



## FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WARNS THE NPO`s ABOUT ALLEGED CRIMINAL FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES TARGETTING THE SECTOR

Free State Department of Social Development is warning members of the public, and the Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) sector in particular to remain vigilant of a scam that purports to "accredit and convert NPO certificate to NGO certificate to qualify for an international funding worth millions of rands".

The scammers prey on the NPOs desperate for funding and charges them R1 999 for conversion of their NPO certificates to NGO certificates. They have created a fake NGO certificates in which they ask registered NPOs to submit ID copies of members, their proof of residence, tax exemption letter, bank account, bank confirmation letter and a photo of the NPO Director.

The Department of Social Development wish to caution the NPO sector to be wary of fraudsters who are taking advantage of the current situation in our country and want to profit through sophisticated scams.

The Department of Social Development has not contracted any person or agency to convert NPO certificate for international funding. In fact, **there is no such thing as "NGO certificate"**. All organizations which render social services are registered as NPO`s in terms of the NPO Act 71 of 1997. This registration is free of charge.

NPOs that have fallen prey to the scam are advised to contact their banks immediately to freeze their account before the scammers can access their funds and to report such cases at the South African Police Service.

Furthermore NPO`s are advised to be very careful in handing out their information and making payments to people or service providers for government services which are free. In case of enquiries please contact our **Help Desk at: 051: 4070783/ 792.**

Thank you.

.....*M.E Nthongo*.....  
**Ms.M.E NTHONGOA**  
HOD: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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DATE