GTSA
GAMING TECH SUMMIT AFRICA

# GTSA 2026 Report















**Building Africa's Sustainable and Scalable Gaming-Tech Industry**

# Executive Summary




## BUILDING AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE & SCALABLE GAMING -TECH INDUSTRY

The ***Gaming Tech Summit Africa (GTSA) 2026*** brought together gaming regulators, policymakers, operators, technology providers, payment service providers, compliance experts, legal practitioners, investors and development partners from across Africa to deliberate on the future of the continent's gaming ecosystem.

Held under the theme "Building Africa's Sustainable and Scalable Gaming-Tech Industry," the Summit provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss emerging trends, opportunities and challenges affecting the gaming sector. Discussions focused on taxation, regulatory harmonization, responsible gambling, technological innovation, licensing frameworks, digital payments, esports, cryptocurrency and consumer protection.

A recurring theme throughout the Summit was the need to strike a balance between industry growth and effective regulation. Participants observed that ***Africa's gaming industry continues to experience rapid growth driven by mobile technology, digital payments and an increasingly youthful population.*** However, regulatory frameworks have often struggled to keep pace with innovation. Stakeholders emphasized that the future of the sector will depend on regulatory certainty, responsible innovation, consumer protection and stronger collaboration among governments, regulators, operators and technology providers.

Participants further highlighted the growing threat posed by illegal and unregulated gaming activities, noting that fragmented regulatory approaches, inconsistent taxation regimes and varying licensing requirements continue to create opportunities for black market operators. There was broad consensus on the need for greater regional cooperation, information sharing and harmonization of regulatory standards.

The Summit concluded that Africa possesses significant potential to become a leading global gaming market. However, realizing this potential will require balanced taxation policies, technology-enabled regulation, robust responsible gambling measures, enhanced financial integrity systems and sustained collaboration across the ecosystem.

## Acronyms

| Acronym | Meaning |
|---|---|
| GTSA | Gaming Tech Summit Africa |
| AI | Artificial Intelligence |
| AML | Anti-Money Laundering |
| CFT | Counter Financing of Terrorism |
| KYC | Know Your Customer |
| RegTech | Regulatory Technology |
| CPA | Certified Public Accountant |
| CFA | Chartered Financial Analyst |
| FinTech | Financial Technology |
| Esports | Electronic Sports |

# Conference Highlights and Emerging Insights

The Gaming Tech Summit Africa (GTSA) 2026 brought together regulators, operators, policymakers, technology providers, payment service providers and industry experts from across the continent to deliberate on the future of Africa's gaming ecosystem under the theme ***"Building Africa's Sustainable and Scalable Gaming-Tech Industry."***

## *Key Highlights from the Summit* ▶

**1.** **Regulatory certainty emerged as the single most important factor influencing investment decisions within the gaming sector.** Participants repeatedly observed that investors are less concerned by regulation itself than by uncertainty arising from inconsistent licensing processes, frequent policy changes and unpredictable taxation frameworks.

**2.** **The rapid growth of illegal and unregulated gaming markets was identified as one of the most significant threats facing the industry.** Participants noted that black market operators continue to benefit from fragmented regulatory approaches, weak enforcement mechanisms and technological developments that facilitate cross-border operations.

**3.** **Technology featured prominently throughout the Summit as both an opportunity and a regulatory necessity.** Discussions highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence, regulatory technology (RegTech), data analytics and real-time monitoring systems in strengthening compliance, oversight and market integrity.

**4.** **Responsible gambling and consumer protection emerged as critical pillars for sustainable industry growth.** Participants emphasized that long-term industry success depends on maintaining public trust and ensuring that adequate safeguards exist to protect vulnerable groups from gambling-related harm.

**5.** **Taxation remained one of the most debated topics throughout the Summit.** While governments have legitimate interests in revenue generation, participants cautioned that excessive or unpredictable taxation may discourage investment, undermine competitiveness and strengthen illegal gaming markets.

**6.** **The increasing importance of regional cooperation and regulatory harmonization** was repeatedly emphasized. Participants noted that fragmented licensing systems, technical standards and compliance requirements continue to create barriers to investment and market expansion across Africa.

**7.** **Digital payments, fintech innovation and mobile money were identified as major drivers of industry growth**, financial inclusion and consumer participation, particularly within emerging African markets.

**8.** **Emerging technologies including esports, cryptocurrency and blockchain** are creating new opportunities for innovation while simultaneously introducing complex regulatory and consumer protection challenges that require careful policy consideration.



# Strategic Partnership Announcement



A strategic partnership was announced during the Summit between the ***Lagos State Lotteries and Gaming Authority (LSLGA) and Global Lab***, a technology solutions provider specializing in providing testing, certification and regulatory consultancy services for the gaming industry stakeholders.

The partnership marks an important milestone in efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight, transparency, accountability and operational efficiency within Africa's gaming sector. Through the deployment of advanced regulatory technology solutions, the collaboration seeks to enhance compliance monitoring, improve regulatory visibility and support the implementation of responsible gaming practices.

Participants were informed that the partnership reflects a shared commitment to promoting innovation while strengthening the integrity and sustainability of regulated gaming markets. By leveraging technology-enabled oversight mechanisms, the initiative is expected to support more effective regulation and contribute to the development of trusted gaming ecosystems.
The announcement also highlighted plans by the international technology partner to establish a stronger operational presence within Africa, creating opportunities for closer collaboration with regulators, operators and industry stakeholders across the continent.

**PARTICIPANTS WELCOMED THE PARTNERSHIP AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GROWING ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORTING REGULATORY MODERNIZATION AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE WITHIN AFRICA'S RAPIDLY EVOLVING GAMING INDUSTRY.**

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# GTSA 2026 AT A GLANCE























# Building Africa's Sustainable and Scalable Gaming-Tech Industry

## Background ▶

Since its inception in 2024, the Gaming Tech Summit Africa (GTSA) has evolved into one of the continent's premier platforms for dialogue and collaboration among gaming regulators, operators, technology providers, payment platforms and other industry stakeholders.

The 2026 Summit was convened against a backdrop of rapid growth in Africa's gaming sector, driven by increasing internet penetration, mobile technology adoption, fintech innovation and changing consumer behavior. While these developments have created significant opportunities for investment and economic growth, they have also introduced complex regulatory, technological and consumer protection challenges.

The Summit was organized under the theme "Building Africa's Sustainable and Scalable Gaming-Tech Industry" and sought to explore practical solutions to key challenges facing the sector, including fragmented regulatory frameworks, inconsistent taxation policies, illegal gambling, emerging technologies, responsible gambling and market expansion.

The event brought together delegates from East, West, Central and Southern Africa, including representatives from regulatory authorities, government institutions, gaming operators, technology companies, financial institutions, payment service providers, legal experts and responsible gambling practitioners. The Summit also provided an opportunity for participants to benchmark experiences, share best practices and identify opportunities for collaboration aimed at strengthening Africa's gaming ecosystem.



**Event Attendees** *Listening to Panels and Keynotes during one of GTSA's sessions*

## Objectives of the Summit

The overall objective of the Summit was to promote dialogue and collaboration towards the development of a sustainable, transparent and scalable gaming ecosystem in Africa. Specific objectives included:

- **To examine the current state of gaming regulation** across African jurisdictions and identify opportunities for regulatory improvement.
- **To explore fair, predictable and sustainable taxation models** that support industry growth while safeguarding government revenue.
- **To discuss approaches for strengthening responsible gambling** and consumer protection measures.
- **To assess the impact of emerging technologies on gaming regulation** and identify strategies for technology-enabled oversight.
- **To explore approaches for combating illegal and unregulated gaming activities.**
- **To facilitate dialogue on licensing frameworks**, compliance systems and market entry requirements across Africa.
- **To strengthen collaboration between regulators, operators, technology providers**, payment service providers and other stakeholders.
- **To identify opportunities for regional cooperation** and regulatory harmonization.



# CONFERENCE DAY ONE

# Opening Session ▶




The Summit commenced with welcoming remarks from the organizers, who expressed appreciation to delegates, speakers, sponsors and partners for participating in the third edition of the Gaming Tech Summit Africa (GTSA).



**"... THE FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE GAMING INDUSTRY WILL DEPEND NOT ONLY ON COMMERCIAL SUCCESS ..."**

Participants were informed that GTSA has continued to grow as a leading continental platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration among regulators, operators, technology providers, payment service providers and other stakeholders within Africa's gaming ecosystem. Delegates from across East, West, Central and Southern Africa were welcomed, reflecting the Summit's growing continental reach and commitment to fostering cross-border cooperation and learning

**The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Peter Karimi, the Director General, Gambling Regulatory Authority of Kenya**, who challenged participants to rethink the future of Africa's gaming industry and the role of regulation in an increasingly digital and interconnected environment. He observed that while technological innovation has accelerated the growth of gaming across the continent, industry stakeholders must remain conscious of their broader social and economic responsibilities.'

Mr. Karimi emphasized that the future sustainability of the gaming industry will depend not only on commercial success but also on the ability of regulators, operators and technology providers to build trust, safeguard consumers and promote responsible participation within regulated markets.

He noted that the gaming industry now operates within a highly competitive digital ecosystem characterized by social media, online entertainment platforms, digital payments and rapidly evolving consumer behavior. In this context, he urged stakeholders to adopt forward-looking approaches that balance innovation with accountability and consumer protection.




