



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From:** Corporal Wendy McGinnis  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Economic Detectives Warn Internet Users About a New Scam

**Date:** January 31, 2012

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Scam artists continue to change their routine and become more creative in their attempts to convince people to give up their personal information and/or send in their hard earned money. The scammers have once again altered their behavior to illegally obtain money/information. In the example below, the scam artists are targeting people that have already been victims of a scam and allegedly offering them a refund. They claim to be part of the organization that investigates these types of scams. This is yet another creative attempt to entice the victims into sending information, leading the victim to believe they may be able to recover some of their losses. With millions of complaints filed, these scammers know they have a very good chance of contacting someone who has been previously scammed.

They are pretending to be affiliated with "IC3.org-Internet Crime Complaint Center." The e-mail is sent from "[test@islacad.org](mailto:test@islacad.org)" (the .org would make it appear to be legitimate). They claim to be "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs" in South Africa. If you check the domain for that e-mail "islacad.org," it belongs to the "International Spanish Language Academy."

While this e-mail seems harmless, due to the fact they are only requesting a name, address and telephone number, a follow up scam would follow. The victim would likely get a letter and/or phone call discreetly asking for bank account information. The scammer would then use that information to steal from the account. A victim may also be informed that money is waiting to be sent to them; however, they must pay a wire transfer, tax, "duty fee" or one of many other reasons, before receiving their refund. Once the victim sends money, the scammers ask for more and more money until the victim realizes they were scammed.

There are many websites that can educate citizens and warn them before they send any money or give any personal information over the internet. No "legitimate" business should ever ask individuals for any sensitive information in an e-mail form. Citizens should realize that once they send an e-mail, it can possibly be intercepted by internet predators and the sent information can be compromised. The number of e-mail victims in Hernando County has declined over the past several years, but there are still residents who have not been educated about this particular

fraud. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to be cautious and only communicate with individuals whom they know or businesses they have already checked out and confirmed are legitimate businesses.

Remember "if it's too good to be true, it probably is!"

Here is one of the most recent internet scams being circulated:

ATTN: Sir / Madam ,

After receiving several reports from the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) that you have been scammed by fraudsters from Africa especially from Nigeria; we have decided to contact you and Just in case you don't know the (IC3), the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) to serve as a means to receive Internet related criminal complaints and to further research, develop, and refer the criminal complaints to federal, state, local, or international law enforcement and regulatory agencies for any investigation they deem to be appropriate. Their website is <http://www.ic3.gov>

In response to the report, we have concluded our investigation and we have agreed to reimburse you with the sum of Two Hundred and fifty thousand United states dollar only (US\$250,000) via Western Union Money Transfer agent location office in Cape Town, South Africa, which we have made necessary and sufficient arrangements for you to be compensated.

Send the details below to the Western Union agent office via their email address stated below and they shall endeavor to transfer your fund within 48 hours of your response.

Name:...

Address:...

Telephone:...

Government Accredited Licensed Claim Agent.  
Western Union Information and Payment Bureau.  
Email : [wumtoffices@postafiok.hu](mailto:wumtoffices@postafiok.hu)  
Tele/FAX : +27727529100

Please do not respond to emails which asks you to send your username and password for any reason as these are means of hacking into your email account to steal from you.

And also take note that we have never held any scam victims compensation program in the AU region. This is the First-Of-Its-Kind so Do not be deceived!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Makhado (Public Relations Officer) Oversea Communication Department (SARB) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (RSA), South Africa.