FIC ISSUES WARNING ON SCAM PAYMENT RELEASE ORDER LETTER

Thursday, 9 March 2017

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) distances itself from a scam payment release order letter which has been put in circulation by criminal scamsters claiming that recipients stand to win or gain inheritance funds.

The FIC wishes to advise anyone who may have received the letter (click here to see the letter) or any other version of such a letter, that the FIC never issues so-called payment release orders or letters associated with any payment whatsoever. Members of the public are reminded to remain vigilant about receiving letters from unknown and unconfirmed sources. The public also should not to take at face value letters which carry logos of government institutions, private sector businesses or international organisations on letters carrying similar messages.

This scam letter, for example, refers to a G8 Summit meeting and talks about a supposed 2017 review of global financial matters and fictitious investigations by the Financial Action Task Force. After purporting to identify the reader as one amongst a list of people who have money due to them, the letter states that ‘scammers’ prevented the reader from receiving the payment that was due to them. This is no doubt intended to add credibility to the scam.

Ultimately, letters of this nature are aimed at defrauding the recipient and the public is urged to report such scam letters to the South African Police Service.

The unauthorised use of the FIC logo is illegal. Any person who uses the FIC logo in such a manner may be found guilty of fraud.

Please refer to the Scams awareness page on the fic website to read more about scams.

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Issued by the Financial Intelligence Centre www.fic.gov.za
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