



No tenders for sale. We only sell tender documents...

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A scam is on the prowl, raising false hopes on unsuspecting service providers bidding to do business with the Department of Public Works and Roads.

By the time victims discover they have been duped, substantial amounts of their hard-earned cash had gone down the drain, clutching in hand, what is tantamount to a fraudulent copy of an appointment letter, purported to originate from the department.

Head of department, Pakiso Mothupi, to confirmed that at least five service providers have already fallen victim to the scam in the past two weeks.

“All of them claimed to have been appointed to render a service, either on the construction of roads or school projects.

“The irony is, reference is often made to projects we have advertised, which are already at various stages of adjudication,” Mothupi explained.

The modus operandi of the scam, whose activities have been reported to the police, is the craft a fake “appointment” letter, place it on the letter head of the department with a signature, purporting to be the that of the accounting officer. Reference on the fake letter is purported to be, supply chain management.

The unsuspecting service provider would be called by an individual, impersonating to be an official of the department, confirming to be in possession of an appointment letter to be hand-delivered for a fee.

The amount demanded or solicited ranges between R15 000 to R4million depending on the nature of project and its tender value.

Mothupi cautioned all service providers who may have tendered to render a service to the department, to be “extremely careful when approached” by people claiming to be from the department to hand-deliver appointment letters.

“Report such encounters to your nearest police station immediately. The only document we sell in government is a tender document and not an appointment letter for a successful bidder,” he warned.

“ If there are successful bidders on a specific tender, our Directorate Supply Chain Management will call you, and no one has to pay for that call to be made, let alone receiving in person an appointment to render a service,” explained Mothupi.

ENDS

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