

FSCA Press Release

28 March 2024

FSCA warns the public against Swiftkryptotrade

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) warns the public against doing any financial services related business with Swiftkryptotrade.

It has come to the attention of the FSCA that Swiftkryptotrade and individuals allegedly linked to it, are using the social media platform Telegram, to target members of the public by falsely claiming to be agents or representatives of The JSE Limited (JSE).

The JSE is a licensed exchange in terms of the provisions of the Financial Markets Act 19 of 2012 and it is also a Self-Regulatory Organisation. The impersonators use images of senior executives of the JSE and its employees to lure members of the public, in order to solicit investments from those seeking trading opportunities and high profits.

The JSE confirmed it is not associated with the impersonators and that these individuals are using its brand name, logos, trademark, and pictures of its employees without its permission to offer investment opportunities to members of the public. The JSE Limited also confirmed that it does not conduct business using Telegram. The individuals in question were not available for comment.

It is the FSCA's view that these individuals are conducting unauthorised financial services business and are providing advisory and intermediary services without the necessary authorisation.

Financial services business refers to persons advising the public on investing their funds in any manner. This is often in the form of offering the public investment opportunities. It also refers to persons dealing with investments of the public in any manner. This includes receiving funds from the public, making investments on behalf of the public and trading in any financial product for or on behalf of the public or enabling the public to trade in financial products.

Executive Committee:

Commissioner: U. Kamlana | **Deputy Commissioners:** A. Ludin | K. Gibson | F. Badat

The public is urged to act with care when investing their funds. There are many fraudsters operating scams, and the number is growing. South Africans loses millions of rands every year to fraudsters. Illegal operations are sometimes well-disguised as legitimate operations.

Red flags for scams include unrealistic returns that is offered, claims that the entity or person does not require an FSCA license, vague information about the investment product, or the company that provides the financial product, claims that the investor must act urgently, and requirements to pay more money over to have their investment returned to them.

To avoid unnecessary risk, the public should not accept any financial advice, assistance or investment offers from persons who are not authorised by the FSCA to conduct financial services. Authorised financial services providers must display the fact that they are authorised on their documentation and explain what specific financial services they are licensed for. If this is absent, the public should avoid paying any funds to such a person without investigating it further.

When it doubt, the public is advised to consult with an authorised financial service provider.

The FSCA reminds customers who wish to conduct financial services with an institution or person to check beforehand with the FSCA on either the toll-free number (0800 110 443) or on https://www.fsca.co.za/Fais/Search_FSP.htm whether such institution or person is authorised to render financial services.

ENDS

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