

## PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP WITH RISE LIFE FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING



BGLC SUPPORT FOR THE RISE Life Management Services Programme for the Promotion of Responsible Gaming and the Prevention, Treatment and Research of Problem Gambling in Jamaica

Starting in 2005, the Betting Gaming and Lotteries Commission has enjoyed a long and exciting history with RISE Life Management Services Limited, pioneering together to build programmes, support services and a social consciousness around responsible gaming and positive play, that now commands international respect. This programme is the only one of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, treating persons for gambling disorders and related problems, and offering support to their families.

The Commission forged this partnership with RISE to contribute significant support increasing year after year, currently approximating over \$8 million in annual contributions, and in 2016 totalling over \$50 million.

### **Expansion to Procedural and Operational Support - Responsible Gaming Code of Conduct**

As the role RISE plays in gambling prevention, treatment and research becomes increasingly important, the BGLC has deepened its partnership with RISE in expanding and strengthening the Responsible Gaming programme. The BGLC has noted the growth of the local Gaming Industry as a whole and is cognizant of the need to plan and prepare for the number of persons exhibiting symptoms of gambling disorders in Jamaica. As such, we have expanded our support to include more direct involvement and collaboration in the development of policies.

A tighter Responsible Gaming Policy for all licensees and a Responsible Gaming Code of Conduct for Gaming Lounges is being implemented to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups, especially minors. The Code was initially introduced to gaming lounges in November 2014, followed by several rounds of stakeholder consultations. Starting in April 2016, the first session of what will be an annual Responsible Gaming training requirement, was completed at

all Gaming Lounges. Compliance with these standards and policies is now enforced as an additional condition for licensing.

This mandatory Code requires all licensees to actively prevent minors from gambling and to guide any customers who exhibit signs of a gambling disorder to seek help through RISE and the Voluntary Self-Exclusion Programme (VSEP). Responsible Gaming materials and messages are to be visibly displayed and premises personnel are to be trained in the use of the Code in their premises. This exposure extends to all premises and requires all locations to display signage to this effect.

The BGLC is pleased to support a two-pronged approach to promoting and supporting responsible gaming programmes in order to foster sustainable development of the Gaming Industry as a whole.

### **Increase in Report of Gambling Disorders**

The association of gaming with entertainment and financial upliftment gives gambling an insidious characteristic which must be neutralized with prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of problem gamblers as well as the promotion of responsible gaming. RISE notes an annual increase in the number of persons seeking help for gambling related issues, commensurate with the recent growth of the Gaming Industry.

### **Scope of BGLC Funded RISE Programmes**

**Treatment** – Includes referrals, assessment, treatment planning, counselling, case management, transition/after care, family therapy/interventions.

**Prevention** – Four (4) programmes: statistically proven results recorded during an 8-week Primary School programme has reached 4,480 youth; poster competition for adolescents; planned prevention for youth in juvenile institutions; one-off presentations.

**Training** – Peer Counsellors; Social Workers; Trainee Guidance Counsellors; Correctional and Probation Officers; Gaming Lounge Staff.

**Public Education** – Workshops, training and sensitization sessions, materials distributed nationwide.

**Telephone Lifeline** – The only one of its kind in the island, operating from 8:30 a.m. to midnight 7 days per week.

**Evaluation** – Pre and post tests conducted during treatment, training and prevention programmes – results made available to funding agencies.

We commend RISE Life Management Services for the work they have done and continue to do, in actualizing their goals and objectives, which in turn help to support the over arching mandate of Vision 2030, to help Jamaica achieve its goals of sustainable development and prosperity by the year **2030**. Sustainable development of the Gaming Industry is only possible if we achieve a

healthy balance of responsible gaming alongside the sharp increase of gaming options now available to the Jamaican public. **The BGLC encourages member of the gaming public to Game Responsibly.**

## **BGLC SUPPORT FOR RISE LIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The following is a breakdown of budgets showing the increases in donations to this important cause over these first several years.

### **BGLC CONTRIBUTIONS TO RISE LIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD 2005 - 2015**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DONATION</b>
2005- 2006	4,189,358
2006-2007	4,632,200
2007-2008	5,082,000
2008 -2009	5,376,000
2010 – 2011	6,726,000
2011-2012	7,131,836
2013-2014	6,500,000
2014-2015	8,294,200
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>47,931,594</b>

Mr. Richard Henry, Programme Manager  
Addiction Counselling and Support Services  
RISE Life Management Services



Richard has been working in the field of addictions for over twenty (20) years. He is presently the Programme Manager for Addiction Counselling and Support Services at RISE Life Management Services, an NGO located in Kingston, Jamaica.

He served as Clinical Director of Richmond Fellowship Jamaica, Patricia House, an adult residential substance abuse treatment facility, and has worked at Caribbean Haven, an addiction treatment facility in Grand Cayman. Richard also specializes in the field of gambling disorders, prevention and treatment, and responsible gaming.

He is integrally involved in providing training and workshops in the field of addictions and has been working with gaming lounge employees in Jamaica for the past six (6) years, increasing their awareness and understanding of gambling related issues as well as responsible gaming techniques and principles.