

Warning of a new

419 letter scam



The Commercial Branch of the South African Police Service recently sent out a warning of a scam that involves the South African Police Service.

The modus operandi

The perpetrators send out a letter to a business under the letterhead of the South African Police Service's, Serious Economic Offences Unit, Johannesburg stating that the Unit is administering the funds of a suspect whom they are investigating until the court has finalized the case. Furthermore, that the control over the funds is in the hands of the State. The business/person is informed that post-dated cheques have been submitted to them for

Article by Supt Ronnie Naidoo, Media Relations

payment and that they must not submit the cheques to the bank for collection, as the South African Police Service will not allow the encashment of the cheques.

The business is then requested to complete an individual questionnaire, an application form and a business-owner questionnaire and to fax it to an 086 number.

It is alleged that the State needs the information provided in the questionnaires to determine whether the per-

son and/or business does exist and that the "suspect" is not trying to pay money to himself while pretending to be paying it to the person or business.

It is suspected that this information is required for fraudulent activities.

The letters that have now surfaced concerns a case against a "Mr Kunene" who is being investigated. The Serious Economic Offences Unit is not investigating such a case.

Any person receiving any form of correspondence with such an offer or similar offer, should, without delay, contact the Commercial Branch, Head Office of the South African Police Service at telephone number 012 393 2108 during office hours.

Be aware

- The letters are false and not printed on the official letterheads of the South African Police Service.
- They are incorrectly referenced and the format is incorrect.
- The Commercial Branch does not have a Serious Economic Offences Unit in Johannesburg.
- The South African Police Service will not control any funds in criminal cases.