

PROJECT: BLACK FRIDAY WARNING 24 NOVEMBER 2023

Black Friday is notorious for its shopping deals.

It is absolutely imperative to stay alert and minimise the risk of falling prey to Black Friday scams. Refrain from getting caught up in the emotional hype, large crowds, and chaotic shopping environments.

Do not let your emotions and tunnel vision fueled by greed or lack of information make you a target for scammers. When you spot a good deal, take a moment to investigate and reach out to the retailers directly. *Do not panic and overreact to unknown emails, SMSs, or any other form of communication.*

Instead, take a deep breath, exercise caution, research the information carefully, and then respond accordingly.

Staying proactive and vigilant is the key to avoiding Black Friday scams.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- Stick to well-known and trusted retailers, whether online or instore.
- Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true, especially from unfamiliar websites or sellers.
- Make sure that the websites you visit have a secure connection (look for "<u>https://</u>" in the URL) and a padlock icon in the address bar.
- Beware of phishing emails and messages.
 - Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.
 - Legitimate retailers will not ask for sensitive information through email or text.
- When making online purchases, use credit cards or secure payment methods rather than debit cards.
 - Credit cards often offer more consumer protection, and you can dispute unauthorized charges.
- Make sure you update your devices.
 - This helps protect you from vulnerabilities that scammers may exploit.
- Before making a purchase, read reviews and ratings from other customers. This can provide insights into the reliability of the product and the seller.
- Regularly review your bank and credit card statements to identify unauthorised or suspicious transactions.
 - Report discrepancies to your financial institution immediately.
- Stay informed about common scams and frauds.
 - Awareness is a powerful tool in protecting yourself from potential threats.

IN-STORE THEFT:

- Use a secure bag or backpack.
- Limit the number of valuables you carry.
- Be cautious in crowds.
- Secure your purchases.
- Shop with a friend.
- Be discreet with valuable items.
- Pay attention at the checkout.
- Use store security measures.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Trust your instincts.
- Maintain situational awareness both in online and physical retail environments.
- Refrain from excessive immersion in your mobile device or distractions, as it may render you susceptible to scams or theft.
- Should a deal or circumstance raise suspicions, place confidence in your instincts and proceed with caution.
- Do not hesitate to disengage from a transaction or exit a crowded space if you perceive potential risks.

It is imperative to bear in mind that ensuring safety during Black Friday necessitates a judicious blend of comprehensive knowledge, prudence, and attentive awareness of your surroundings.

Visit our Facebook page and our website for other current projects:

- <u>https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial</u>
- http://www.mikebolhuis.co.za

Specialised Security Services invites the public to the Mike Bolhuis Daily Projects WhatsApp Group. We have decided to close the previous WhatsApp channel to avoid any duplication and to centralise our efforts in one place.

This group is important in delivering insights into the latest crime trends, awareness, warnings and the exposure of criminals.

HOW TO JOIN THE MIKE BOLHUIS DAILY PROJECTS WHATSAPP GROUP:

- Simply follow the link to our dedicated WhatsApp group: <u>https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ew1H1dbUR988qoG8gei2sE</u>
- Hit the "FOLLOW" button to ensure you never miss our daily updates.
- Tap on the "BELL" icon to receive instant notifications whenever a new post is placed.
- Please share this with family, friends and colleagues.

ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECTS WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY AND EVERY IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED.

You may forward this document.

Regards,

Mike Bolhuis Specialist Investigators into Serious Violent, Serious Economic Crimes & Serious Cybercrimes 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 https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial

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: https://mikebh.link/sss-task-team

SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:

https://mikebh.link/sss-cyber-team





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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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