

Media statement by stakeholders in the so called “Comprehensive Reparations” offered by the National Lotteries Commission.

16 December 2025

We, a spontaneously evolving group of stakeholders in the NLC Reparations Process, note with concern the rushed media release issued by the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) regarding what it terms “Comprehensive Reparations Measures” for individuals who exposed grand-scale corruption within the NLC.

The NLC issued this statement without any attempt to engage with or communicate our response to these measures. This omission presents a one-sided and misleading account of a process that directly affects our lives and livelihoods. We therefore place the following on record:

1. **We reject with the contempt it deserves** the degrading offer communicated to each of us by attorneys appointed by the NLC on Wednesday, 10 December 2025. The date itself was laden with significance: International Human Rights Day. We were hopeful that, at last, the NLC would have helped us ensure our human rights acquired real meaning.

Moreover, coming within days of the tragic death of whistleblower **Marius van der Merwe**, who paid with his life for exposing corruption, we hoped the NLC would send a clear message that those who lost their livelihoods in the public interest would be recognised and honoured for their sacrifices.

What we were offered was neither recognition nor justice. It was embarrassing, pernicious, and profoundly disrespectful. We do not wish to see such an offer repeated.

2. We state categorically that, throughout the Reparations Measures Process, we were led to believe **that meaningful financial compensation** would form part of the reparations package. This was essential to restoring livelihoods destroyed as a direct consequence of our whistleblowing against systemic corruption at the NLC.

The newly constituted Board has a **moral obligation** to accept responsibility for reparations, irrespective of the fact that the looting did not occur on its watch. Board members are remunerated precisely to exercise such stewardship and accountability. We had hoped the Board would set an example to other state institutions and corporate entities by demonstrating that justice can be done—and that whistleblowers should be protected, not impoverished—for helping to stem the mudslide of corruption engulfing our country.

3. Instead, three years later, we have been offered **pitiful grocery vouchers**, limited educational assistance for ourselves and/or our children, access to a health and wellness programme, and other token measures. The NLC has described these as “groundbreaking”.

A more accurate description would be “**earth-shatteringly unjust.**” These charity-style offerings offend our dignity and betray the principles of fairness and justice that we were repeatedly assured would underpin the reparations process.

4. We believe the NLC has fundamentally misconstrued the nature of reparations by framing this as a non-legal exercise in so-called “restorative governance”. At no stage did we expect “damages” in the narrow, conventional legal sense. We expected **compensation**, comparable to that extended to SARS whistleblowers who suffered severe harm after exposing the capture and repurposing of that public institution.
5. Section 22.1.1 of the Treasury Regulations, published under GN R225 in Government Gazette 27388 of 15 March 2005, explicitly provides for **payments made as an “act of grace or favour”** in appropriate circumstances. This constitutes a clear legal basis for compensation and is precisely what we reasonably expected.

Instead, we were offered cold charity—made worse by the fact that expectations had been deliberately raised over an extended period.

6. We regard this outcome as a form of **secondary victimisation**, further undermining our mental health and overall well-being. In this instance, the so-called remedy has proven worse than the original harm.
7. We have been reliably advised that grounds exist for an **administrative review** of the NLC’s decision not to offer financial compensation. Accordingly, we reserve our rights to seek judicial recourse should this matter not be remedied.
8. Nevertheless, in the hope that the NLC will yet reconsider its position, we will, for the time being, continue to abide by the terms of the NDAs imposed upon us. All further media enquiries should be directed to **Mr John Clarke**, who has our confidence to advocate on our collective behalf, following due consultation with other assisting professionals.

From an anonymous group of NLC Whistleblowers and other stakeholders in the NLC Reparations process

For further media enquiries kindly email John Clarke on johngeeic@gmail.com (preferably) or call 083 608 0944 (on WhatsApp preferably).