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## **FSCA Press Release**

25 February 2025

## FSCA warns public against persons impersonating RCS Cards (Pty) Ltd and Bridge Finance CC

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) warns the public to be cautious when conducting financial services business with persons purporting to be Bridge Finance CC (Bridge Finance) and RCS Cards (Pty) Ltd (RCS).

It was brought to the attention of the FSCA that certain individuals are unlawfully using the name of Bridge Finance, its National Credit Register (NCR) number and RCS's financial services provider (FSP) number. The impersonators are using the details of Bridge Finance and RCS on loan application forms.

Bridge Finance and RCS confirmed that they are not associated with the impersonators in any manner, that their details are being used without their consent.

The FSCA points out that offering financial products and services in South Africa requires its authorisation. The impersonators are not licensed under any financial sector law to provide financial products or financial services in South Africa. The administrators behind the Telegram groups could not be reached for comment.

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 utilised by the entity or individual offering financial services matches to name of the FSP on the FSCA database.

One of the following methods may be used to confirm the status and FSP number of a service provider or a person that claims to be an authorised service provider:

- 1) **Toll-free number**: 0800 110 443
- 2) Online search for authorised financial institution **by license category**: https://www.fsca.co.za/Regulated%20Entities/Pages/List-Regulated-Entities-

## Persons.aspx

3) 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**

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