ZASCA 155 (28 September 2011)

throughout the country for the conduct of gambling, in respect of which regulation is in place and fair play is promoted and enforced, on what conceivable basis would ordinary members of the public choose to patronise unlawful establishments which are unregulated and offer no player protection, while at the same time risking arrest, prosecution, conviction and the prospect of such significant penalties?

The answer to this question is difficult to fathom. In the final analysis, however, it seems fair to conclude that the strategies which have been put in place to date to raise public awareness regarding the unlawfulness of interactive gambling have either been inadequate or unclear in their content or have simply failed to reach their intended audience. This is an untenable situation which should be reversed as a matter of priority. For as long as illegal online gaming operators continue to flout the law, the stability of the licensed, regulated industry will remain under threat. It is the responsibility of all industry stakeholders, including regulators, to apply every measure at their disposal to heighten public awareness of the unlawfulness of participation in online gambling and the penalties attendant thereon. Unlicensed operations should be comprehensively investigated, decisively closed and publicly prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Any failure to do so will impliedly legitimize operations which pay no taxes, make no socio economic contributions to society, respect no laws, offer no protection to players or to the public at large, and which fundamentally compromise the image and standing of the country as a jurisdiction in which all forms of gambling are subject to stringent and robust regulation, in which the rule of law holds sway.

This is the essence of the message which must reach the public in no uncertain terms if the newest face of illegal gambling, in the form of online operations, is to be unmasked and eliminated before it takes root.

GRACELAND REFURB CLOSE TO COMPLETION

The first phase of the R10-million, refurbishment project at Peermont's Graceland Hotel Casino and Country Club in Secunda was completed at the end of August. Refurbishment has been completed on two floors of the four-star Walmont Hotel as well as the Prive-style Manhattan lounge at a cost of R5.5-million.



The renovations focused on changing the carpets and wallpaper to give the rooms a modern and dramatic look with red, purple and grey. The classically detailed cherry wood furniture has been retained to enhance the eclectic mix of classical and contemporary styling along with the new décor. The Manhattan Casino bathroom facilities received a makeover to greatly enhance the look and feel of this area.

The second phase is currently underway and scheduled for completion at the end of September. This will include the addition of the new Madison's Bistro and Family Restaurant that will offer a New York, loft-style dining

experience for the whole family. The restaurant will provide for a family-friendly atmosphere where children can have as much fun as parents with a dedicated children's entertainment area designed to stimulate the little ones whilst parents dine in style and comfort.

Other renovations at the resort over the past six months include the installation of new carpets in the Augusta Club Lounge, curtains for the 1 000-seater multipurpose Graceland Arena and a sprinkler irrigation system on the 18-hole Gary Player-designed golf course.

Article by Andrew Moth

Tsogo Sun's soccer stars shine

The Tsogo Sun Soccer Academy is bringing its 2014 season to a close from 19 to 21 September with a tournament on the West Rand, in Swaneville (Kagiso) – and celebrating a host of success stories from the players who have been part of the programme, some since its inception in 2010.



Vusi Dlamini, Group HR Director for Tsogo Sun, comments, "Our corporate social investment objectives are in line with the departments of Education and Sport & Recreation's vision to promote healthy living and a life-long participation in sport. Added to this, we use sport as a medium to deliver life skills, leadership, and healthcare training, while also reinforcing the importance of education to young learners."

The Tsogo Sun Soccer Academy currently operates in 35 primary and high schools in the Kagiso area on the West Rand, working with 40 teachers and more than 885 learners and local businesses as service providers. "We are incredibly proud of the real-life experiences of some of the players how they have benefited from being part of the programme and the vision they have

for their future," says Shanda Paine, Group CSI Manager for Tsogo Sun.