**Traditional Dancers** *performing at the opening session of Gaming Tech Summit Africa 2026*

The keynote further underscored the growing importance of responsible gambling, particularly in light of increasing concerns regarding gambling-related harm among vulnerable populations. **Participants were encouraged to view responsible gambling not merely as a compliance requirement but as a fundamental component of industry sustainability and public confidence.**

Mr. Karimi also called for greater collaboration among regulators, operators, technology providers and policymakers, noting that many of the challenges facing the industry, including illegal gaming, technological disruption, financial crime and regulatory fragmentation cannot be addressed by any single stakeholder acting alone. The opening session concluded with a call for participants to utilize the Summit as an opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas and identify practical solutions capable of supporting the development of a transparent, innovative and sustainable gaming ecosystem across Africa.

# Power Talk: The Regulator as an Enabler of the Industry and Not a Gatekeeper

**Mr. Vusi Mtsweni,** CEO, Mpumalanga Economic Regulator

## Introduction ▶

This session explored the evolving role of regulators within Africa's gaming ecosystem. The session was premised on the recognition that the gaming industry has undergone significant transformation over the past decade, driven by technological innovation, changing consumer behavior, increasing digitalization and the emergence of new gaming products and platforms.

Participants examined whether traditional regulatory approaches remain fit for purpose in an environment where innovation continues to outpace legislative and policy development. The presentation focused on how regulators can balance their responsibility to protect consumers and uphold public interest while simultaneously creating conditions that encourage investment, innovation and sustainable growth.




**THE GAMING INDUSTRY NOW OPERATES AT THE INTERSECTION OF TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE, ENTERTAINMENT AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOR.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The session showed that regulators have historically been viewed primarily as gatekeepers whose role was to control market entry, enforce compliance and impose sanctions where necessary. While these functions remain important, it was noted that such an approach may no longer be sufficient within today's highly interconnected and technology-driven environment.

The gaming industry now operates at the intersection of technology, finance, entertainment and consumer behavior. Mobile technology, online gaming platforms, digital payment systems and cross-border gaming activities have fundamentally altered the regulatory landscape. In this context, regulators are increasingly required to adopt broader and more strategic functions.

" Instead, regulation should create certainty, build trust, encourage innovation and support sustainable market development." A key argument advanced was that there is often a false perception that regulation and industry growth are competing objectives.



> **"REGULATION SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED SOLELY AS A MECHANISM FOR RESTRICTION & CONTROL**

This notion was challenged and the presenter argued that strong regulation and sustainable growth are mutually reinforcing. Effective regulation provides predictability, strengthens consumer confidence and attracts investment, while weak regulation creates uncertainty, undermines public trust and enables illegal operators to flourish.

The issue of investor confidence featured prominently in the presentation. Investors generally do not fear regulation, rather, they fear uncertainty. Unclear licensing requirements, inconsistent decision-making processes, unpredictable taxation policies and prolonged approval timelines were identified as factors that discourage investment more significantly than regulation itself.
It was further observed that investor confidence depends largely on transparency, consistency and predictability. Regulatory environments that provide clear rules, well-defined compliance expectations and efficient licensing procedures are more likely to attract long-term investment and stimulate industry growth.

> **INDUSTRY GROWTH CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINED WHERE CONSUMERS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE SAFEGUARDED AND PUBLIC TRUST IS MAINTAINED**

The session also recognized the growing importance of technology-enabled regulation. It was noted that traditional oversight approaches are increasingly inadequate in addressing modern gaming risks. Advances in artificial intelligence, mobile gaming, digital payments and online betting have created environments where manual oversight alone is insufficient.

The presenter also highlighted the need for regulators to adopt data-driven and intelligence-led approaches to regulation. Such approaches were viewed as critical for identifying emerging risks, monitoring compliance in real time, improving enforcement efficiency and informing evidence-based policy decisions.

Another major theme was the challenge posed by illegal and unregulated gaming activities. Illegal operators undermine licensed businesses, deprive governments of revenue, expose consumers to exploitation and create opportunities for criminal activity. The session emphasized that regulators cannot effectively address these challenges in isolation and that meaningful solutions require collaboration among regulators, law enforcement agencies, licensed operators, financial institutions and technology providers. Responsible gambling also emerged as a central consideration. Participants stressed that responsible gambling should not be viewed merely as a compliance obligation but as a long-term sustainability strategy.

Industry growth can only be sustained where consumers are adequately protected, vulnerable groups are safeguarded and public trust is maintained.
The discussion concluded with reflections on the future of regulation in Africa. Participants agreed that future regulators must be collaborative, technologically enabled, transparent and responsive. Regulatory success should increasingly be measured by outcomes such as consumer protection, market integrity, public confidence and industry sustainability rather than by the volume of compliance activities undertaken.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Regulation and industry growth are complementary objectives.**
- **Regulatory certainty is essential for attracting investment.**
- **Data-driven and technology-enabled regulation represents the future of effective oversight.**
- **Collaboration among stakeholders is critical in addressing illegal gaming.**
- **Responsible gambling should be integrated into broader sustainability strategies.**
- **Regulators must evolve from gatekeepers to architects of sustainable gaming ecosystems.**

# Power Panel: The Current State of Gaming Regulation Across Africa

## *Who is Winning – Consumers, Governments, Licensed Operators or the Black Market?*

**Moderator:** Mr. Peter Kesitilwe
**Panelists:** Mr Dennis Ngabirano, Emmanuel Siisi Quainoo, Maxwel Achesa, Mr. Fortune Sekgaphane

## Introduction ▶

This session examined the current state of gaming regulation across Africa and explored the extent to which existing regulatory frameworks are achieving their intended objectives. The discussion sought to assess whether the primary beneficiaries of current regulatory systems are consumers, governments, licensed operators or illegal market actors.

The session brought together regulators, operators and legal experts who shared perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing gaming regulation across the continent.




**POLICYMAKERS FREQUENTLY VIEW GAMING PRIMARILY THROUGH THE LENS OF TAXATION AND REVENUE GENERATION.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The discussion opened with reflections on whether the gaming ecosystem should be viewed as a competition among stakeholders. Several participants argued that framing the issue as a contest between governments, consumers and operators was unhelpful, noting that all legitimate stakeholders ultimately share a common objective: the development of a safe, transparent and sustainable gaming environment.

Despite this perspective, participants acknowledged that one actor appears to be benefiting disproportionately from existing weaknesses within regulatory systems – the black market. There was broad consensus that illegal and unregulated operators represent one of the most significant threats facing the gaming industry in Africa today.

Black market operators frequently operate beyond the reach of regulatory oversight, evade taxation obligations, disregard responsible gambling requirements and expose consumers to significant risks. It was observed that the growth of illegal gaming is often facilitated by regulatory fragmentation, inconsistent enforcement, outdated legislation and technological advancements that enable operators to reach consumers across borders.

The discussion demonstrated the significant economic implications of black market activities which include governments losing substantial revenues, licensed operators facing unfair competition and consumers are left without meaningful protection mechanisms when engaging with illegal operators. The role of public policy and legislation also featured prominently.

Many regulatory frameworks across Africa were developed in response to earlier forms of gaming and may not adequately address modern digital gaming environments. As a result, legislative reform was identified as a priority in many jurisdictions. Stakeholder engagement emerged as another major theme. Participants stressed that effective regulatory frameworks require meaningful consultation among governments, regulators, operators, technology providers and consumers.

Regulations developed without adequate engagement may create barriers to compliance or fail to address emerging industry realities. The issue of taxation generated significant discussion. Several participants argued that excessive taxation can contribute to the growth of illegal markets by making licensed operations less competitive. Where legal operators face high compliance costs and consumers encounter higher prices, black market alternatives often become more attractive. At the same time, participants acknowledged the legitimate interest of governments in generating revenue from the gaming sector.

The challenge, therefore, lies in identifying taxation and regulatory approaches that support public revenue objectives without undermining market sustainability.
The discussion also explored public perceptions of gaming. Policymakers frequently view gaming primarily through the lens of taxation and revenue generation, they said.

While revenue remains important, it was emphasized that the industry also contributes to employment creation, technology adoption, innovation and broader economic development. Responsible gambling was repeatedly identified as an area requiring greater attention. Participants stressed that regulatory frameworks must prioritize consumer protection and harm prevention if the industry is to maintain public legitimacy and social acceptance.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Illegal and unregulated gaming represents the greatest threat to sustainable market development.**
- **Governments, operators and regulators share common interests in combating black market activities.**
- **Legislative and policy reforms are necessary to address emerging digital gaming realities.**
- **Excessive taxation may inadvertently strengthen illegal gaming markets.**
- **Meaningful stakeholder engagement is critical for effective regulation.**
- **Consumer protection and responsible gambling must remain central regulatory objectives.**

# Expert Talk: Building a Fair and Competitive Gaming Tax Model for Africa.

Mr. John Mwangi, CPA/CFA

## Introduction ▶



**“ TAXATION IS OFTEN INTRODUCED INCREMENTALLY THROUGH MULTIPLE TAXES, LEVIES AND FEES ”**

This session examined how taxation frameworks can be designed to support sustainable industry growth while enabling governments to achieve legitimate revenue objectives. The presenter considered the current state of taxation across African gaming markets, emerging trends within the sector and policy options for developing fair and competitive taxation systems.



## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The presentation began with an overview of Africa's rapidly expanding gaming market. Participants heard that continued growth is being driven by a combination of demographic, technological and economic factors. These include increasing mobile phone penetration, expanding digital payment ecosystems, growing internet access and a predominantly youthful population.

Africa's demographic presents unique opportunities for industry growth. With one of the youngest populations globally, the continent represents a significant future market for gaming and digital entertainment products. However, the sustainability of this growth depends heavily on the policy and regulatory environments established by governments and regulators.

