

25 October 2024

To: All Media

FREE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (FDC) WARNS THE PUBLIC ABOUT A SCAMMER PURPORTING TO BE AN OFFICIAL FROM THE FDC SOLICITING CASH FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

The FDC has learned with concern about a tender scam that is taking place following the advertisement of a tender for security services. The alleged scammer sends out fake "security tender" award information to unsuspecting service providers and requests payment for the process to be completed.

The FDC wishes to inform members of the public that under no circumstances would the Corporation request service providers to pay any money for tender to be awarded, as the normal tender standard procedures do not require any payments.

The fraudsters ordinarily call unsuspecting prospective winners and mention the TENDER/RFQ that the bidders have submitted bids for and go further to guarantee them the "job" in exchange for a "facilitation fee". It is crucial for members of the public to be vigilant and cautious when receiving such demands.

Tips on what to do when getting a suspicious call or message:

Verify the Caller: Always verify the identity of the caller before sharing any personal or financial information. Ask for official credentials or contact the Corporation directly through verified channels to confirm the legitimacy of the call.

Official Communication: The Corporation communicates important information through official letters, website, emails or notices delivered to your registered address. The FDC do not rely solely on phone calls for urgent payment demands.

Duly constituted in terms of Free State Development Corporation Act 6 of 1995

DIRECTORS:

Dr. D Mohale (Chairperson) Ms. NCS Khetha (Deputy Chairperson) Ms. S Sithole; Ms Z Nhlapo; Mr. LT Motsamai;
Mr. T Motloi; Mr. KC Tau (Acting Chief Executive Officer) Mr. RJ Montshioa (Company Secretary)

Report Suspicious Activities: If you receive any suspicious calls or demands for immediate payments, report them to local authorities (SAPS) and the Corporation immediately on the FDC Fraud hotline number **0800 701 701** or email wecare@fdc.co.za or visit the nearest office of the FDC.

End.

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