Gift Mokguo, who manages the soccer academy for Tsogo Sun, is also local community member and has been with the programme since inception. Mokguo notes the impressive impact it's had on youngsters' lives over the years – how they have developed self-respect and respect for others, how they have learned to listen, and how their soccer skills have been honed to the point where a number of the players have been scouted by development programmes for premier teams, including Bidvest and ABC Motsepe League teams. "I am so proud," states Mokguo. "In this community there was very little opportunity to play soccer in teams as there is very limited funding. The Tsogo Sun Soccer Academy has brought a new level of

soccer to the area as well as gained the attention of scouts that never came to the West Rand for talent."

Grade 12 learner Goitseone Pits (19) started with the Soccer Academy in 2010 and believes that without it, he would likely be in jail. "The soccer team took me off the streets and away from criminal activities that some friends were involved in. Here I learned self-discipline, to behave when I am around people and how to show respect." Pits is looking forward to studying next year – possibly social work – and a productive and positive future.

Player Prince Moeketsi is only 14 and started with the Academy in 2011 and maintains it has offered far more than expected. "They have inspired me and taught me that I need to go to school –



ADVANCING MATHS AND SCIENCE

"In these rural areas it is not often we receive such prestige. I know that this project will help my pupils and hundreds like them all over KZN. We are all so excited to be a part of such a great thing."

The KZN Science Centre provides curriculum-based learning programmes and exhibitions, outreach-based activities and science resource kits to promote science and maths.

Its staff members are graduates of science, maths and technology and are passionate about teaching and helping teachers and pupils access the sciences.

With funding support from Afrisun in 2013, the centre bought a mobile science laboratory which travels to schools that do not have laboratory facilities to conduct workshops with pupils and teachers.

All activities are linked to the curriculum and science kits and material are fully endorsed by the KZN Department of Education.

In the first year of the mobile science lab outreach programme, 50000 pupils were impacted. The aim is to reach 34 000 additional pupils in this second year of support from Afrisun.

"We are proud to support the KZN Science Centre's outreach programme and are delighted with the progress made in its first year.



David Khuzwayo (Enkukwini Primary principal), Kudzai Mqingwana (CSI manager: Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust), Judge Vuka Tshabalala (Trustee of Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust), Candice Potgieter (KZN Science Centre CEO), Sunil Geness (chairman of The KZN Science Centre board of directors) with some of the Enkukwini Primary pupils who will be one of the schools in the community to benefit from the outreach programme.

"We consider this to be an important initiative which serves to improve maths and science education in under-resourced schools. The state of maths and science education in South African schools is a growing concern. The system is failing to deliver enough school leavers equipped with adequate maths and science skills to address the ever-widening skills shortages in most sectors. The KZN Science Centre does tremendous work in developing these essential skills and has proven to be a great contributor to maths and science education," said Judge Vuka Tshabalala, Trustee of Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust.

Candice Potgieter, chief executive officer at The KZN Science Centre said their model of supporting learning is well documented in strengthening pupils' exposure and ability in science and maths.

"The success of our programmes is due to their interactive nature and their alignment to the curriculum. The sustainability of projects like the outreach programme depends on funding received by many donors like the Afrisun Community Development Trust. With its support we can extend the reach of the mobile science lab to impact more pupils."

Article by Jyothi Laldas

Tsogo Sun's soccer stars shine (continued from page 6)

and not think only about soccer. Going to school will give me a bright future."

Tebogo Mpanyase, 14, attends WD Oliphant Primary School – started with the academy in 2010 at age 13 – agrees. "The Academy takes care of us. They respect us and we respect them too; they encourage us not to focus on football only." His plans for the future include listening to his parents, focusing on school, and not being distracted by alcohol and smoking – and then one day hopefully studying medicine.

Twanano Ndobe, now age 19 at SG Mafaese Secondary School, has also been

part of the academy since 2010, and has shown the commitment necessary to help him shine as a soccer player. Ndobe says he did have a problem with discipline, but when he was appointed captain of his team, he had to make serious changes in his life and be the role model and the leader that the position demanded from him. Ndobe hopes that soccer will play a role in his future life, but in the meantime, he plans to study law when he finishes school.

