

Complaint - 100 days 100 cars competition is an illegal lottery and should be banned!

Written by Administrator

Thursday, 10 September 2009 15:25 -

100 days 100 cars competition is an illegal lottery and should be banned! It is a direct replica of the 100 days 100 cars contest by Vodacom of South Africa, which was issued a cease-and-desist order earlier this year for ripping customers of millions of rands. A similar competition was conducted by Vodacom in South Africa earlier this year. The cellular operator was issued with a cease-and-desist order by the National Lottery Board on Monday against its controversial 100 cars in 100 days competition, which it complied with. Please refer to the following article.

<http://www.itweb.co.za/sections/telecoms/2008/0802201034.asp?A=COV&S=Cover>
Vodacom not yet in the clear
BY CHRISTELLE DU TOIT, ITWEB SENIOR JOURNALIST
[Johannesburg, 20 February 2008] - Vodacom has still not been cleared by the National Lotteries Board (NLB) for what the regulator considers to be an illegal lottery. The cellular operator was issued with a cease-and-desist order by the NLB on Monday against its controversial 100 cars in 100 days competition, which it complied with. However, it still went ahead with a mass draw of all the remaining cars on the following day, something the NLB is now taking up with the ministry of trade and industry. Up to that stage, Vodacom had given away 88 BMWs to customers who were charged R10 an entry into the competition, some running up bills of hundreds of thousands of rands in the process. According to Shameel Joosub, MD of Vodacom SA, the company still considers the BMW giveaway competition to be legal. As the promotional competition had almost reached the end of its cycle, Vodacom believed it is in all parties' interests to draw the promotion to a close, he said. However, he confirmed Vodacom still went ahead with a mass draw of all remaining BMWs on the day after stopping the competition. In addition, Joosub confirms the company's view that the NLB has no legal standing remains unchanged. We do not believe the promotional competition [was] illegal, he says. Sershan Naidoo, spokesman for the NLB, says the board would have to investigate the matter and could possibly end up taking the cellular operator to court, depending on what action its legal advisors recommend. Meanwhile, it has written to minister of trade and industry Mandisi Mphahlele, requesting him to declare the competition illegal. The NLB is mandated by the minister to look into all illegal lotteries, he explains. In order for a matter to be taken to court, the minister of trade and industry has to gazette that he believes the promotion to be an illegal lottery and then we can pursue it it is really a matter of semantics [to say the NLB does not have legal standing] as we act on the authority of the minister. He said that had Vodacom ceased all activity in the promotion on Monday, as it had indicated to the NLB it would, the matter would have been left there and no further action would have been taken.

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Personally, I have been a loyal customer for a decade, and to rip me off my hard earn money this way is unacceptable. I am especially unhappy with the following:

- The SMS is RM5 each, and every reply from Celcom only encourages and tempt us to keep on sending even more SMS. If they continue, I will be glad to champion an anti Celcom campaign!
- Contestants cannot even check how much they have spent at any one time.
- The online bill check available via is not updated with the total amount for all SMS sent for the competition.
- Account are not barred even though the SMS amount sent for competition have exceeded account limit! I have a monthly limit and since the

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bill is not updated with the amount for the SMS sent for the competition, my phone is not yet barred even though from my calculations, I have far exceeded my limit and should have been barred a few days back! Isn't the limit there to help us customers to maintain our budget and to safeguard our interest? Why not enforce it? Simple answer, Celcom just interested to cash in without caring about their customer's welfare

Distressed,

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