



Illegal Gambling in Ghana

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LEVEL I PARTNERS



LEVEL II PARTNER



Presentation Outline

Background: Illegal Gambling in Ghana

Challenges in Addressing it

Measures Employed To Address it



Gambling in Ghana

- Gambling in Ghana is regulated by two institutions, the Gaming Commission and the National Lottery Authority.
- The Gaming Commission, which is established by the Gaming Act, 2006 (Act 721), regulates betting, casinos and other games of chance, excluding lottery, with over 60 companies licensed.
- The National Lottery Authority (NLA), established by the National Lotto Act, 2006 (Act 722), regulates, supervises, conducts, and manages National Lotto and provides for related matters, including consumer promotions.



Gambling in Ghana

- Ghana's gaming industry has been described as a burgeoning industry with the NLA and the Gaming Commission making significant strides, contributing significantly to the government's coffers for national development in the areas of health, education, youth and sports development and arts and culture.
- However, over the years, the activities of illegal operators have posed a serious economic threat that could be dire if left unchecked.



Challenges

- Unauthorized Lottery Syndicates
- Tax Impositions
- The Dual Role Of NLA As a Regulator And Operator
- Illegal Operators backed by influential people in society
- Lapses in the enforcement of Responsible Gaming



Economic Impact of Illegal Lottery and Unlicensed Gambling Operators



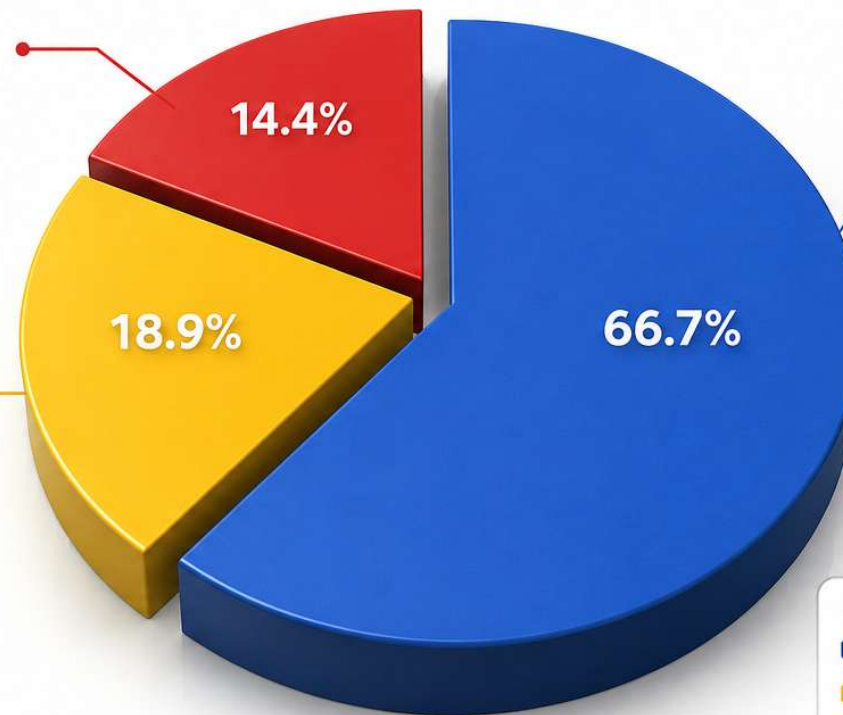
Benin (36% Profit Decline)

The National Lottery of Benin (LNB) reported a 36% fall in net profit in 2025. Revenue slipped 4% to 98.6bn West African CFA francs (€150.4m).



Ghana (GH¢1 Billion Loss)

Ghana risks losing an estimated sum of 1 billion Ghana cedis, the equivalent of about 85 million USD, to illegal lottery operators annually.



South Africa (Over US\$3 Billion Loss)

South Africa is reported to lose more than R50 billion a year, equivalent to over 3 billion USD, with unlicensed offshore operators now accounting for nearly two-thirds of all online gambling activity in the country.

Category	Impact (Approx.)
South Africa	Over US\$3 Billion (R50 Billion)
Ghana	GH¢1 Billion (≈ US\$85 Million)
Benin	36% Decline in Net Profit

Methods Employed to Deal with Illegal Gambling



Using technology to have more visibility and ensure compliance



Passing of the Lotto and Lotteries Bill to better regulate the gaming space



Licensing of lotto operators under the widened NLA Licensing regime



Regulation of the consumer lottery space



Sensitization on Responsible Gaming



Clamping down on perpetrators with the assistance of the Security personnel

Methods Employed To Address Illegal Gambling

Introduction of Sophisticated POS Terminals



Methods Employed to Deal with Illegal Gambling

- Responsible Gaming Training of Regulators, Operators and Retailers



Methods Employed to Deal with Illegal Gambling

Shining the light on Our Good Causes



Section 2, Clause 3 of the National Lotto Act, Act 722, mandates the NLA "to conduct, as part of the operation of National Lotto, a lottery to provide care and protection for the physically or mentally afflicted, the needy, the aged, orphans, and destitute children".

Core Take Aways

- The fight against illegal gambling requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders
- Regulators need to come up with innovative ways to match the mischief of the illegal operators
- Regulators need to strengthen compliance and sanctions for perpetrators
- Responsible Gaming must be at the core of all operations
- Good causes are the fulcrum of all operations



Conclusion



For every cedi lost to an illegal lottery operator, a child is denied education, a community is denied a health facility, the youth loses opportunities, and the economy of a nation loses millions that could help improve the lives of its citizenry.

I urge all stakeholders gathered here not to relent in the war against illegal gambling.

I am ready to play my part. What About You?