



financial intelligence centre

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FIC WARNS ON SCAM NOTICES

Monday, 9 July 2012: It has been brought to the attention of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) that various scam notices bearing the Government coat of arms and the FIC's name are being used in attempts to defraud the public through bogus e-mails. Please do not respond to such notices.

The latest scam e-mail mentions that the senders of the letter have been authorised by the Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan, and Secretary-General of the International Monetary Fund to send a large amount of money due to the e-mail recipient.

In an attempt to add veracity to the scam letter, the e-mail recipient is given a payment reference number, automatic teller machine Visa card release code, pin number and secret telex code.

In exchange for this, the recipient is asked to provide their personal details including their address and mobile number. The scammers also warn the recipient to respond urgently so as to avoid the money being paid to an incorrect beneficiary.

Citizens are warned not to respond to this and similar e-mails, SMSs or letters and to report these to their nearest police station.

Some common pointers for recognising scams, whether they are via e-mail, SMS or letter, include:

- The e-mail requestor asks for bank account information, credit card numbers, driver's licence number, passport number, information about members of your family, and other personal information
- The sender advises that you have won a prize – even though you are not aware of having entered any competition run by the prize promoters
- The e-mail may be personally addressed to you but it has been posted using bulk mail sending facilities to many others locally and internationally
- Check the wording of letter; you may notice spelling errors and exaggerations, which should alert you to the offer being too good to be true
- Logos of the organisations mentioned in the letter (such as the prize-givers) may not seem correct or professionally drafted
- The names of persons used as senders of the e-mails are common.

Here are some examples of the scam letters: [Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#).

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Note to editors: The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) was established in 2003, through the promulgation of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001, with the purpose of identifying the proceeds of unlawful activities and combating money laundering and terror financing. The organisation collects and analyses data sourced from accountable institutions and, where necessary, provides this analysis to law enforcement authorities, the South African Revenue Service and intelligence agencies for further follow up. The FIC works closely with counterparts on the African continent and international organisations. As part of its mandate, the organisation promotes awareness of the threat of money laundering and terror financing. Simultaneously it enhances levels of business compliance and reduces the possibility of financial institutions being exploited by criminal networks, which is core to enhancing the integrity of the country's financial system.

Issued by the Financial Intelligence Centre

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