Response by G Hill-Lewis to inputs made on Remote Gambling Bill
Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry
National Assembly

24 June 2015

Proposals for Technical Amendments:

1) Stronger, more explicit language around the requirement for local investment - fully support

> My intention is clear: All licensed operators should situate the entirety of their business operations, including all back office supports systems, in South Africa

2) Review of the division of responsibilities between provinces and national - somewhat support, somewhat do not.

> - need for a national licensing jurisdiction
> - does lead to NGB being a licensing authority
> - Believe that Bill achieves a suitable division, but open to debate

Overall Policy Thrust of the Bill:

1) Bill seeks to regulate reasonable behaviour
2) Do so in a manner that minimises harm, maximises state's ability to enforce strict licence conditions
3) And importantly, which recovers costs
4) Treasury confirmed that stopping the foreign transfer of small amounts is very difficult, near impossible
5) Banking Association confirmed that it would require a large investment of resources, and would still be very difficult. Only can be done on a reactive, not proactive basis. This piecemeal approach not likely to stop much of the activity
6) Input by gambling and casino entrenched interests - expected
7) Important input by NRGP which supported regulation over prohibition

Four questions DTI has not answered:

1) How will prohibition (status quo) minimise harm any more than strict regulation does?
2) What are the details of their enforcement plan, given that the institutions they will rely on say it will be extremely difficult?
3) How do they plan to recover the costs of the enormous investment in enforcement required?
4) What are the specific reasons for the policy reversal between 2008 and now?

Questions for Committee to Consider:

1) What is the role and standing of a Committee Legacy Report?
2) The Committee's approach to regulation for most of 2000s, and most recent approach