



Tottenham Hotspur sponsorship unlawful and invalid

Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille says legal counsel had advised her that the proposed Tottenham Hotspur sponsorship is unlawful and invalid. "Money must at all times be spent wisely and prudently as we are entrusted with the public's funds," De Lille said.

Addressing the media in Pretoria last week, De Lille said in this time of global economic crisis, there is a need for innovation and the need to work together to grow markets and create more jobs in a cost effective manner. Tourism SA Board announced last month that it had given preliminary approval to the deal reported to be worth about R1 billion.

The announcement was met with

criticism with some that argued the funds could be better spent tackling poverty or the nation's energy crisis. "Given the circumstances we find ourselves in economically, there has to be much more careful consideration of everything we do as government," the Minister said. De Lille said she wrote to the SA Tourism Board on Wednesday asking for their response regarding the legal opinion she had been advised on. "As the Minister and as the Department of Tourism, we are committed to growing tourism, getting into untapped markets and truly reaching our full potential," De Lille said. De Lille said she has also written to the Minister of Finance on 10 March 2023 to enquire whether



he had approved the proposal or transaction and have not yet received a response from the Minister of Finance. "As a country, when we enter into such massive partnerships, it is vital that we are able to be fully accountable, that we are transparent and can answer South Africans clearly and honestly. Minister De Lille said the tourism sector is a major one for the country which boast some of the world's most beautiful natural landscapes, a diverse mix of cultures, experiences and best asset, our people. "The tourism sector

is also a major contributor to the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in October 2020 and The Tourism Sector Recovery Plan adopted by Cabinet in March 2021. "I am therefore committed and excited about the work we can do in this space together with the private sector and communities to reach our full potential and see millions more people visiting this beautiful South Africa we call home. "

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SAFA congratulates Dlamini and Zwane

South African Football Association (SAFA) wishes to congratulate Banyana Banyana goalkeeper Andile Dlamini and Bafana Bafana midfielder Themba Zwane after they walked away with top accolades at the 16th Annual South African Sports Awards this weekend.

Dlamini, the South African senior women's national team and Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies goalkeeper, was named the SA Sports Star of the Year at the event held in Sun City in the North West on Saturday (25 March 2023). She claimed the R500

000 prize. Zwane, the South African senior men's national team and Mamelodi Sundowns player, won the People's Choice Award and also walked away with R500 000. The two players have been in devastating form for both club and country and deserve the recognition they received at the 16th Annual South African Sports Awards. Zwane is currently in Monrovia with his Bafana Bafana team-mates and will hope to inspire the team against Liberia in an away Africa Cup of Nations qualifier on Tuesday 28 March 2023.

South African Under-23 Men's team miss out on AFCON and Olympics



South African Under-23 national team's dream of playing at the 2023 U-23 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco later this year came to an end after a 0-0 draw with Congo-Brazzaville in an away second leg qualifier extinguished all hope on Monday.

Notoane made four changes to the starting line-up that played in the 1-1 draw against the Congolese in the first leg at Dobsonville a few days ago, but this was not enough to ease past a determined home side that was also motivated by vociferous home crowd. The two teams went into the

break deadlocked at 0-0 after a few missed opportunities from both sides that forced the goalkeepers to work overtime.

It was a much improved second half performance from the South Africans, but they could not break Congo and find the crucial goal they desperately sought. Congo managed to keep their nerve and hold onto the 1-1 aggregate and advanced on the away goal rule. The defeat means South Africa will not be participating in the U23 AFCON tournament to be hosted by Morocco in June 2023 and the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.