



***10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATION: REFLECTION ON GRAF  
Evaluation of Achievements and Challenges of  
African Regulators Over a Decade***

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***10<sup>TH</sup> GRAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE***

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**Protea Hotel The Ranch Resort - Polokwane**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

1. OVERVIEW
2. OBJECTIVES OF GRAF
3. REFLECTION ON ACHIEVEMENTS
4. CHALLENGES
5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 10 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003, GRAF was born!
- That happened right here in Polokwane at Meropa Casino.
- What a blessed coincidence ***“That 10 years later, we have returned to Limpopo to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GRAF”!***

### How was it prior to GRAF existence:

- ❖ **There were no effective collaboration amongst African countries**
  - Each jurisdiction fought its own regulatory war on its own;
  - Regulatory confidence was low for most of the jurisdictions;
  
- ❖ **Africa was possible shelter for “bad guys”**
  - Absence of a proper mechanism for probity information sharing
    - Unsuitable persons easily took advantage of the situation
    - It was difficult to know the blacklisted in other jurisdictions
  
- ❖ **Sharing of knowledge and technical know-how was difficult**
  - We did not realise that Africa could have answers to regulatory and technological advancement challenges

### The coming of GRAF

**GRAF was intended to address the collaboration vacuum that existed amongst African gaming jurisdictions**

- **At the inaugural meeting it was underscored on the need for :**
  - Efficient regulation of gaming in African
  - Proper cooperation of the gaming regulators in the continent
- **The advent of GRAF initiated a long walk towards harmonization of the gaming laws, regulations and requirements for enhanced efficiency and greater cooperation among members**
- **Invite delegates to make reference to the GRAF objectives**

It is 10 years now; the question is,

### **HAVE WE ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVES OF GRAF?**

**A survey was done that involved all member jurisdictions.**

- Nine jurisdictions responded
- There were 12 questions touching the very foundation of GRAF objectives and one question measured on the relevance of the forum

#### **The findings:**

1. Six scored “VERY RELEVANT” – Two “MODERATELY RELEVANT” one jurisdiction found GRAF to be IRRELEVANT;
2. On the use of GRAF Secretariat to continue being focal point for enquiries, seven responded wanting the Secretariat to among other functions, to take that responsibility;
3. On sharing of probity information, seven “VERY MUCH”
4. Jurisdiction wanted continued training programs and support on best practice regulatory approaches for increased capacity to regulate

5. The issue of promotion of responsible gaming was underpinned to void our people of negative impacts of gaming
6. They talked and emphasized on adoption of Technical Standards for use in Africa.
7. The issue of harmonization of gaming laws within member jurisdiction was seen critical by all who reacted to the survey.

**From these findings let us reflect on the achievements thus far recorded:**

➤ **On gaming legislations of Member Jurisdictions**

Gaming legislations of eight jurisdictions have been assessed in respect of areas of technology and illegal activities with a view to identifying areas that require improvement.

➤ **Introduction of a Gaming Machine Register**

Gaming Machines Register is planned to be rolled-out where all machines shall be required to be registered by member jurisdictions have them featured in the main register to control movement of these devices. The pilot project will involve Tanzania and thereafter include the rest of the members.

## ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES

### ➤ **Efficiency and Effectiveness of Monitoring Tools**

It was seen critical that GRAF should develop Minimum Technical Standards that will set benchmarks for standards. Meanwhile jurisdictions should acknowledge each other's reports for gaming equipment.

### ➤ **Framework for Licensing and Monitoring of Gaming Equipment**

Gaming Machines in member jurisdictions should be registered on annual basis and there should be a fee charged. This will require testing for compliance of machines each time a machine is re-registered.

### ➤ **Norm and Standards for the Regulators**

GRAF has proposed to put in place Norms and Standards that will facilitate matters of cooperation between member jurisdictions, licensing, and compliance issues. The draft of this document will be made available to the member jurisdictions for their inputs.

The reflection clearly shows that GRAF is relevant and has recorded notable success over the 10 year period. We may not be there yet, but we are on the right pathway.

### CHALLENGES?

**GRAF is not yet an adult, and not a toddler either. We do have challenges!!**

1. Some member jurisdictions lack commitments toward GRAF fundamentals;
2. Financial constrains; plans need funding especially research, training and other technical issues like rolling-out of Gaming Machine Register
3. Lack of willingness to change and to embrace modern best practices in regulatory approaches among some regulators

- We take pride for having formed this forum, regardless of whatever challenges, our pursuit for a well-regulated gaming industry in member jurisdictions shall never weaken.
- The future promises more challenges to regulators who are devoid of desire to take advantages of GRAF initiatives, for instance the advent of mobile technology. Gaming now moves to new settings, if we don't respond, regulatory regimes in Africa may seem antiquated.
- Emerging forms of gambling, new regulatory approaches and harmonized gaming laws will demand better understanding and focused discourse. These attributes are the bedrock of GRAF's objectives, that is what we have witnessed in the last 10 years of this forum.

***THANK YOU***

***Questions?***