> **"PREDICTABLE, TRANSPARENT AND PROPORTIONATE TAX REGIMES ARE GENERALLY VIEWED MORE FAVORABLY THAN SYSTEMS CHARACTERIZED BY FREQUENT CHANGES AND EXCESSIVE BURDENS.**

Taxation is one of the most important determinants of industry competitiveness. While governments increasingly recognize the revenue potential of the gaming sector, taxation policies in several jurisdictions have become increasingly complex and burdensome.

Several challenges facing legitimate operators were identified. These included multilayered taxation systems, overlapping regulatory requirements, increasing compliance costs, fragmented licensing structures and reputational risks associated with public perceptions of gaming.

Taxation is often introduced incrementally through multiple taxes, levies and fees that may individually appear manageable but collectively create significant burdens for operators. Such approaches can reduce profitability, discourage investment and undermine long-term market sustainability.

The presentation emphasized the importance of balancing revenue generation with broader economic objectives. While governments have legitimate interests in maximizing public revenue, participants were cautioned against approaches that prioritize short-term fiscal gains at the expense of long-term industry growth.

The concept of competitive taxation and how investors increasingly compare taxation frameworks across jurisdictions when making investment decisions was also pointed out. Predictable, transparent and proportionate tax regimes are generally viewed more favorably than systems characterized by frequent changes and excessive burdens.

The importance of evidence-based policymaking was repeatedly stressed. Participants argued that taxation policies should be informed by market data, industry realities and stakeholder engagement rather than assumptions regarding the profitability of gaming operations.

This session showed the relationship between taxation and compliance. Excessive taxation may increase incentives for tax avoidance, encourage migration towards unregulated markets and reduce overall compliance levels. Conversely, fair and predictable taxation systems can improve compliance, enhance revenue collection and support industry sustainability.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Taxation is a critical determinant of industry competitiveness and sustainability.**
- **Fair and predictable tax systems support investment and compliance.**
- **Multilayered taxation structures may undermine legitimate operators.**
- **Governments should balance short-term revenue objectives with long-term market development goals.**
- **Evidence-based policymaking is essential for effective tax reform.**
- **Sustainable taxation frameworks require ongoing dialogue between governments, regulators and industry stakeholders.**

# The Taxation Debate: Taxing the Golden Goose: *The Real Impact of Gambling Taxes on Africa's Gaming Ecosystem*

**Moderator: Ms.** Dawn Marie

**Panelists: Mr.** Are Bashir, Mr. Meshack Mutuku, Ms. Regina Ndirangu, Mr. Moustapha Camara, Mr. Moruntshi Kemorwale




## Introduction

Building on the preceding presentation on taxation, this panel discussion examined the practical implications of gambling taxation across African jurisdictions. This session brought together regulators, tax experts, policymakers and industry representatives to explore whether existing taxation models are supporting or undermining the long-term sustainability of the gaming sector.

The discussion was framed around the central proposition that while governments increasingly view gaming as a significant source of public revenue, taxation policies must be carefully calibrated to avoid damaging the very industry upon which those revenues depend.

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The panelists observed that gaming taxation has become one of the most contested policy issues across the continent. While governments face growing fiscal pressures and seek to diversify revenue sources, operators increasingly express concern regarding the cumulative impact of taxation on profitability, investment and competitiveness.

It was noted that the gaming industry is often perceived as a highly profitable sector capable of absorbing additional tax burdens. However, participants cautioned that such perceptions may oversimplify the realities facing operators. Beyond taxes, operators incur significant costs associated with licensing, technology acquisition, platform maintenance, responsible gambling measures, compliance obligations, cybersecurity, marketing and customer acquisition.

The panel examined the diversity of taxation approaches across African jurisdictions. There is currently no common approach to gaming taxation. Some jurisdictions tax gross gaming revenue, others tax turnover, while additional taxes may be imposed on winnings, corporate profits, licensing fees and operational activities. This diversity creates significant complexity for operators seeking to expand across multiple markets. A major concern raised during the discussion was the issue of tax predictability.



Participants emphasized that investors and operators are often less concerned about the absolute level of taxation than they are about frequent and unpredictable changes to taxation frameworks. Sudden policy shifts create uncertainty, increase compliance costs and make long-term business planning difficult. The impact of taxation on market entry was also highlighted. Emerging operators, startups and local entrepreneurs may be disproportionately affected by high taxation and compliance costs, potentially limiting competition and innovation within the sector.

Several participants agreed that there is need to move beyond viewing gaming taxation solely through a revenue collection lens. They argued that gaming should be understood as part of a broader digital economy that contributes to employment creation, technology adoption, financial inclusion and economic growth. Tax policies should therefore support the development of the wider ecosystem rather than focusing exclusively on immediate fiscal returns.

Discussions further underscored the importance of stakeholder consultation during tax policy development. It was noted that tax reforms introduced without adequate consultation may produce unintended consequences and fail to account for operational realities within the sector. The panel concluded that sustainable taxation frameworks should balance public revenue objectives with investment attraction, consumer protection and industry sustainability. Additionally, taxation policies must be evidence-based, predictable and aligned with broader economic development goals.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Taxation should support industry sustainability while meeting public revenue objectives.**
- **Predictability and stability are as important as tax rates themselves.**
- **Excessive taxation may discourage investment and strengthen illegal markets.**
- **Gaming contributes to broader economic development beyond tax revenues.**
- **Stakeholder engagement is essential in tax policy formulation.**
- **Sustainable tax frameworks require a balance between fiscal and developmental objectives.**

# Strategic Panel: Regulating at the Speed of Innovation: *Are African Gaming Laws, Regulations and Policies Keeping Pace with Technology?*

**Moderator: Mrs.** Annalisa Samuels

**Panelists: Ms.** Boipelo Lencwe, Dr. Charles Ekundayo, Ms. Zoe Lin, Mr. Boladuro Olajide

## Introduction ▶

This panel examined one of the most significant challenges facing regulators globally: the growing gap between technological innovation and regulatory adaptation. The session explored whether existing gaming laws, regulations and policies across Africa remain adequate in an era characterized by rapid technological advancement.

Panelists deliberated on how emerging technologies are transforming gaming products, consumer experiences, payment systems and business models, often at a pace that exceeds the capacity of regulatory institutions to respond.



## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The discussion began with an acknowledgment that innovation has fundamentally altered the gaming landscape. Mobile gaming, online betting, artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, digital payments and data analytics have created new opportunities for both operators and consumers.

Participants observed that many existing regulatory frameworks were developed during periods when gaming activities were primarily land-based and geographically confined. Such frameworks often struggle to address contemporary realities characterized by cross-border transactions, digital platforms and virtual gaming environments.

The panelists discussed the challenges regulators face in attempting to oversee products and services that may evolve more rapidly than legislative processes. In many jurisdictions, amendments to gaming legislation require lengthy consultations, legislative drafting and parliamentary approval processes. By the time such reforms are enacted, technological developments may have already introduced new products and risks. There is need for regulatory agility. Panelists argued that future regulatory frameworks should be principles-based, flexible and capable of adapting to technological change without requiring constant legislative amendments. Such approaches would enable regulators to respond more effectively to emerging trends while maintaining regulatory certainty.

Artificial intelligence featured prominently in the discussion. It was noted that AI is increasingly influencing both gaming operations and regulatory oversight. Operators are using AI to personalize customer experiences, identify consumer preferences and optimize marketing strategies. At the same time, regulators can leverage AI to monitor compliance, detect suspicious transactions and identify emerging risks.

The discussion also examined the growing importance of regulatory technology (RegTech). RegTech solutions can provide regulators with real-time visibility into gaming activities, improve compliance monitoring and support evidence-based decision-making. Such tools were viewed as particularly valuable in environments where regulatory resources are constrained.

Another major theme was the challenge of balancing innovation with consumer protection. Participants agreed that technological innovation should be encouraged but must not come at the expense of responsible gambling, data privacy or consumer welfare. Regulatory frameworks should therefore seek to manage risk without unnecessarily restricting innovation.

Cybersecurity emerged as an additional area of concern. As gaming platforms become increasingly digital, operators and regulators face growing threats related to data breaches, fraud, cybercrime and unauthorized access to systems. The need for robust cybersecurity standards and risk management frameworks was emphasized. This session also explored the implications of technological inequality across the continent. While some jurisdictions possess advanced digital infrastructure and regulatory capabilities, others continue to face resource constraints that limit their ability to adopt sophisticated regulatory technologies. This disparity may create uneven regulatory environments and complicate regional harmonization efforts.

***The conclusion was that future regulatory success will depend largely on the ability of regulators to embrace innovation, adopt technology-enabled oversight mechanisms and foster ongoing dialogue with industry stakeholders.***

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Technological innovation is advancing faster than many regulatory frameworks.**
- **Regulatory agility and adaptability are increasingly important.**
- **Artificial intelligence presents opportunities for both operators and regulators.**
- **RegTech solutions can strengthen oversight and improve compliance monitoring.**
- **Consumer protection must remain central to innovation strategies.**
- **Cybersecurity is becoming an increasingly important regulatory concern.**
- **Future regulatory effectiveness will depend on technology adoption and stakeholder collaboration.**

# Insight Talk: The Cost of Constantly Changing Laws, Policies and Taxation

Mr. Toddy Thairu CPA




## Introduction ▶

This insight session focused on the economic and operational implications of regulatory instability within the gaming sector. The presentation examined how frequent changes to laws, policies and taxation frameworks affect investment decisions, business operations and long-term industry sustainability.

**Participants were invited to consider the broader consequences of policy unpredictability and the importance of maintaining stable regulatory environments.**

## “ FREQUENT REGULATORY CHANGES ACROSS MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS CAN CREATE SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS.”