Tshepang Mothoagae, who joined the Academy in 2010 at age 12, says he too has learnt a lot more than soccer. "I

learnt to respect – my coaches, my team, and other players from other teams. They also taught us life skills, where we learnt things like using electricity correctly, how to manage money, and how to be a better person. I want to say thank you to Tsogo Sun."

Paine notes that research on the symbiotic relationship between sport and the balanced development of youngsters shows that sport-based programmes have been shown to improve the learning performance of learners, encouraging school attendance and a desire to succeed academically.

GAMBLING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH

Former Kaizer Chiefs football club captain Jimmy Tau, who was born in Kimberley addressed the youth with other speakers from the Flamingo Casino and the National Credit Regulator during a workshop in August 2014.

The workshop was held in collaboration with the Northern Cape Gambling Board (NCGB), and was aimed at the youth of the province.

The NGRP is presenting workshops around the country aimed at helping young people to apply greater caution when taking risks related to gambling in particular and life in general.

NGRP executive director, Nana Magomola said the workshop was aimed at helping youth understand the consequences of their actions.

"We want to ensure we do not condemn or judge but rather help young people to understand the consequences of their choices in an informed and responsible way. By applying logic and foresight to decision making processes youngsters can reduce risks and harms related to problem gambling and risky lifestyle choices. Our

concern is for young people who gamble or who may one day choose to gamble, is that they do so knowing what the risks are and how to minimise them."

The day included an industrial theatre play on taking risks responsibly, one of the NGRP's key themes, and an interactive talk on the subject. Participants learned how addiction can negatively affect an entire family and community and how to create strategies to reduce problems of addiction and how to manage finances better.

In a press release, the NGRP said the youth had a propensity to take risks which may land them into illegal gambling.

"For the average impulsive, thrill-seeking young adult, gambling offers an ideal opportunity for glamorous fun and excitement. Unfortunately this group's propensity to take risks is often not balanced by careful thought of consequences and so



Picture source: Getty images

gambling can present a dangerous pastime for them. In addition to formal gambling such as casinos, horses, the lottery and sports betting, there are many other forms of gambling to entice them.

"Along with betting, many take risks with illegal games such as fahfee, cards and dice. Furthermore, with access to a computer and a credit card, it is easy to indulge in online gambling, regardless of fact that it is illegal in South Africa".

Article by Neo Bodumela



The vehicle, sponsored by VW Klerksdorp, will be used in the transportation of rhino calves from locations across the country to Animal World Zoo. Photo: Chilli PicNic.

VANDERBIJLPARK. - Emerald Resort & Casino recently announced the launch of the first phase of its Rhino Orphanage Project. The initiative will aid nature and rhino conservation in Africa by 'Saving the Rhinos, one baby at a time'.

Saving one (big) baby at a time

The orphanage project's ultimate purpose is the release of the orphaned rhinos back into their natural environment.

"Our rhino conservation programme is multi-tiered and will be implemented on a phase by phase basis," says Martin Rice, CEO of Emerald Resort & Casino. "The first part of our journey has been to establish a partnership with VW Klerksdorp, a company that has very generously donated a VW Amorok vehicle to get us off the starting blocks."

The vehicle is branded by both the project and VW Klerksdorp and will ultimately be used in the transportation of rhino calves from locations across the country to Animal World Zoo. Located on Emerald Resort & Casino's property, Animal World combines

the experience of a game drive and zoo, all in one. The facility offers a microcosm of exotic birds, reptiles and land mammals. These are available for viewing. The vehicle is ideally suited to this project. Game Park Manager Mariska du Plessis and Zoo Manager Elana Smalberger have over ten years of combined nature conservation experience and are extremely passionate and dedicated to individual animals. "The second phase in our programme is the most costly and will require donations in the construction of holding pens, enclosures, night rooms and the acquisition of a custom-built trailer before we can start introducing baby rhinos," says Martin. "We're grateful to be involved and look forward to getting this crucial project off the ground."

Article by Retha Fitchat