



PROJECT:
INCREASE IN
HOLIDAY SCAMS
OWING TO THE
FESTIVE SEASON
AND
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

*In a shocking revelation,
our Cyber Crime Unit at
Specialised Security Services has
uncovered a sophisticated scam
orchestrated by Francois Swart,
operating under the company
"Priority Escape."*

*This scam has left at least 47 victims
in its wake, with a trail of deceit and
fabricated holiday promises.*

Mostly everyone has spotted a scammer on at least one online selling platform by now, but not everyone is prepared for the barrage of new or reinvented scams that surface during the festive season.

SUSPECT DETAILS:

- Name: FRANCOIS SWART
- Date of Birth: 1984-08-10
- Age: 39
- Last known address:
 - 6 Plaisance, 12 Crestwood Drive, Lonehill, Johannesburg, 2191.
 - 25 Kernick Avenue, Melrose North, Johannesburg, 2196.



LIST OF COMPANIES OWNED BY THE SUSPECT:

- Plaisance Cluster Development (200200517308)
- Wholesale Sourcing Co (202247490007)
- Payment Police (202231072207)
- Investmode (202182936507)
- Priority Escapes (201959458407)
- Priority by TBA (201931968507)
- Runway Software (201708237507)
- Priority Business Travel (201507651207)
- Priority Properties (201507278707)
- Priority Travel (201402879207)
- Yalela Trading (200906237623)

In the letter, Adv. Gerrie Nel, head of the unit, set out the simplicity of the case. "The suspect received full payment from the complainants for him to fulfil holiday arrangements on their behalf. The misrepresentation was furthered when the suspect issued documents purporting that the holiday was arranged and paid in full. It has since been confirmed that the documents the complainants received are false," said Nel.

A warrant of arrest has been issued for alleged holiday [scam artist](#), Francois Swart. Swart, the managing director of Priority Escapes, is accused of swindling holidaymakers out of thousands of rands after cancelling international holidays with little to no warning ahead of time.

Representing two complainants in the matter, head of AfriForum's Private Prosecution Unit, advocate Gerrie Nel, said a criminal case was opened against Swart at the Modimolle police station in August after they were allegedly defrauded out of more than R130,000.

"On Thursday, police confirmed in correspondence, that a J50 warrant of arrest had been issued against Swart. We are hopeful that this matter will now receive the attention it deserves and reiterate that society demands that complaints are dealt with speedily and that the principle of 'justice delayed is justice denied' is firmly restored in the criminal justice system. We accept that the police will not have any difficulty to arrest the suspect," Nel said.

In an email to clients, Priority Escapes managing director Francois Swart said the agency was unable to meet its financial obligations.

There was no word on when or if people would be paid back their monies.

IOL interviewed a Durban couple, now living in Dubai, who shared how they paid R63,046.95 for a holiday to the Maldives in September. [The holiday never materialised.](#)

LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FRANCOIS SWART:

- A warrant for Francois Swart's arrest has been issued.
- We urge the public to assist in locating him.
- The case has been officially registered as fraud under Douglasdale CAS 270/08/2023.

**IF YOU HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO
THIS SCAM OR IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE SUSPECT'S WHEREABOUTS,
CONTACT OUR
SSS SPECIALIST INVESTIGATOR:**

MR JD PIENAAR

Contact number: +27 66 377 3301

**DETECTIVE MBOWENI
SOUTH AFRICAN HAWKS**

Contact number: +27 71 351 7469

*Specialised Security Services established
a cybercrime prevention unit specifically
for the purpose of conducting pre-sale
evaluations and background investigations
with the goal of preventing crime.*

*Before making an impulsive decision
by booking an expensive vacation,
do thorough vetting of the person
or company you are dealing with.*

*Otherwise, it is recommended that
you contact us personally for advice.*

NEWS ARTICLE AND POSTS:

- <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-12-20-net-closes-on-holiday-swindler-francois-swart-after-npa-ncc-attach-banking-accounts-arrest-warrant-issued/>
- <https://www.algoafm.co.za/domestic/more-trouble-for-fugitive-travel-agent-francois-swart>
- <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/trouble-mounts-for-alleged-holiday-swindler-francois-swart-as-authorities-go-for-bank-accounts-8bbb74f5-df2b-4f39-b500-69308eca9bd7>
- <https://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-and-courts/warrant-of-arrest-issued-for-disgraced-priority-escapes-managing-director-a9693d98-1b70-4789-814f-6a7769d3280f>
- http://xn--https-ix3b//m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02mA2nZHEziESZgTZUXx13RmrnTbJeVAit6djZsyDz9QNmw5Ewi1PtFLcRX531USssl&id=100044701711832&mibextid=Nif5oz

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

- <https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial>
- <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.

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: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ew1H1dbUR988qoG8gei2sE>
- "JOIN" to ensure you never miss our daily updates.
- You will receive automatic notifications as soon as a new project 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
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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: <https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/>

SSS TASK TEAM:

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

SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:

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



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You are receiving this email to inform and keep you up to date with violent and/or economic crimes. So that you can inform and protect your loved ones and everyone you know.

Our mailing address is:

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Po Box 15075 Lynn East

Pretoria, Gauteng 0039

South Africa

[Add us to your address book](#)

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