



17/08/2017

## From the desk of the CEO

The second quarter has been an exciting and interesting quarter especially with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) cracking the whip on illegal online gambling. As CASA, we welcome the government's action against this crime and hope this is the start of great things to come.

As we know illegal gambling, especially illegal online gambling, is a problem. We know that it steals millions of Rands from the government annually – estimated at R140 million in gambling tax alone in the year 2015/16, of which the figure excludes value added tax (VAT) and corporate taxes; and has dire social and financial effects on ordinary South African citizens.



I believe that South Africans understand that they're contributing to criminal activities every time they spend money with an unlicensed gambling operator – and yet they continue to do so. In the face of this disregard for the law, would it not be more realistic to admit that if you can't beat them, it's best to join them?

## Divided opinions and time wasted

For many years, this has been one of the opinions that have divided stakeholders as they attempt to find the best solution to illegal online gambling. CASA's standpoint has always been that we need to take action either way.

While we've wasted time considering the pros and cons of prohibition versus regulation, we have continued to lose more millions which could be paid to government in the form of taxes from legal gambling operators. These funds could contribute towards health infrastructure, education and other key priorities.

## CASA taking the lead

We have mounted our own campaigns to bring to the public's attention the dangers associated with illegal gambling. And we have waited on authorities to take the next step, assuring them that whatever their direction – whether legalisation and regulation or prohibition – we will offer our support and stand behind them.

## Actions speak louder than words

We are therefore delighted to see that, at last, the time for debate has ended. During May, the dti working together with the National Gambling Board (NGB) obtained a court order forfeiting slightly above R1 million in unlawful winnings to government. Added to this, the NGB has made clear its stance, sending out the message that people caught gambling illegally will be subject to criminal charges and stringent penalties.

We believe that this is a fine start. The time has come to hold transgressors accountable, and ensure they face appropriate consequences.

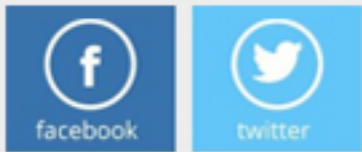
## The struggle must continue

To our partners in the ongoing struggle against illegal gambling: let us see this as an exciting beginning which we can build on for the benefit of the broader South African society. Know that we support you and are ready to make available the resources you need to carry this action forward.

The battle has begun.

We are looking forward to an exciting last two quarters here at CASA as we continue to represent our members' best interests as well as the interests of the growing public that the industry serves.

**Advocate Themba Ngobese,**  
**Chief Executive Officer, CASA**



[www.casasa.org.za](http://www.casasa.org.za)



### News Flash – CASA Survey 2017 out in October!

The CASA Survey of Casino Entertainment in South Africa 2017 will be out in October this year.

If you would like to receive an info pack containing interesting content that can be used to profile the contribution of casinos to the South African economy, please contact:  
[khanyi@casasa.org.za](mailto:khanyi@casasa.org.za)

## CASA in the news

**Business Report:**  
[Industry overview: Gambling has come on hard times](#)

**CSR News:**  
[CEO of CASA sits with CSRNEWS SA to share about their giving fabric](#)

**702:**  
[Why online gambling \(it's illegal, did you know?\) is harming South Africa](#)

## International regulatory news

**Gambling Insider:**  
[Turkey launches crack-down on illegal gambling operators](#)



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