**UNDERSTANDING GAMBLING BEYOND GAINS**

**Introduction**

Betting is a form of gambling which is usually marketed by highlighting the stories of previous winners. A society that takes so readily to gambling like Uganda is a society of losers.

There is a big misfortune among gamblers. The very actions they take in the bid to increase their chances of winning actually work in the opposite direction. For example, putting several bets on the same item does not increase your chances of winning because each bet you put is independent of the others you have put.

**Losers**  
Another big money loser is when people get tempted to win big money by betting on a syndicate where say you have to predict the scores of 10 football games in different leagues. The betting houses are more knowledgeable about the statistics than the players so they are smiling at the end of the day while the players are drenched in tears.

**Addiction**

When it becomes addictive, there is no known cure or vaccine for gambling. There are very sad stories of compulsive gamblers. A young man went to a betting shop ridding his boda boda motorcycle in the hope of winning. He kept placing higher bets and losing until he finally put up his motorcycle, which he also lost. A young woman, a manager with a Kampala business was given a big amount of money to take to the bank. The manager thought with such a huge amount, she would be a sure winner if she spread her bet; Shs25 million down later, she had lost everything. She went and took her own life.

**Conclusion**

As with most things of this nature, rescue for victims of gambling will not come from government. As a country, Ugandans are not doing themselves any favors by getting so many young people taking up gambling as a form of life.