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The presentation emphasized that predictability is one of the most important considerations for investors. While tax rates, licensing requirements and compliance obligations influence investment decisions, participants heard that uncertainty often poses a greater risk than regulation itself.

The presenter observed that gaming businesses typically make long-term investments in technology infrastructure, compliance systems, workforce development and market expansion. Such investments require confidence that regulatory conditions will remain reasonably stable over time.

The presentation showed several consequences associated with frequent policy changes. These include increased compliance costs, repeated system modifications, staff retraining requirements, operational disruptions and delayed investment decisions. For multinational operators, frequent regulatory changes across multiple jurisdictions can create significant administrative burdens.

Participants further noted that policy instability may undermine investor confidence and reduce market attractiveness. Investors are generally more willing to commit capital to jurisdictions where rules are transparent, predictable and consistently applied.



The session also examined the broader implications for governments. While policy changes are often introduced to address emerging challenges or generate additional revenue, excessive regulatory volatility may discourage investment, reduce market growth and ultimately limit revenue generation.

He stressed the importance of regulatory impact assessments prior to the introduction of major policy changes. Such assessments can help policymakers understand potential economic consequences and identify unintended effects before implementation.

Stakeholder consultation was identified as another critical component of effective policymaking. Participants argued that engagement with operators, regulators, technology providers and consumers can improve policy design and enhance compliance outcomes.

The conclusion was that sustainable gaming markets require stable and predictable policy environments that provide confidence to investors while enabling governments to achieve regulatory and public policy objectives.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Regulatory certainty is a major determinant of investment attractiveness.**
- **Frequent policy changes increase operational and compliance costs.**
- **Stable regulatory environments support sustainable industry growth.**
- **Governments benefit from long-term policy predictability.**
- **Regulatory impact assessments can improve policy outcomes.**
- **Stakeholder consultation strengthens policy legitimacy and effectiveness.**

# Stakeholder Dialogue: Invisible Oversight: *Designing Regulatory Systems That Monitor Without Disrupting the Market*

**Moderator:** Mr. Ikechukwu Ofuani

**Panelists:** Mr. Prakash Sabunani, Mr. Peter Emolemo Kesitilwe, Mr. Didier Bobwa, Ms. Ajibola Kadiri, Mr. Issanda Alain Salomon




## Introduction ▶

This dialogue examined how regulators can strengthen oversight and accountability while minimizing unnecessary burdens on operators and market participants. The session explored the concept of “invisible oversight” and considered how technology can support effective regulation without impeding legitimate business activity. Emerging approaches to supervision, compliance monitoring and risk management in increasingly digital gaming environments were deliberated.

**“ FRAGMENTED REPORTING SYSTEMS AND INCONSISTENT DATA STANDARDS OFTEN LIMITED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OVERSIGHT EFFORTS. ”**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The session began with reflections on the evolving nature of regulatory oversight. Traditional compliance models often rely heavily on periodic inspections, manual reporting processes and retrospective enforcement actions. While these approaches remain important, they may be insufficient in rapidly changing digital markets.

Panelists discussed the concept of invisible oversight, defined as regulatory systems that provide regulators with real-time visibility into gaming activities while minimizing operational disruptions for licensed operators. Such systems seek to integrate compliance monitoring directly into operational processes rather than relying solely on periodic audits.

Technology was identified as the primary enabler of invisible oversight. Participants shared that advanced monitoring platforms, automated reporting systems, data analytics tools and real-time dashboards can provide regulators with continuous access to relevant information. This allows risks to be identified and addressed more efficiently.

The discussion illustrated the benefits of risk-based supervision. Rather than applying identical oversight requirements to all operators, regulators can focus resources on higher-risk activities and entities. Such approaches improve regulatory efficiency while reducing unnecessary compliance burdens.



Cybersecurity and data protection were also discussed extensively. As regulators increasingly rely on digital systems, protecting sensitive information becomes a critical priority. The need for robust governance frameworks, cybersecurity standards and incident response mechanisms was emphasized.

The panel further explored opportunities for regional cooperation. Cross border gaming activities increasingly require coordinated regulatory responses Technology-enabled information sharing and harmonized reporting standards could strengthen regional oversight efforts while reducing duplication. Another recurring theme was trust. Invisible oversight ultimately depends on trust between regulators and regulated entities.

Participants argued that compliance systems should be designed to promote transparency, accountability and collaboration rather than adversarial relationships. The discussion concluded that future regulatory models will increasingly rely on technology-enabled supervision, risk-based oversight and collaborative approaches that balance accountability with market efficiency.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Technology can strengthen oversight while reducing administrative burdens.**
- **Real-time monitoring systems improve regulatory effectiveness.**
- **Risk-based supervision enhances efficiency and resource allocation.**
- **Standardized reporting frameworks support regional cooperation.**
- **Cybersecurity and data protection are essential components of modern regulation.**
- **Trust and collaboration are critical for effective oversight systems.**
- **Invisible oversight represents an emerging model for future gaming regulation.**

# Case Study Panel: *Targeting Africa – Open Markets or Closed Doors? Dissecting Gaming Licensing in Africa: Effective Multi-Market Entry and Expansion Strategies.*

**Moderator: Mr.** Samuel Rowland

**Panelists: Ms.** Emily Asava, Mr. Praveen Sadalage, Mr. Serge Nyombayire, Mr. Clive Muchoki

## Introduction ▶

The final plenary session of Day One focused on licensing frameworks across Africa and examined the opportunities and challenges facing operators seeking to enter or expand within multiple African markets. This discussion explored whether African gaming markets are becoming increasingly accessible to investors or whether licensing regimes continue to present significant barriers to growth and regional expansion.

Participants examined the diversity of licensing approaches across the continent and considered how licensing systems can simultaneously safeguard regulatory objectives while supporting investment, innovation and market development.



## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The session opened with an acknowledgement that Africa is often viewed by investors as a single growth market. However, participants agreed that the continent comprises numerous distinct jurisdictions, each characterized by unique legal systems, regulatory frameworks, licensing requirements, taxation models and market conditions. It was observed that while Africa presents significant opportunities for gaming operators, successful market entry requires a thorough understanding of local regulatory environments and business realities. Participants cautioned against adopting a uniform approach across multiple jurisdictions, noting that strategies that succeed in one country may not necessarily be effective in another.

The discussion identified licensing fragmentation as one of the most significant challenges facing operators. Licensing requirements vary considerably across jurisdictions with respect to application procedures, technical standards, reporting obligations, licensing fees, renewal requirements and regulatory expectations. This fragmentation increases compliance costs and complicates regional expansion efforts. Investors are increasingly seeking markets that offer regulatory certainty, efficient licensing procedures and transparent decision-making processes. Delays in licensing approvals, unclear requirements and inconsistent regulatory interpretations were identified as factors that may discourage investment and limit market growth.







The session also explored the relationship between licensing and market integrity. Participants agreed that licensing serves an important public policy function by ensuring that only suitable operators participate in the market. Effective licensing frameworks contribute to consumer protection, responsible gambling, financial integrity and public confidence in the industry.

**EFFECTIVE LICENSING FRAMEWORKS CONTRIBUTE TO CONSUMER PROTECTION, RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING, FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE INDUSTRY.**

At the same time, they cautioned against overly restrictive licensing approaches that may inadvertently create barriers to investment or encourage the growth of unlicensed operations. Participants argued that licensing frameworks should strike an appropriate balance between regulatory oversight and market accessibility.

The panel further examined the practical realities of multi-market expansion. Successful operators increasingly invest in local partnerships, stakeholder engagement and regulatory relationship management.



Understanding cultural contexts, consumer preferences, political environments and local regulatory expectations was identified as critical for sustainable market entry. Particular attention was given to emerging African markets that are currently undergoing regulatory reform or introducing new gaming frameworks. Such markets may present significant opportunities for early entrants but also carry elevated regulatory and operational risks.

The discussion also illustrated the growing importance of technology in facilitating market expansion. Digital platforms, remote compliance systems and centralized reporting tools were identified as mechanisms that can help operators manage compliance obligations across multiple jurisdictions.

A recurring theme throughout the session was the need for greater regulatory cooperation and licensing harmonization across Africa. While complete harmonization may not be feasible due to differing national priorities and legal systems, greater consistency in licensing standards, technical requirements and compliance expectations would significantly reduce barriers to investment and facilitate regional growth.

The session concluded with a recognition that Africa's long-term competitiveness as a gaming destination will depend on the ability of regulators and policymakers to create licensing frameworks that are transparent, predictable, efficient and responsive to changing market realities.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Africa presents significant opportunities but should not be viewed as a single market.**
- **Licensing fragmentation remains a major barrier to regional expansion.**
- **Investors prioritize regulatory certainty, transparency and efficiency.**
- **Effective licensing frameworks support both market growth and consumer protection.**
- **Local partnerships and market knowledge are critical for successful expansion.**
- **Greater regional cooperation and licensing harmonization would enhance investment attractiveness.**



# CONFERENCE DAY TWO

## Opening Session ▶

Day Two of the Summit shifted focus from taxation, licensing and regulatory frameworks towards technology, compliance, consumer protection, emerging markets and future industry trends. While Day One largely examined the policy and governance foundations of Africa's gaming ecosystem, Day Two explored the practical mechanisms required to sustain industry growth within an increasingly digital environment.

Discussions centered on financial integrity, regulatory technology, responsible gambling, market expansion opportunities, digital payments, esports, cryptocurrency and emerging regulatory challenges. A recurring theme throughout the day was the recognition that future industry success will depend on the ability of regulators and industry stakeholders to embrace innovation while maintaining trust, accountability and consumer protection.

