

Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



The National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa
Igunya Jikelele Labetshutshisi boMzantsi Afrika
Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag van Suid-Afrika

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: OPERATION FYAWAY

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A scam involving recruitment for employment in the United Kingdom (UK) may have resulted in more 240 victims in South Africa and abroad. Catharina Wilhelmina van Eeden and Janine Natalie Bosch were arrested in South Africa in February 2008. They were released on bail and their case was on the court roll today. It has been postponed for further investigations to 05 September 2008 at the same court. Their bail has been extended.

The scam involved operating two recruitment agencies, Flyaway Employment and I&S Travel (later UK Travel), in Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng respectively. On offer was a guaranteed opportunity to for South Africans to go to and work in the UK. Interested clients would have to pay a fee in the amount of about R16 000 for their documentation to prepared and handed to them. Once payment was effected, clients would travel to the UK only to be arrested upon arrival Heathrow International Airport. They would be deported to South Africa. Upon return, clients would go back to the agencies for reimbursement. They never succeeded getting their own back.

Those who made a successful entry would end up returning on their own accord after failing to secure further documentation aimed at assimilating them with the local population.

An investigation was launched during the course of 2006 by the Scorpions and the South African Police Service (SAPS) received a number of similar complaints. We decided to mobilize resources and worked on a joint-project. Due to the trans-national nature of the scam, with other clients potentially being 'milked' abroad, the matter was investigated by the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA). In November 2007, simultaneous search and arrest operations were carried out in both South Africa and the United Kingdom. SOCA arrested and charged South Africans Sean Dwyane Louw, Paul van Helsdingen (van Eeden's son) and David Waghorne. All are out on bail pending the outcome of their trial. In a search operation conducted in South Africa, numerous exhibits including approximately 50 foreign and local passports were seized in Meyerton.



South African accused Catharina Wilhelmina van Eeden and Janine Natalie Bosch are currently on extended bail pending the finalization of the case. They are facing combined 61 counts of fraud with alternative counts of theft involving an estimated R2 million.

We urge everyone to be on the look-out for similar scams. Many people have lost their life savings, with others relinquishing their jobs at the prospect of brighter future abroad. We encourage everybody to verify information including these “packaged deals” cautiously. Institution of State may where possible be approached before committing one’s resources.

We commend the work done by the Scorpions, SAPS and the UK’s SOCA. The collaborative approach by these agencies confirms an assertion that one of the most effective methods against crime is cooperation.

Kind regards

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