

24/04/18 Saterdag Pg 7 Nasionale Sake Reg

R800m stolen in SA bank account scams

Bank card fraud rocks customers

By Gareth Wilson

Almost R800-million was stolen from South African bank accounts last year - mostly by criminals fraudulently obtaining clients' card information.

This was revealed in the latest South African Banking Risk Information Centre (Sabric) report detailing bank card fraud for last year.

The report stated that of the R778,9-million stolen out of South African bank accounts last year, R436,7-million was stolen from credit cards and R342,2-million from debit cards.

Of this, R416-million was taken through various card-not-present (cnp) scams - a new emerging trend used by criminals to drain bank accounts.

Cnp fraud, which occurs mostly online, is when neither the card nor the cardholder is present for a transaction. These details are attained through various methods, including e-mail phishing scams and fake online websites.

The report highlighted cnp fraud as the most prevalent banking fraud currently used by syndicates.

Credit card holders lost R318,4-million last year through various cnp scams, while debit card holders lost R98-million in similar scams. Other losses were due to card skimming, lost or stolen cards, and when a legit user's account is hijacked by a criminal.

Of the R436-million stolen in credit card fraud, R233,3-million was stolen by syndicates operating outside South Africa, while R203,5-million was stolen within the country.

The provinces targeted by

the credit card syndicates include Gauteng, where R99-million was stolen, followed by the Western Cape with R32,4-million, KwaZulu-Natal with R24,5-million and the Eastern Cape with R9-million.

Sabric lists the top five African countries complicit with credit card fraud transactions as Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique - which cumulatively involved almost R9-million.

The other cross-border countries implicated include Ireland, the US, Malta, the UK, China, Indonesia and India.

Figures, however, show that unlike most of the credit card fraud, debit card fraud happened mainly within South Africa.

Last year, R246-million was stolen from debit accounts in South Africa, while R95,5-million was stolen outside the country's borders.



Even card holders are not safe from fraudsters. / MARIANNE PRETORIUS

Police spokeswoman Captain Sandra Janse van Rensburg said various cases involving banking fraud were reported.

"All forms of banking fraud is an ongoing issue. While there are several forms of banking fraud, the main types we have seen in the Bay are deposit and online phishing scams."

Janse van Rensburg said "several" cases were under investigation.

Sabric chief executive Kalyani Pillay said credit card-related cnp was listed as the leading contributor to fraud losses.

"Criminals always adjust their tactics to take advantage of innovations in the banking landscape. However, our collaborative model ensures that we, and our banks and partners, are responsive and agile, enabling these crimes to be addressed efficiently and effectively," he said.

More protests reported

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Taung, Atamelang witness anti-premier protests but less extreme than those in Mafikeng

ELFASTORERAI

A NUMBER of protest incidents were reported yesterday as residents in other parts of North West took to the streets calling for Premier Supra Mahumapelo to resign.

There were protests in Taung and Atamelang but authorities said they were not as chaotic as those in Mafikeng last week.

Community safety and transport management spokesperson Thabo Sematle said: "There have been protests in Atamelang and Taung which are, in the main, a continuation of what we saw in Mafikeng a few days ago. They were both anti-premier protests but they were a bit more modest," he said.

"So far there are no reports of violence, no break-ins or looting and we hope they continue this way. Police are on the ground monitoring the situation," he said.

In Taung, residents are said to have blockaded the road leading to the local hospital.

"Other roads are open but some of people are opting to use gravel roads to get where they are going," Sematle said.

He said protesters were not throwing stones at moving vehicles and there were no acts of looting in villages or elsewhere.

Vryburg was also not spared but the protests died down before they could make a huge impact.

Department MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane appealed to residents to stay calm amid the unrest.

"We humbly call on protestors to avoid blocking roads, burning buildings, damaging property or closing down schools.

"Protests should be done in the man-



NO VIOLENCE: Authorities say the protests in Taung and Atamelang were not as chaotic as the Mafikeng protests last week.

near prescribed by our laws so that people do not find themselves in trouble," he said.

Motlhabane said all those seeking to protest should exercise their rights without infringing on the rights of others.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said police were monitoring the situation in all areas where reported incidents of unrest surfaced.

"Police are on the ground assessing the situation and ready to act where

need arises. Nothing is out of control yet and we hope the situation will go back to normal soon" he said.

In Mafikeng, police are still alert to any more flare-ups.

The 32 people arrested in connection with destructive protests appeared in court amid concerns that some residents wanted to take to the streets.

There were some individuals who protested outside court but proceedings were not affected.

Mokgwabone said police continue to

maintain heavy presence in all hot spots in the provincial capital to make sure that the situation is contained.

Protests started with people calling for the resignation of Mahumapelo over allegations that he was managing a corrupt administration.

However, the premier said the protests were all part of a political witch-hunt conducted against those who were regarded as not supporting President Cyril Ramaphosa.

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TNA-POL-NEWSAPS-709

Protesters loot shops

ELFAS TORERAI

COMMUNITY protests that started peacefully, degenerated into a looting frenzy as criminal elements in villages around Taung plundered shops in the area yesterday afternoon.

In Mokgareng village, residents helped themselves to goods in a furniture shop and other shops were equally ransacked.

They also closed the N18 between Taung and Vryburg calling on Premier Supra Mahumapelo to resign.

Provincial spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "Protests also spread to Lokaleng, Mokasa II and Ditshilong villages where people looted shops."

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TNA-POL-NEWSAPS-POS

400 nabbed in operation

ELFAS TORERAI

THE ongoing Operation Fiela II netted 431 people for various offences in raids in the province. The arrests were made between Friday and Sunday.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adéle Myburgh said: "During the weekend's operation, 431 suspects were arrested for various crimes ranging from liquor-related offences to serious crimes like murder and robbery.

"Included in these arrests were nine undocumented persons, 27 for driving under the influence of liquor or drugs, 112 for drinking in public spaces, 17 for being drunk in public and 27 for illegally dealing in liquor. They were all detained

and processed, accordingly"

Myburgh said the operations also led to confiscation of various drugs, electrical equipment, 15 goats, nine sheep, four gas bottles, a vehicle, perishables, an axe, two firearms, a pellet gun, groceries and money.

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said the operation would continue in the province in order to stamp the authority of the state in the community and to ensure that members of the community can feel safe.

Motswenyane urged the community not to participate in criminal activities, but rather to report crime to the police.

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