# RegTech Talk: Harnessing Technology to Enable Compliant Growth

**Ms. Angela Mwelu, Senior Vice President- Business Development, Sharp Vision**

## Introduction ▶

This presentation examined the role of regulatory technology (RegTech) in supporting compliance, enhancing oversight and enabling sustainable growth within the gaming industry. Participants explored how emerging technologies are transforming regulatory practices and creating new opportunities for both regulators and operators.



> **THE PRESENTATION POINTED OUT THE GROWING USE OF AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEMS...**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The presentation demonstrated how technology can be leveraged to automate compliance processes, improve regulatory visibility and strengthen accountability across gaming operations. Traditional compliance approaches are often resource-intensive, reactive and dependent on manual reporting systems. In contrast, technology-enabled solutions provide regulators with real-time visibility into gaming activities and support more proactive oversight.

The presentation pointed out the growing use of automated reporting systems, centralized monitoring platforms, artificial intelligence and predictive analytics within regulatory environments. Such technologies enable regulators to identify emerging risks, detect anomalies and improve enforcement outcomes.
The panelists also considered the benefits of RegTech for operators. Automated compliance tools can reduce administrative burdens, improve reporting accuracy and facilitate adherence to regulatory requirements. The session concluded that technology should not be viewed solely as an operational tool but as a strategic enabler of trust, transparency and accountability.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **RegTech enhances regulatory effectiveness and compliance efficiency.**
- **Real-time monitoring improves oversight and accountability.**
- **Automation reduces compliance costs and administrative burdens.**
- **Technology can strengthen trust and transparency within the gaming ecosystem.**
- **Future regulatory success will depend on technology adoption.**

# Regulatory Perspectives on Oversight, Accountability & Industry Development

Ms. Jodi Scholtz, Commissioner, National Lotteries Commission

## Introduction

This session provided participants with an opportunity to examine the experiences and lessons emerging from lottery regulation and oversight within more mature regulatory environments. The presentation explored the evolving role of regulators in balancing revenue generation, public accountability, consumer protection and industry sustainability. The session built on discussions from Day One by further examining how regulators can strengthen governance frameworks while responding to technological change and increasing public expectations.



> **TRUST IS A CRITICAL ASSET FOR BOTH REGULATORS AND OPERATORS AND IS BUILT THROUGH TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

Gaming regulation is increasingly moving beyond traditional licensing and enforcement functions toward broader governance responsibilities. Modern regulators are expected not only to ensure compliance but to also promote public confidence, support responsible gambling, strengthen financial integrity and facilitate innovation. The presentation noted the importance of maintaining public trust within gaming markets. Trust is a critical asset for both regulators and operators and is built through transparency, accountability and effective oversight mechanisms. The need for regulatory institutions to remain independent, professional and evidence-based in their decision-making processes was pointed out. Strong governance structures were identified as essential for ensuring consistency, fairness and credibility within regulatory systems.

The session further highlighted the growing role of data in supporting regulatory decision-making. Participants noted that regulators increasingly require access to timely and reliable information to monitor market developments, assess emerging risks and evaluate policy outcomes. The issue of public perception also featured prominently. Participants observed that gaming remains a sensitive sector in many jurisdictions and that regulators must continually demonstrate that appropriate safeguards exist to protect consumers and vulnerable populations.

Several participants stated that regulatory success should not be measured solely through revenue collection. Rather, success should be assessed through broader indicators including consumer protection outcomes, compliance levels, public trust and market integrity. The discussion concluded with reflections on the future of gaming regulation, highlighting the need for regulators to remain adaptive, collaborative and responsive to changing technological and societal realities.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Public trust is fundamental to effective gaming regulation.**
- **Strong governance and institutional credibility support regulatory effectiveness.**
- **Data-driven decision-making improves oversight and policy development.**
- **Consumer protection and accountability should remain central regulatory objectives.**
- **Regulatory success extends beyond revenue generation to broader public interest outcomes.**

# South Africa Landscape: *Building a Compliant Gambling Business Board*

Mr. Gregory Makoko, CEO, Limpopo Gambling Board

## Introduction

This presentation provided participants with an overview of South Africa's gaming and gambling landscape, highlighting key regulatory, economic and operational considerations involved in building a compliant and sustainable gambling business. Drawing from South Africa's experience as one of the continent's more mature gaming markets, the session explored the relationship between regulation, taxation, employment creation, investment attraction and industry development. The presentation also reflected on broader opportunities and challenges facing Africa's gaming sector and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in shaping a sustainable future for the industry.




> **GAMING POLICIES SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
>
> **INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT CREATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT..**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The presenter observed that South Africa's gaming industry has evolved significantly over the past two decades, with technological advancements and changing consumer preferences reshaping the market. While traditional land-based gaming remains an important component of the sector, the growth of digital and online gaming continues to transform industry dynamics. One of South Africa's key priorities is ensuring that the gaming sector contributes meaningfully to employment creation, economic growth and social development.

The industry was presented not merely as a revenue-generating sector but as part of a broader economic ecosystem capable of supporting jobs, investment and innovation. The presentation highlighted the impact of technological disruption on traditional gaming models noting that the growth of online gaming and digital platforms created both opportunities and challenges. While technology has expanded consumer access and introduced new business models, it has also disrupted traditional gaming operations and contributed to changing employment patterns within the industry.

The presenter underscored that regulatory frameworks must evolve in response to these developments. Effective regulation requires balancing innovation with accountability while ensuring that regulatory systems remain relevant in increasingly digital environments. This session further explored South Africa's regulatory structure and licensing environment. Participants heard that the country operates within a framework that combines national and provincial regulatory responsibilities. This approach provides opportunities for localized oversight while also presenting coordination challenges that require ongoing engagement among regulatory authorities.

Taxation emerged as a major area of discussion. Participants were informed that proposals for increased taxation continue to generate debate among regulators, policymakers and operators. While governments seek to maximize revenue collection, concerns remain regarding the potential impact of excessive taxation on investment, competitiveness and long-term industry sustainability. The presenter cautioned that overly burdensome taxation policies may produce unintended consequences, including reduced investment, migration of operators to alternative jurisdictions and increased attractiveness of unregulated markets.

Participants heard that achieving an appropriate balance between revenue generation and industry growth remains a key policy challenge. A recurring theme throughout the presentation was the need to create enabling environments for investors. Regulatory certainty, transparent licensing processes, stable taxation frameworks and efficient compliance systems were identified as important factors influencing investment decisions.

The presentation also stressed the importance of regional cooperation. Participants were encouraged to view Africa's gaming future through a continental lens and to explore opportunities for greater harmonization of standards, regulatory approaches and technological systems. The presenter noted that fragmented regulatory environments can create unnecessary barriers to investment and growth.

Technology was identified as a critical enabler of future development. Participants heard that technology should be leveraged not only to support gaming operations but also to strengthen regulatory oversight, improve compliance and facilitate cross-border collaboration among regulators. The session underscored the importance of local economic impact. Gaming policies should be designed to maximize social and economic benefits, including employment creation, skills development, community investment and broader economic participation.

The presentation concluded with a call for African regulators and industry stakeholders to work collectively towards creating sustainable gaming ecosystems that support economic growth while maintaining public confidence and regulatory integrity.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The gaming sector should contribute to broader economic development, employment creation and social impact.**
- **Technological change continues to reshape traditional gaming models and regulatory requirements.**
- **Regulatory certainty and investment-friendly environments are essential for sustainable growth.**
- **Excessive taxation may undermine competitiveness and encourage market migration.**
- **Regional cooperation and harmonization can strengthen Africa's attractiveness as an investment destination.**
- **Technology should support both industry innovation and regulatory effectiveness.**
- **Future industry success will depend on balancing growth, regulation, employment creation and consumer protection.**



# Francophone Africa Expert Panel:

## *Is Francophone Africa the Next Big Thing? What Investors Need to Know and How Technology Can Bridge the Regulatory Divide*

**Moderator:** Mr. Joel Madingu

**Panelists:** Mr. Namandjan Tawel, Mr. Moustapha Camara, Mr. Issanda Alain Salomon

## Introduction ▶

This session explored the opportunities, challenges and investment prospects within Francophone African gaming markets. Participants examined the regulatory, linguistic, technological and operational factors influencing market growth and considered how technology can facilitate greater integration across diverse jurisdictions. The session provided valuable insights into markets that are often overlooked in broader discussions of Africa's gaming industry despite their significant growth potential.




**FRANCOPHONE AFRICA REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GAMING INDUSTRY.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

Panelists described Francophone Africa as one of the continent's most promising yet underexplored gaming markets. Several jurisdictions were identified as possessing significant growth potential due to expanding populations, increasing digital adoption, improving connectivity and growing consumer demand for digital entertainment products.

It was observed that investor attention has historically focused on Anglophone markets due to perceived familiarity, regulatory visibility and ease of market access. However, Francophone jurisdictions increasingly present attractive opportunities for investors willing to understand local realities and adapt their business models accordingly.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of localization. Participants emphasized that successful market entry requires more than simply translating products into French. Operators must understand local cultures, regulatory expectations, consumer behavior and market dynamics.

The discussion highlighted the diversity of regulatory frameworks across Francophone Africa. While some jurisdictions possess relatively mature systems, others are still developing regulatory structures capable of responding to emerging industry trends. This diversity creates both opportunities and challenges for investors.



Technology emerged as a key enabler of market integration and expansion. Digital platforms, centralized compliance systems and regulatory technologies can help bridge differences across jurisdictions and facilitate more efficient operations.

