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MARCH 11 DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR GAMING LICENCE RENEWAL – Licensees urged to avoid the rush

All Gaming Machine and Prescribed Premises Licences issued after June 22, 2010 will expire on March 31st this year. Licensees are reminded to submit their applications to the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission by March 11, 2011 to enable timely review and processing.

When added to the hundreds of Betting sector licences which expire in March as usual, the Commission is expecting close to 1,000 gaming industry licences up for renewal this March. Licensees and other persons are encouraged to come in early to avoid the rush in processing.

The Commission has made special arrangements to accommodate these applicants and is appealing to them to attend its offices with their applications and all supporting documents on time to avoid penalties for late applications. Help will be provided to those who need it to complete the application Forms.

Applicants are reminded to visit the Collectorates in each Parish to pay their taxes. The taxes are \$5,000 per annum for each locally made machine, \$10,000 for each slot machine, and \$1000 for each premises.

Fees payable to the Commission are \$2,500 for each machine, plus \$500 for each licence disc.

Applicants are required to submit their original tax receipts along with their applications. They should also bring with them Identification such as Passports or Drivers' Licences, and all other supporting documentation, listed on the BGLC website at www.bglc.gov.jm .

Late Penalties

Failure to pay the levy after April 1 now attracts a penalty which increases over time, as follows:

- Payment after April 1 but before July 1 attracts a penalty of 15% of the the levy;
- Payment on or after July 1 but before October 1, attracts a penalty of 30% of the levy;
- Payment on or after October 1 but before January 1 in the following year, will attract a penalty of 45% of licence fee;

- The penalty for payment on or after April 1 in the following year is 60% of licence fee, plus the current levy if the licence is being renewed.

Penalties for Unlawful Gaming

The penalties for operating without a licence or approval are significant. For example:

- Operating gaming machines without being licensed: \$250,000.
- Failure to operate the number of machines specified in the licence, without prior approval by the Commission: \$250,000.
- Taking part in unlawful gaming or being present in any such gaming: \$50,000.

- Permitting a minor to bet, negotiate or participate in any betting, gaming or lottery or to be in a room where gaming machines are located: \$500,000.
- Failure to place current licence, permit, approval or authority in a conspicuous place on the premises: \$200,000.
- Failure to produce licence, permit, approval or authority to authorized person: \$100,000.

- Allowing premises to be used for unlawful gaming or making premises available to a person who has committed an offence in connection with unlawful gaming: \$375,000.
- Failure to manage licensed premises in accordance with terms and conditions specified in licence, permit, approval or authority: \$300,000.
- To break or remove seal or other device affixed to a gaming machine or other equipment without the consent of the Commission: \$1,000,000.

The BGLC has redesigned all Licences this year, fitting them with special security features, to reduce fraud and protect the interests of compliant Licensees and the gaming public. Licensees are invited to visit the BGLC website at www.bglc.gov.jm to access application forms and further information on the renewal process and are urged to come in today with all documents for renewal.

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Contact: Jana Bent
 Manager, Communications and Research, Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission
 Bldg 3, 17 Ruthven Road, Kingston 10, Tel: (876) 960-7279 ext 301, Fax: (876) 960-6682
 Email: jana.bent@bglc.gov.jm; Web: www.bglc.gov.jm
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