



## **NW Department of Public Works and Roads warns of a scam at work asking advance payment from bidders as facilitation fee to win to a tender...**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2021

The department of Public Works and Roads, Northwest, today (Tues) warns service providers doing, or those wanting to do business with the department, of a scam at work, preying on unsuspecting bidders.

The scam demands payment upfront, as a facilitation fee to enable a process that would apparently win a ``prospective`` bidder a tender.

The cheats list their cell phone contact number on the email, currently in possession of several service providers doing business with the department.

``We advise service providers to ignore and treat with great suspicion, any form of communication purporting to come from the Department promising people tenders on the platter. It does not and will never work in the fashion.

``Government does not ask for payment to facilitate the awarding of a contract to a particular bidder. If such ever happens, it is tantamount to breaking the law, and therefore it becomes a criminal act.

The procurement for supply of goods and services in the Public Sector is highly regulated, and guided by Supply Chain Management protocols.``

The email message from the scam, makes reference to genuine tender details as advertised by the Department, and purports to come from the office of the Acting Director Supply Chain Management, Mr MJ Moipolai.

The *modus operandi* of the scam, is to hand-pick service providers who have indeed submitted bids for various tenders advertised months ago which have since closed, and are at various stages of adjudication.

Scam members email and or telephone unsuspecting service providers that they would ensure a contract is awarded in their favour, provided a fee is paid in advance to facilitate the awarding process

It is unclear how the con artists obtain contact details of service providers who indeed have submitted bids for tenders ranging from road maintenance to security.

The department is investigating the possibility of people within the department passing contact details of bidders, or even working with, or for the scam.

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