The forum also explored the role of governments in creating enabling environments for investment. Participants stressed the importance of transparent regulatory frameworks, predictable taxation policies and efficient licensing systems in attracting investors.

Connectivity and digital infrastructure continue to present challenges in some markets. While progress has been significant, infrastructure limitations may affect consumer access, operational efficiency and technology adoption. The session further emphasized the need for partnerships with local stakeholders. Local knowledge often provides a significant competitive advantage and can help operators navigate regulatory and operational complexities more effectively.

The discussion concluded that Francophone Africa represents a major frontier for future industry growth but that success will depend on localization, stakeholder engagement and a deep understanding of local market realities.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Francophone Africa represents a significant growth opportunity for the gaming industry.**
- **Successful market entry requires localization and understanding of local realities.**
- **Technology can help bridge regulatory and operational differences across jurisdictions.**
- **Transparent regulation and predictable policies support investment attraction.**
- **Local partnerships enhance market entry and long-term sustainability.**
- **Infrastructure and connectivity remain important considerations for investors.**

# Stakeholder Dialogue Panel: *The Battle Between Reach and Responsibility – Advertising, Consumer Protection and the Limits of Marketing*

**Moderator:** Mr. Clive Muchoki
**Panelists:** Mr. Job Weku, Mr. Gregory Makoko, Ms. Nelly Muluka, Mr. Joash Ajuoga, Dr. Alfred Gitonga

## Introduction ▶

This dialogue examined one of the most sensitive issues facing the gaming industry: advertising and marketing practices. The discussion focused on how regulators, operators, media practitioners and responsible gambling advocates can balance commercial objectives with consumer protection responsibilities. Participants considered where limits should be drawn and how advertising can support business growth without contributing to gambling-related harm.



**THERE IS TENSION BETWEEN COMMERCIAL FREEDOMS AND PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATIONS.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The discussion began with an acknowledgement that advertising plays a legitimate role within competitive markets. Operators require mechanisms to reach consumers, build brand awareness and communicate product offerings.

However, participants also recognized that gaming advertising differs from many other forms of commercial promotion due to the potential risks associated with gambling-related harm. There is tension between commercial freedoms and public interest obligations.

**“**

**RESPONSIBLE ADVERTISING STRENGTHENS PUBLIC TRUST AND INDUSTRY CREDIBILITY.**

While operators have legitimate business objectives, regulators and policymakers have a responsibility to ensure that advertising practices do not encourage harmful behavior or target vulnerable groups. A significant portion of the discussion focused on youth exposure to gaming advertising.

The rapid growth of digital media, influencer marketing and social media platforms has increased the visibility of gaming content among younger audiences. The panel emphasized the importance of responsible advertising standards. Participants argued that marketing communications should be truthful, transparent and free from misleading claims regarding winnings, success rates or financial benefits.

Several panelists pointed out the need for clearer guidance regarding influencer marketing and digital advertising. The rise of social media personalities and content creators has created new promotional channels that may not always be adequately addressed within existing regulatory frameworks.

The discussion also examined the role of self-regulation. Operators have an important responsibility to adopt ethical marketing practices even in the absence of explicit legal requirements. Responsible advertising was presented as both a compliance issue and a reputational imperative.

Panelists stressed the importance of consumer education. Effective consumer protection requires not only restrictions on advertising but also efforts to improve public understanding of gambling risks and responsible gambling practices.

The session concluded that achieving an appropriate balance between commercial objectives and consumer protection remains one of the most important challenges facing regulators and industry stakeholders.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Advertising plays a legitimate role within competitive gaming markets.**
- **Consumer protection considerations must guide advertising practices.**
- **Youth exposure remains a significant regulatory concern.**
- **Digital and influencer marketing require increased regulatory attention.**
- **Responsible advertising strengthens public trust and industry credibility.**
- **Consumer education is an essential component of responsible gambling strategies.**

# **Expert Forum:** *Problem Gambling: Does Industry Boom Equal a Public Health Problem? What Impactful Player Protection Looks Like*

**Moderator:** Ms. Judith Kgoroba

**Panelists: Ms.** Esther Argwings, Ms. Pierete Memndi, Ms. Olabimpe Akingba, Dr. Catherine Mutisya

## Introduction ▶

This session examined the relationship between industry growth and gambling-related harm and explored approaches to responsible gambling and player protection. The session brought together regulators, operators and responsible gambling specialists to discuss whether expanding gaming markets inevitably result in increased public health concerns. Participants considered the role of regulators, operators, healthcare professionals and communities in preventing and mitigating gambling-related harm.




**TECHNOLOGY INCREASINGLY ENABLES OPERATORS TO IDENTIFY PATTERNS OF RISKY BEHAVIOR.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

The discussion began with recognition that the growth of gaming markets presents both economic opportunities and social responsibilities. Participants acknowledged that while the industry contributes to employment, revenue generation and technological innovation, these benefits must be balanced against potential risks. Panelists examined the concept of problem gambling and stated that not all gambling activity is harmful.

However, a small proportion of consumers may experience negative consequences that affect their financial wellbeing, mental health, relationships and quality of life. It was stressed that responsible gambling should not be viewed as a peripheral issue. Rather, it should form an integral component of regulatory frameworks, business strategies and public policy approaches.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the shift from reactive to preventive approaches. Participants argued that interventions should focus on identifying risk factors early and implementing measures that prevent harm before it occurs.



Several player protection tools were discussed, including self-exclusion systems, deposit limits, affordability checks, behavioral monitoring and consumer awareness initiatives. Participants noted that technology increasingly enables operators to identify patterns of risky behavior and intervene appropriately.

The role of data analytics emerged as a particularly important area of discussion. It was observed that operators possess significant amounts of customer data that can be used to identify indicators of harmful gambling behavior. However, such capabilities must be accompanied by appropriate governance and privacy safeguards.

This session also highlighted the importance of public education and awareness. It was argued that responsible gambling initiatives should extend beyond operators and regulators to include schools, communities, families and healthcare institutions. Women in gaming was deliberated on as an emerging area requiring greater attention.

However, gender perspectives are often underrepresented within responsible gambling discussions and that future interventions should be informed by more inclusive research and policy approaches.

The conclusion was that sustainable industry growth depends on maintaining public trust and ensuring that player protection remains a central component of market development strategies.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Industry growth and consumer protection must advance together.**
- **Responsible gambling should be embedded within regulatory and operational frameworks.**
- **Preventive approaches are more effective than reactive interventions.**
- **Technology can support early identification of gambling-related harm.**
- **Public education and awareness remain critical prevention tools.**
- **Sustainable gaming markets require strong player protection systems and stakeholder collaboration.**

# Executive Dialogue, Tech Showcase: *Payments and Settlement Systems Built for Africa's Gaming Industry*

**Moderator:** Mr. Sylvester Omondi
**Panelists:** Mr. Raphael Ndegwa, Mr. Apollo Eric

## Introduction ▶

As Africa's gaming industry continues to expand, payment systems have emerged as one of the most critical enablers of growth, accessibility and operational efficiency. This dialogue brought together payment service providers, telecommunications companies, platform operators and technology experts to explore the evolution of payment and settlement systems within Africa's gaming ecosystem.

The discussion examined how payment innovation is transforming consumer experiences, supporting financial inclusion and facilitating industry growth across diverse markets. Participants also considered the challenges associated with interoperability, cross-border transactions, regulatory compliance and consumer trust.



## Key Issues Discussed ▶

Panelists noted that payment systems form the backbone of the digital gaming ecosystem. Regardless of the quality of gaming products or regulatory frameworks, industry growth is ultimately dependent on the ability of consumers to deposit and withdraw funds securely, efficiently and conveniently.

The discussion demonstrated the significant progress made across Africa in digital payments, particularly through the expansion of mobile money services, fintech innovations and digital wallets. It was observed that Africa's payment ecosystem has developed unique solutions that have enabled millions of previously underserved consumers to participate in digital commerce. Panelists acknowledged that mobile money has become one of the most important drivers of gaming growth in many African jurisdictions. Mobile payment platforms have significantly reduced barriers to entry by providing accessible and convenient transaction channels for consumers.

The dialogue further explored the issue of interoperability. Many markets continue to face challenges arising from fragmented payment ecosystems. Consumers frequently utilize multiple payment providers, telecommunications networks and financial platforms, creating operational complexities for operators seeking to provide seamless user experiences.

Cross-border transactions emerged as another important area of discussion. As operators increasingly expand into multiple jurisdictions, the need for efficient regional payment solutions becomes increasingly important.

**CURRENT PAYMENT SYSTEMS OFTEN STRUGGLE TO SUPPORT SEAMLESS TRANSACTIONS ACROSS BORDERS DUE TO DIFFERING REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, CURRENCIES AND SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORKS.**

The session also examined trust and security as essential components of payment infrastructure. Consumers are more likely to engage with gaming platforms when they have confidence that transactions will be processed accurately, securely and promptly.

Financial inclusion featured prominently throughout the discussion. Participants emphasized that payment innovations have enabled broader participation in digital economies and created opportunities for individuals who previously lacked access to formal banking services.

Several speakers noted that payment providers increasingly play a broader role than merely facilitating transactions. Many now contribute to compliance, fraud prevention, customer verification and risk management functions, making them critical stakeholders within the gaming ecosystem.

