

3.2/0285



Republic of Namibia



Department of Police

MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

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PRESS RELEASE

**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
NAMIBIA**

**DATE: 2016-05-30
TIME: 16:00**

KINDLY PUBLISH / BROADCAST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR RESPECTIVE MEDIA

RE : WARNING OF A FUNERAL COVER SCAMS CURRENTLY IN CIRCULATION

The Namibian Police Force Commercial Fraud Syndicate Unit would like to warn the public about the funeral scam currently in circulation targeting the bereaved families.

The scam targets families of deceased persons, what the criminals do is that, they obtain contact details of bereaved families through newspaper articles for notification of deaths or funeral arrangements or either through social networks and they then directly (in an official tone) contact the family members to inform them that their deceased family member was having a funeral cover policy and the money will be pay out to them as beneficiaries.

The criminal would then request for an advance payment of a certain amount of money (usually less than the alleged cover amount) either claiming for it to be an outstanding amount on the funeral policy before the total funeral cover can be paid out to the beneficiaries, or in order to expedite the process to pay out the claim, they would then request for electronic payment or e-wallet.

So far, 29 people have fallen victim to this scam, they have made e-wallet payments ranging from N\$ 100-00 (one hundred N\$) to N\$ 2000-00 (two thousand N\$), without any success of funeral policy cover payouts.

The Police have received 8 complaints from Windhoek, 4 from Outjo, 2 from Rehoboth, 2 from Gobabis, 2 from Omaruru, 2 from Usakos, 2 from Rospinah, 1 from Aranos, 1 from Aroab, 1 from Hentisbay, 1 from Tsumeb, 1 from Oranjemund, 1 from Omahenge, and 1 from Otjiwarongo.

On 14 May 2016, we arrested two suspects in Windhoek in connection with the scam, after we successfully linked them to one case, Salomo Namiseb (33) and Romeo Brandt (27), they appeared at Katutura Magistrate Court on 16 May 2016, and both were released on bail of N\$ 3000-00 each and the case postpone to 21 July 2016.

And while on bail, Romeo Brandt was again arrested on Saturday 28 May 2016, on suspicion of another similar offence, and he appeared at Katutura Magistrate Court on Monday 30 May 2016, he was denied bail and remanded in custody.

Thus, the Namibian Police Force is warning the public members, most particularly bereaved families to avoid making electronic payments to people claiming to be staffs or agents from Insurance Companies, and to be extra cautious when contacted by strange people in connection with their loved ones who passed on.

We are also requesting for any person who may have fallen victim to this scam and have made any payments to contact Sergeant Gerhard Mumbala at 061-2093111 or at cell 0812222942.

Send by mail _____: DEP COMM.

E.I KANGUATJIVI

HEAD: PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION