

The FSCA warns the public against Mr Jacobus Stephanus Geldenhuis again.

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) refers to its press releases of 28 October 2022, 30 November 2022, 10 May 2023 and 18 December 2023 (<https://www.fsca.co.za/Pages/Media-Releases.aspx>). On 18 December 2023, the FSCA notified the public that it had finalised its investigation into Classic Financial Services (One) (Pty) Ltd (Classic Financial Services) and Mr Jacobus Stephanus Geldenhuis (Mr Geldenhuis).

The FSCA found that Mr Geldenhuis and Classic Financial Services contravened section 7(1) of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act No 37 of 2002 and conducted the business of a bank in contravention of section 11 of the Banks Act No. 94 of 1990. Neither Classic Financial Services nor Mr Geldenhuis are authorised FSPs or a representative of an authorised FSP. During the investigation, it was established that Mr Geldenhuis did not invest client funds in shares but was operating a Ponzi-scheme and used client funds for his own benefit. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the FSCA debarred Mr Geldenhuis for a period of 20 years and imposed an administrative penalty of R143 000 000 on him.

It has been brought to the attention of the FSCA that, despite Mr Geldenhuis' debarment, he is still rendering financial services to members of the public. Mr Geldenhuis now appears to be conducting business under the name Pecunia Systems (Pty) Ltd, (Pecunia), with FSP number 11332. Pecunia confirmed that it is not associated with Mr Geldenhuis and that it did not give permission for its licence number and branding to be used by him. On 30 November 2023, Pecunia applied to the FSCA for its FSP license to be lapsed. The FSCA is in the process of considering Pecunia's application.

Members of the public should always ensure that an entity or individual is suitably authorised by the FSCA to provide the specific financial product or service being offered. Check this before any purchase or investment is made, by one of the following:

Executive Committee:

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

- 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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