The discussion concluded that future industry growth will depend significantly on the continued development of secure, interoperable and inclusive payment systems capable of supporting increasingly sophisticated digital gaming environments. Current payment systems often struggle to support seamless transactions across borders due to differing regulatory requirements, currencies and settlement frameworks.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Payment systems are foundational to the growth of Africa's gaming industry.**
- **Mobile money continues to drive financial inclusion and consumer participation.**
- **Interoperability remains a key challenge across payment ecosystems.**
- **Cross-border payment solutions are critical for regional market expansion.**
- **Consumer trust depends on secure and efficient transaction systems.**
- **Payment providers play an increasingly important role in compliance and risk management.**
- **Continued payment innovation will support industry growth and accessibility.**

# Executive Panel: *Pixels, Prizes and Profits – Where Esports Meets Gambling: Should Africa Avoid or Support the Convergence?*

**Moderator:** Winnie Gathu

**Panelists:** Ms. Winnie Gathu, Mr. Robert Ochieng , Ms. Stacey, Bonareri Mr. Zuko Phandle, Mr. Andrew Wanjohi

## Introduction

This Oxford-style debate examined one of the most emerging and potentially transformative areas within the gaming ecosystem: the convergence between esports and gambling. Participants explored the opportunities, risks and regulatory implications associated with the growing intersection between competitive gaming and betting activities. The discussion considered whether Africa should embrace this convergence as a driver of innovation and economic growth or adopt a more cautious approach to mitigate potential risks.




**ESPORTS GENERATES VALUE THROUGH TOURNAMENTS, SPONSORSHIPS, ADVERTISING, BROADCASTING RIGHTS, MERCHANDISING.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

Panelists acknowledged the rapid growth of esports globally and noted that Africa is increasingly becoming part of this trend. Improvements in connectivity, mobile technology, youth engagement and digital literacy have contributed to the emergence of vibrant esports communities across several African countries.

The discussion showed the significant economic opportunities associated with esports. The panelists observed that esports generates value through tournaments, sponsorships, advertising, broadcasting rights, merchandising and digital content creation. These opportunities are particularly relevant in Africa given the continent's youthful demographics. Several participants argued that convergence between esports and gambling is a natural evolution of broader entertainment markets.

They agreed that betting activities have historically accompanied traditional sporting events and that esports may increasingly follow similar trajectories. They also expressed concerns regarding the unique characteristics of esports audiences. Unlike traditional sports betting markets, esports audiences often include younger consumers who may be more vulnerable to gambling-related harms. Participants emphasized the importance of carefully assessing potential risks before encouraging widespread integration between esports and gambling.



The discussion explored regulatory challenges arising from this convergence. Existing gaming and gambling frameworks were often developed before the emergence of esports and may not adequately address issues such as virtual assets, digital competitions, in-game economies and emerging betting products.

Panelists also examined integrity concerns within esports ecosystems. Match fixing, manipulation of outcomes, insider information and fraud were identified as risks requiring proactive regulatory attention. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the need for evidence-based policymaking.

Participants cautioned against both uncritical enthusiasm and overly restrictive responses. Instead, regulators were encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of esports ecosystems and engage stakeholders before introducing new regulatory interventions. Several panelists underlined the importance of youth protection measures.

Age verification systems, consumer education initiatives and responsible gambling safeguards were identified as essential components of any future regulatory approach. The session concluded without consensus on whether Africa should actively promote or restrict convergence between esports and gambling. However, participants broadly agreed that the issue requires further research, stakeholder engagement and policy development.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Esports represents a rapidly growing sector with significant economic potential.**
- **The convergence between esports and gambling presents both opportunities and risks.**
- **Existing regulatory frameworks may not adequately address emerging esports realities.**
- **Youth protection should remain a central policy consideration.**
- **Integrity risks require proactive oversight and monitoring.**
- **Evidence-based policymaking is essential in responding to emerging trends.**
- **Further stakeholder engagement and research are required.**

# Emerging Frontiers Dialogue:
## *Innovation or Financial Risk? Africa's Crypto and Blockchain Gaming Dilemma*

**Moderator:** Mr. Brian Ondieki

**Panelists:** Mr. Kevin Angwenyi, Mr. Apollo Eric, Ms. Victoria Kibaki

## Introduction ▶

This session explored the implications of cryptocurrency, blockchain technology and decentralized financial systems for Africa's gaming industry. Participants examined both the opportunities and risks associated with emerging digital asset ecosystems and considered how regulators should respond to these rapidly evolving technologies. The discussion reflected broader debates occurring globally regarding innovation, financial inclusion, consumer protection and regulatory oversight.




**BLOCKCHAIN SYSTEMS CAN CREATE AUDITABLE RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS AND POTENTIALLY IMPROVE TRUST WITHIN DIGITAL GAMING ENVIRONMENTS.**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

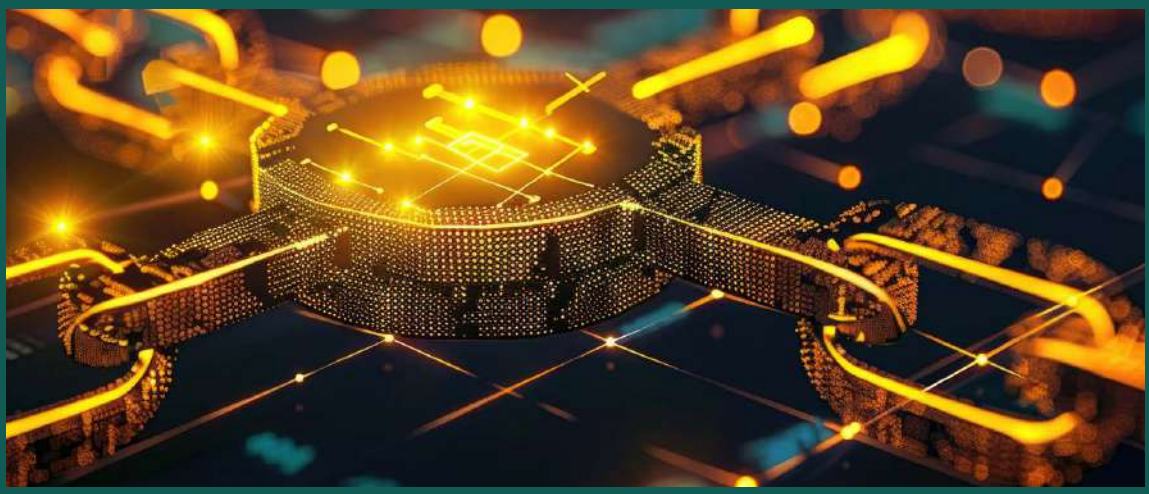
Panelists observed that cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies are increasingly influencing digital gaming ecosystems. New gaming models now incorporate digital assets, tokenized rewards, decentralized transactions and blockchain-enabled ownership systems.

Supporters of these technologies argued that blockchain presents opportunities to enhance transparency, improve transaction efficiency and reduce reliance on traditional financial intermediaries. Blockchain systems can create auditable records of transactions and potentially improve trust within digital gaming environments.

The discussion also acknowledged the potential role of cryptocurrency in facilitating cross-border transactions. Given the challenges associated with currency conversion, payment settlement and international transfers within Africa, some participants argued that digital assets may offer alternative mechanisms for facilitating regional transactions.

However, concerns regarding financial stability and consumer protection featured prominently throughout the dialogue. Participants observed that cryptocurrency markets remain highly volatile and that significant price fluctuations may expose consumers to financial risks.

Panelists also discussed concerns regarding fraud, scams and illicit financial activity. The relative anonymity associated with some cryptocurrency systems was identified as a potential challenge for regulators seeking to maintain effective AML/CFT controls.



The discussion examined the difficulties regulators face in responding to technologies that often operate beyond traditional regulatory boundaries Participants acknowledged that outright prohibition may be ineffective while unregulated adoption may expose consumers and financial systems to significant risks.

The importance of adopting balanced and proportionate regulatory approaches was emphasized. Regulators were encouraged to distinguish between technological innovation itself and specific applications that may create consumer protection or financial integrity concerns.

The role of regulatory sandboxes and innovation hubs was discussed as a potential mechanism for encouraging responsible experimentation while maintaining appropriate safeguards. Panelists also noted that public awareness and consumer education remain critical. Many consumers continue to possess limited understanding of cryptocurrency technologies and associated risks, increasing vulnerability to misinformation and fraudulent schemes.

The session concluded that cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies are likely to remain important features of future gaming ecosystems. The challenge for regulators will be developing frameworks that encourage innovation while protecting consumers and maintaining financial stability.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies are increasingly influencing gaming ecosystems.**
- **Digital assets present opportunities for innovation and cross-border transactions.**
- **Consumer protection and financial stability remain significant concerns.**
- **AML/CFT considerations must remain central to regulatory responses.**
- **Balanced regulatory approaches are preferable to extreme positions.**
- **Regulatory sandboxes may support responsible innovation.**
- **Consumer awareness and education are essential.**

# Fish Bowl: *From Dialogue to Direction: The Synthesis of Ideas*

**Moderator:** Mr. Jeremiah Maangi
**Panelists:** Mr. Robert Ochieng, Mr. Meshack Mutuku, Mr. Musa Mngadi, Ms. Emily Asava, Mr. Kaan Bulakeri

## Introduction ▶

The final session of the Summit sought to synthesize discussions from across the two-day programme and identify key areas of alignment among stakeholders. The fishbowl format enabled participants from different sectors of the gaming ecosystem to reflect on major themes, emerging priorities and future directions. The discussion focused on translating dialogue into action and identifying practical steps for strengthening Africa's gaming industry.




**... FUTURE INDUSTRY GROWTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ROBUST CONSUMER PROTECTION MEASURES...**

## Key Issues Discussed ▶

Participants reflected on the wide range of issues discussed throughout the Summit, including taxation, regulation, responsible gambling, compliance, technology, financial integrity, payments, esports and emerging technologies. A dominant theme emerging from the synthesis was the importance of trust.

