

# PROJECT: "+44 SCHEME" SYNDICATE

## URGENT WARNING TO THE PUBLIC!

"Benevolent" UK Cybercriminals Financially Exploiting Vulnerable South Africans.

*SSS is issuing this urgent public warning to raise awareness about a highly sophisticated cyber-crime scheme known as the* "+44 Scheme," which involves a *cyber-criminal syndicate that targets individuals in South Africa.*  This criminal group predominantly uses phone numbers with the country code "+44," which is associated with the United Kingdom, to contact and deceive their victims. We have found some of the +44 numbers to be ported and/or forwarded also to and from Nigeria.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE "+44 SCHEME" CYBERCRIME SYNDICATE:

- The "+44 Scheme" is a malicious and fraudulent operation orchestrated by a cyber-criminal syndicate operating internationally, focusing on targeting individuals in South Africa.
- These criminals employ manipulative tactics to exploit unsuspecting and vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, widows, and those they perceive to have emotional or physical needs.

#### **METHODS OF OPERATION:**

- Use of "+44" Numbers:
  - The cyber-criminal syndicate primarily uses phone numbers with the country code "+44" when contacting their victims.
  - This detail is essential for identifying potential calls associated with the scheme.

#### • Targeting Vulnerable Individuals:

- The criminals behind this syndicate actively scan various online platforms, including social media and dating sites, to identify potential victims.
- They deliberately target those who may be emotionally vulnerable or seeking companionship, making them more susceptible to manipulation.

#### Gaining Trust:

 Using charm and persuasive language, the criminals create a false sense of trust with their victims, portraying themselves as benevolent individuals or offering attractive investment opportunities.

#### • Investment Scams and Fraud:

- One prevalent tactic is to persuade victims to invest in what appears to be a quick-profit scheme.
- They entice their targets with promises of high returns, preying on their financial aspirations. Additionally, they may execute various consumer fraud schemes, soliciting financial assistance from their victims under false pretences.
- Exploiting Personal Information:
  - Disturbingly, these cyber-criminals have demonstrated access to the personal information of individuals, which helps them craft more convincing narratives to deceive their victims.
- Involvement of Local Facilitators:
  - Evidence suggests that this cyber-criminal syndicate may have engaged local accomplices to assist them in executing their fraudulent schemes.

### **PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES:**

#### • Be Sceptical:

 Exercise extreme caution when receiving calls from "+44" numbers, engaging with individuals online who seem too good to be true, or requesting unexpected personal information or financial assistance.

#### • Verify Identities:

- Independently verify the identities of people you encounter online or over the phone, especially if they claim to be from the UK (+44).
- Cross-check information and reach out to official sources if needed.
- Guard Personal Information:
  - Never share sensitive information, such as financial details or identification documents, with anyone you meet online or during phone calls.

#### • Educate the Vulnerable:

- Share this warning with elderly relatives, widows, and friends who may be susceptible to these schemes.
- Knowledge and awareness can prevent them from falling victim to cyber-criminals.

#### **REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:**

- If you receive suspicious calls from "+44" numbers or suspect that you or someone you know has been targeted by this cyber-criminal syndicate or any other cyber-criminal activity, report it immediately to the Mike Bolhuis Cybercrime unit.
  - Email address: <u>https://mikebh.link/CyberTeam</u>
  - Heading: "+44"
  - For attention: Chris Joubert
- Stay vigilant, be cautious, and help us protect our community from these malicious cyber-criminals.
- Together, we can stand united against such devious schemes and safeguard our financial well-being and emotional security.

#### CONTACT MR MIKE BOLHUIS FOR ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS, SECURITY, PROTECTION, OR AN INVESTIGATION IF NEEDED.

#### ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

# You may forward this document and share it with as many people as possible.

Regards,

Mike Bolhuis. Specialist Investigators into Serious Violent & Serious Economic Crimes PSIRA Reg. 1590364/421949 Mobile: +27 82 447 6116 E-mail: <u>mike@mikebolhuis.co.za</u> Fax: 086 585 4924 Follow us on Facebook to view our projects -<u>https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial</u> **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** All potential clients need to be aware that owing to the nature of our work as specialist investigators there are people who have been caught on the wrong side of the law - who are trying to discredit me - Mike Bolhuis and my organisation Specialised Security Services - to get themselves off the hook.

This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

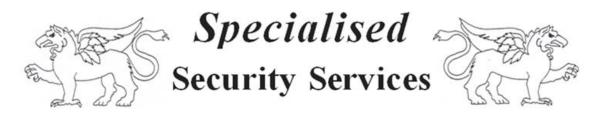
**STANDARD RULES APPLY:** Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

**POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa:** Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <u>https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/</u>

### **SSS TASK TEAM:** <u>https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023</u>

### **SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:**

https://mikebh.link/CyberTeam





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#### Our mailing address is:

Mike Bolhuis Specialised Security Services Po Box 15075 Lynn East Pretoria, Gauteng 0039 South Africa <u>Add us to your address book</u>

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This email was sent to mike@mikebolhuis.co.za

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