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FSCA Press Release

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FSCA issues public warning against JoziEx and Richard Mouton

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) warns the public to be cautious when conducting financial services business with JoziEx and Richard Mouton.

It has come to the attention of the FSCA that JoziEx and Richard Mouton are soliciting funds from members of the public for investment purposes, by inviting them to an online trading platform/application. Members are recruited through WhatsApp groups and Instagram advertisements, with promises of unrealistic returns. JoziEx requires minimum deposits ranging from R 1 000 to R 10 000, with a promise of more than 50% profit within days. The FSCA points out that unrealistic returns must be viewed with great suspicion.

JoziEx falsely claims to be affiliated with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

While the FSCA does not comment on the specifics of JoziEx and Richard Mouton's business, it must be noted that JoziEx and Richard Mouton are not authorised in terms of any financial sector law to provide financial services to the public in South Africa. JoziEx and Richard Mouton were unavailable for comment.

To avoid unnecessary risk, the public should refrain from accepting financial advice, assistance, or investment offers from individuals or entities not authorised by the FSCA. Authorised financial services providers must clearly display their authorisation status in their documentation. If this is not present, it is advised to further investigate before making any payments.

The public is strongly urged to exercise caution when considering investment or trading offers on social media, or any unsolicited offers.

It is highly recommended that the public verify:

- that an entity or individual is authorised by the FSCA to provide financial products and services, including for giving recommendations about how to invest.
- what category of advice the person is registered to provide, as there are instances where companies or people are registered to provide basic advice for a low-risk product and then offer advice on far more complex and risky products.
- that the FSP number used by the entity or individual offering financial services matches with the name of the FSP registered on the FSCA database.

To confirm the status and FSP number of a financial services provider or a person that claims to be an authorised financial services provider, please make use of the following:

Executive Committee:

- 1) **Toll-free number**: 0800 110 443
- 2) Online search for authorised financial institution by licence category: <u>https://www.fsca.co.za/Regulated%20Entities/Pages/List-Regulated-Entities-Persons.aspx</u>
- Online search for a financial institution that is an authorised FSP in terms of the FAIS Act: https://www.fsca.co.za/Fais/Search_FSP.htm

ENDS

Enquiries:

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