Participants repeatedly reinforced that sustainable industry growth depends on trust between regulators and operators, between consumers and industry participants and between governments and investors. The discussion highlighted regulatory certainty as a key prerequisite for investment and market development. Investors are increasingly attracted to jurisdictions that provide predictable regulatory environments, transparent licensing frameworks and stable policy conditions.

The panelists also emphasized the growing importance of technology in shaping the future of regulation. Across multiple sessions, technology had been identified not only as a driver of innovation but also as a critical tool for strengthening oversight, improving compliance and enhancing consumer protection.

Responsible gambling emerged as another cross-cutting theme. Participants agreed that future industry growth must be accompanied by robust consumer protection measures and proactive approaches to harm prevention.



The discussion further stressed the importance of collaboration. The participants agreed that no single stakeholder group can independently address the complex challenges facing the gaming sector. Effective solutions require partnerships among regulators, operators, technology providers, payment companies, financial institutions and civil society actors.

Regional cooperation was identified as an increasingly important priority. Participants acknowledged that many challenges facing gaming markets—including illegal gambling, financial crime, regulatory fragmentation and technological disruption—transcend national borders and require coordinated responses.

The dialogue concluded with a call for continued engagement beyond the Summit. Participants agreed that GTSA should be viewed not merely as an annual event but as an ongoing platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and policy development.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Trust is the foundation of sustainable gaming ecosystems.**
- **Regulatory certainty supports investment and market growth.**
- **Technology is both a driver of innovation and a tool for effective regulation.**
- **Responsible gambling must remain central to industry development.**
- **Collaboration is essential for addressing shared challenges.**
- **Regional cooperation can strengthen regulatory effectiveness and market integration.**
- **Continued dialogue is necessary to sustain progress and innovation.**

# Cross-Cutting Issues Emerging from the Summit

**Analysis of the discussions held throughout the Summit revealed several recurring themes that cut across multiple sessions and stakeholder groups. While individual sessions focused on specific issues such as taxation, licensing, technology, responsible gambling and financial integrity, a number of common priorities consistently emerged.**

## 1. The Need for Regulatory Certainty

Perhaps the most consistent message throughout the Summit was the importance of regulatory certainty.

Across discussions on taxation, licensing, compliance and investment, participants repeatedly emphasized that investors are attracted to jurisdictions where rules are clear, predictable and consistently applied.

While taxation levels remain important, uncertainty regarding licensing requirements, compliance expectations, policy direction and regulatory interpretation was viewed as a greater barrier to investment than regulation itself.

Participants observed that stable regulatory environments encourage long-term investment, support innovation and contribute to market sustainability.

## 2. Balancing Growth and Regulation

A recurring theme throughout the Summit was the need to balance industry growth with effective regulation.

Participants rejected the notion that regulation and industry growth are competing objectives. Rather, discussions consistently highlighted the importance of regulation as an enabler of sustainable growth, consumer confidence and investor trust.

Stakeholders agreed that effective regulation should facilitate innovation and investment while simultaneously protecting consumers and maintaining market integrity.

## 3. Technology as Both an Opportunity and a Regulatory Imperative

Technology featured prominently across almost every session. Participants observed that technological innovation is reshaping gaming products, payment systems, compliance processes and consumer behavior at an unprecedented pace.

At the same time, technology was viewed as an essential tool for regulators seeking to improve oversight and enforcement capabilities. Artificial intelligence, RegTech solutions, real-time monitoring systems, automated reporting tools and data analytics were repeatedly identified as critical components of future regulatory systems.

The Summit concluded that regulators must embrace technology not only to support industry growth but also to remain effective in increasingly digital environments.

## 4. Illegal and Unregulated Gaming Remains a Major Threat

Participants consistently identified illegal and unregulated gaming activities as one of the greatest threats to the sustainability of Africa's gaming sector.

Illegal operators undermine consumer protection, reduce public revenues, distort competition and weaken confidence in regulated markets. Delegates agreed that combating illegal gambling requires stronger enforcement, improved technology, enhanced regional cooperation and more attractive regulated alternatives for consumers.

## 5. Responsible Gambling Must Move from Compliance to Strategy

Responsible gambling emerged as a central theme across discussions on regulation, advertising, consumer protection and public health. Participants stressed that responsible gambling should no longer be viewed solely as a compliance obligation.

Instead, it should be integrated into broader business strategies, regulatory frameworks and public policy interventions. The long-term sustainability of the gaming industry was repeatedly linked to its ability to protect consumers and maintain public trust.

## 6. Taxation Requires a Balanced and Evidence-Based Approach

Taxation was one of the most debated issues throughout the Summit. Participants acknowledged governments' legitimate interest in generating revenue from the gaming sector. However, concerns were raised regarding excessive, unpredictable and fragmented taxation regimes.

The consensus emerging from the discussions was that taxation policies should be evidence-based, predictable and designed to support both public revenue objectives and long-term industry sustainability.

## 7. Regional Cooperation and Harmonization Are Increasingly Necessary

Several sessions highlighted the challenges associated with fragmented regulatory environments across Africa. Differences in licensing frameworks, compliance requirements, technical standards and taxation systems continue to increase compliance costs and complicate market expansion.

Participants called for greater collaboration among regulators and increased efforts towards harmonization of standards, reporting frameworks and regulatory approaches while respecting national sovereignty.

## 8. Financial Integrity and Compliance Are Essential for Industry Credibility

The discussions on payments and cryptocurrency reinforced the importance of financial integrity. Participants acknowledged that the credibility of the gaming sector depends on effective safeguards against money laundering, fraud and other forms of financial crime. Strong compliance systems were viewed as essential for maintaining confidence among regulators, financial institutions, investors and consumers.

## 9. Africa's Growth Opportunity Remains Significant

Expanding digital infrastructure, growing mobile penetration, increasing fintech adoption and favorable demographics continue to position Africa as one of the world's most promising gaming markets. However, realizing this potential will require coordinated efforts to strengthen governance, improve regulation and support responsible innovation.

## 10. Collaboration Is the Foundation of Sustainable Growth

The final and perhaps most important cross-cutting theme was collaboration. Throughout the Summit, participants repeatedly emphasized that no single stakeholder group can independently address the challenges facing the industry.

The future of Africa's gaming ecosystem will depend on continued cooperation among regulators, operators, technology providers, payment service providers, policymakers, investors and responsible gambling advocates. The Summit reinforced the importance of dialogue, knowledge sharing and collective problem-solving as essential drivers of sustainable industry development.

## Conclusion ▶

The Gaming Tech Summit Africa (GTSA) 2026 provided a timely and important platform for reflection on the future of Africa's gaming industry. Bringing together regulators, policymakers, operators, technology providers, payment service providers, compliance experts and responsible gambling practitioners, the Summit facilitated robust discussions on the opportunities, challenges and emerging trends shaping the sector.

Across the two days of deliberations, participants acknowledged the significant transformation taking place within the gaming ecosystem. Technological innovation, digital payments, artificial intelligence, mobile connectivity and changing consumer behavior are rapidly reshaping how gaming products are developed, delivered and regulated. While these developments present considerable



**INVESTORS, OPERATORS AND TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS REQUIRE PREDICTABLE OPERATING ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENCOURAGE INNOVATION WHILE SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC INTERESTS.**

Opportunities for economic growth, financial inclusion and innovation, they also introduce new regulatory, operational and consumer protection challenges. A key message emerging from the Summit was that the future success of Africa's gaming industry will depend on its ability to balance innovation with accountability. Participants consistently emphasized that sustainable growth cannot be achieved through market expansion alone.

Long-term success requires strong governance frameworks, effective regulation, responsible gambling measures, robust compliance systems and continued stakeholder collaboration. The discussions further reinforced the importance of regulatory certainty, transparency and consistency. Investors, operators and technology providers require predictable operating environments that encourage innovation while safeguarding public interests. Regulatory systems that are adaptive, technology-enabled and evidence-based will be better positioned to respond to the rapidly evolving nature of gaming markets.

Participants also acknowledged the growing threat posed by illegal and unregulated gaming activities. The expansion of digital platforms and cross-border gaming services has created new opportunities for unlicensed operators, often beyond the reach of traditional enforcement mechanisms. Addressing these challenges will require enhanced regional cooperation, stronger enforcement capabilities and the deployment of advanced regulatory technologies.



Responsible gambling and consumer protection emerged as central pillars of sustainable industry development. Delegates agreed that maintaining public trust requires proactive measures to protect vulnerable groups, prevent gambling-related harm and promote responsible participation within regulated markets.

The Summit further reinforced the importance of collaboration. Governments, regulators, operators,technology providers, financial institutions and civil society organizations all have critical roles to play in shaping the future of Africa's gaming ecosystem. The challenges facing the industry are increasingly complex and interconnected, requiring coordinated responses and collective action. Looking ahead, participants expressed optimism regarding Africa's future as a global gaming market. The continent's youthful population, expanding digital infrastructure, growing fintech ecosystem and increasing connectivity provide strong foundations for continued growth. However, realizing this potential will require deliberate efforts to strengthen governance, improve regulatory effectiveness, embrace technological innovation and promote responsible industry development.



**THE SUMMIT CONCLUDED WITH A SHARED COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE, STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND WORK COLLECTIVELY TOWARDS BUILDING A TRANSPARENT, TRUSTED, INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GAMING ECOSYSTEM THAT CONTRIBUTES POSITIVELY TO AFRICA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

# Thank You

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