



Specialised Security Services



PROJECT:

PETTY THEFT

How much petty theft really pays and the risks it poses to victims!

*One of the most common and frequent crimes
in South Africa is the theft of mobile phones
and laptop computers.*

*In a large percentage of these cases, the
victims are targeted while they are on the
move and distracted from their surroundings.*

The most frequent modus operandi of the petty criminal is to:

- Snatch a mobile phone directly from a victim's hand or vehicle at an intersection.
- Steal a mobile phone directly from a victim's pocket or bag in a crowded area like a shopping mall.
- Steal a laptop computer directly from a victim's vehicle in a crowded parking space.

The public perception of petty theft is that most of these criminals sell the stolen device to the nearest buyer for a few hundred Rands. The victim takes comfort in the fact that the device will be blacklisted and ultimately be useless, not bearing in mind that these stolen devices are worth much more than the average person might realise.

Petty theft might seem petty, but our investigations have revealed otherwise. Most petty criminals who target mobile phones and laptop computers have pre-arranged agreements with certain repair shop owners willing to pay from

R200.00 to R1,500.00 for a device depending on the condition and value of the device.

The willingness of certain individuals and businesses to purchase stolen goods is precisely what fuels and funds the crime spree.

SSS conducted a thorough investigation into how much petty crime really pays, and we found the following:

A street criminal who snatches a Samsung S22 in fair condition will receive about R1,000.00 from his buyer. The money will often be used to fund a drug or alcohol addiction. The buyer does not care about the blacklist status or the locked/unlocked status of the device because the buyer doesn't look at the device as a device but as the value of the parts that he can use to complete repairs on other devices for paying customers.

Let's break it down in parts and see how much the device is worth:

The following calculation was done on a Samsung S22 in fair condition when stripped for spares and used for repair purposes. We made use of 2nd hand repair prices for this test.

SCREEN (OLED PANEL)	R3,000,00
BACK GLASS	R300,00
CAMERA LENS	R250,00
SIM TRAY	R100,00
SIM READER	R450,00
CHARGING BOARD	R550,00
BATTERY	R350,00
MAIN CAMERA UNIT	R650,00
FRONT CAMERA UNIT	R250,00
WIRELESS CHARGING RECEIVER	R250,00
RECEIVER SPEAKER	R250,00
RINGER SPEAKER	R250,00
BOTTOM MICROPHONE	R300,00
TOP MICROPHONE	R250,00
ANTENNA CONNECTOR	R150,00
POWER BUTTON	R250,00
VOLUME BUTTONS	R250,00
MAIN BOARD SMD COMPONENTS	R2,000,00
AMOUNT PAID TO BUY THE STOLEN DEVICE	R1,000,00
TOTAL PROFIT VALUE OF A STOLEN S22 IN FAIR CONDITION	R8,850,00

The unfortunate fact about this is that if you attempted to sell your 2nd hand Samsung S22 in fair condition to an honest buyer, you would get between R7,000.00 and R9,000.00 for the device you purchased and re-sold honestly.

The fact that crime pays cannot be ignored in this instance, and it will not be stopped unless the public refuses to participate and stop buying stolen products simply because it comes at a bargain price.

HOW TO AVOID PURCHASING STOLEN PRODUCTS:

- Always verify device ownership by requesting documentation to prove ownership.
 - Always verify that the device can be unlocked and operated by the seller.
 - Always test the device and be aware of the content on the device.
 - If it is a wiped device, ensure you can complete the setup process and that no FRP (Factory Reset Protection) prevents you from using it.
 - Always test the device with a working sim card and ensure you can make and receive calls on the device.
 - Take your time while testing the device, don't allow the seller to push you into completing the sale.
 - If the seller identifies any unlocking needed, ask him to complete the unlocking while you wait and do not accept any excuses as to why it cannot be done immediately.
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HOW TO AVOID FALLING VICTIM TO DEVICE SNATCHING OR OTHER FORMS OF DEVICE THEFT:

- Always be vigilant of your surroundings, especially in crowded spaces.
 - Always ensure that your vehicle doors are closed and locked before you walk away.
 - When driving in areas with many intersections and regular stop intervals, keep your doors locked and your windows closed.
 - Avoid spending time on your mobile phone whilst driving.
 - Keep your valuable possessions out of plain sight.
 - When walking in a shopping mall, avoid carrying your mobile phone in your back pocket and be vigilant of strangers standing too close to you in a waiting area.
 - When approached by a stranger that engages you in a random conversation, pay attention to possible accomplices that might approach you from other directions.
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Another extremely important thing to keep in mind is the amount of information the average person stores on a mobile phone or personal computer.

The value of the stolen device increases once tech-savvy criminals manage to access the device's storage data.

Within just a few weeks the physical crime turns digital, and the earning potential for the criminals involved increases, while the digital safety of the victim decreases significantly.

THE THEFT OF A MOBILE PHONE OR PERSONAL COMPUTER OPENS THE VICTIMS UP TO THE FOLLOWING RISKS:

- Identity theft.
 - Extortion (especially victims with confidential business information stored on the device).
 - Sextortion (victims with private revealing personal photo or video content on the device).
 - Internet and banking fraud.
 - Email interception.
 - Personal and financial information that could lead to kidnapping or armed robbery.
 - Social account privacy compromises.
 - The compromise of personal contact information of family and business clients and colleagues.
 - The compromise of child-managed accounts on the device could lead to safety risks and the risk of online social embarrassment for the victim's children.
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**DO YOUR BEST TO PREVENT OR MINIMISE
CYBERCRIME RISKS IN THE EVENT OF DEVICE THEFT
BY:**

- Keep your device locked with a secure password.
- Set your device to the shortest possible "screen off" or "auto lock" time possible, in the event of a device being stolen, this assists in preventing the criminal from keeping the device unlocked.
- Always ensure your device is set up with its factory cloud-provided account and the "find my device" feature is turned on. This allows you to erase or reset the device remotely in case of theft or loss.
- Prevent having compromised or highly personal documents, photos or videos saved on your device without locking it in a secure folder with an alternative password.
- Avoid using passwords with your birthday or dates of notable events in your life.
- Set up your social and email account security to have a trusted family member as backup recovery contact.
- This will allow you to change all passwords as soon as possible after a theft.

You may not always be able to avoid a crime from happening to you, but you can always ensure that you are best prepared in case it does.

Our Cybercrime unit specialises in securing devices and the online presence of an individual or business.

Should you feel compromised in any way, contact us at any time.

**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.**

FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO EVERYBODY.

Regards,

Mike Bolhuis
Specialist Investigators into
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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: <https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/>

SSS TASK TEAM:

<https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023>

SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:
<https://mikebh.link/CyberTeam>



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You are receiving this email to inform and keep you up to date with violent and/or economic crimes. This is important to enable you to inform and protect your loved ones and everyone you know.

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