

FSCA Press Release

15 October 2019

FSCA warns the public against Fern Finance (Pty) Ltd

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) warns the public against doing any financial services related business with the entity called Fern Finance (Pty) Ltd (Fern). Fern is not authorised in terms of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002 (FAIS Act) to render any financial advice and intermediary services.

Fern was previously licensed by the FSCA under Financial Services Provider (FSP) number 46276. Fern's licence was withdrawn on 10 October 2019 for failure to comply with the provisions of the FAIS Act and for contravening section 7(1) of the Short-term Insurance Act No 53 of 1998 (STIA). The FSCA also imposed an administrative penalty of R3.5 million on Fern for contravening the STIA.

Mr Charlton Lungisani Sikuza (Mr. Sikuza), the key individual of Fern is debarred for a period of 10 years from providing or being involved in the provision of financial services. This is because Mr. Sikuza does not comply with the personal character qualities of honesty and integrity outlined in the fit and proper requirements of all authorised FSP representatives, as he allowed Fern to contravene the STIA. The FSCA has issued a directive to both Fern and Mr. Sikuza to immediately cease issuing guarantee policies.

A copy of the this enforcement action can be found [here](#).

The FSCA reminds consumers 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.

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