



***A BIRD'S EYEVIEW OF THE REGULATION  
OF GAMBLING ON THE AFRICAN  
CONTINENT***

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***11<sup>th</sup> GRAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE***

***21 - 24 JUNE 2015***

**Elephant Hills Hotel - Victoria Falls  
Zimbabwe**

- Legalized gambling industry are predicated on the desire of governments to create an appropriate balance between:
  - Providing citizens with the opportunity to participate in legitimate forms of recreational activity.
  - Ensuring that the public is protected, fairness is promoted and the integrity of the industry is upheld.
  
- To achieve this objective, regulation is essential.
  
- Regulation requires an ongoing assessment of the technological and operational parameters within which gambling is conducted and standards which are responsive to those parameters.
  
- Importantly, it also requires sensitivity to the social and economic fabric of communities in which gambling is made available.

- Gambling in Africa is huge, and is gaining increasing momentum, attention and popularity , and governments across the continent are beginning to realise the opportunities and benefits in having a regulated market.
- While the process is a long and often trying one, a handful of countries are leading the way in regulation; they are driving it hard and beginning to apply strict enforcement.
- For example, the gambling industry in South Africa is highly regulated, both at national and provincial levels.
- The National Gambling Act sets the broad framework for the licensing and regulation of gambling in South Africa, but each province has its own legislation.

### Problem Gambling

- If gambling industry is not closely monitored, it could bring with it a host of evils such as prostitution, money laundering and fraud -- not to mention **gambling addiction**.
- Increasing incidents of compulsive or “problem” gambling, where the gambler does not know how or when to stop, and can go to extremes to continue to fund his addiction.
- The growing phenomenon impacts negatively on the financial circumstances, personal and family relationships, and health and work situation of victims.

### **Problem Gambling**

- Although governments' reaction to gambling differs in these countries, social and moral concerns are playing a key part in shaping their approach to this blossoming industry.
- Regulation in the continent has not introduced effective regulatory tools to deal with problem gambling.
- Lack of proper legislation and regulator framework could make gambling a ticking time bomb if the population is totally unprotected from its harmful effects.
- Most of the African countries do not have public institutions and non-governmental organizations that support addicted gamblers and their families with counselling.

### **Illegal Gambling**

- There are a number of illegal gambling houses spread throughout the continent, from unlicensed slot machines to underground casinos
- Cybercrime is growing at a faster rate in Africa than it is in other continents and this is seen through the surge of Illegal Internet Cafes.
- Unfortunately, the existence of the stringent laws meant to deter offenders, many of the reported cases have remained unsolved due to difficulties investigating cybercrimes such as jurisdictional challenges and a lack of skilled human resources - a common problem in African countries.

### **Illegal Gambling**

- Cybercrime is a hair raising crime that drives fear among the authorities and law enforcement agencies because cybercriminals have been using their proceeds to fund terrorist activities around the world.
- Collaboration between the Law Enforcement Agencies and regulators in combating illegal gambling remains a challenge.

- Africa has incredible potential as an iGaming market and regulation is vital to its future.
- The increased penetration of mobile offers a few challenges.
- The bottom line is that the hunger for sportsbetting and online casino is growing day by day, the punters want access to it, and the potential revenue is huge. Lawmakers cannot ignore the issue of its regulation.
- When gambling is properly regulated, it is a crime-free industry which can add value to the economies of a region, and bail member states out of poverty.



***THANK YOU***