



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media**

**ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters**

**For immediate release**

**Sunday, 31 May 2020**

### **FRAUDSTERS TARGET UNSUSPECTING SUPPLIERS IN A SCRAMBLE FOR PPE**

The Gauteng Department of Health (GDoH) would like to caution suppliers to be vigilant against fraudsters masquerading as officials of the department with the aim of swindling them of their hard earned money.

The department and its facilities has seen an increase in suppliers that approach it to submit their invoices for payment only to find out then that they were scammed.

Fraudsters have taken advantage of the fact that the global efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in a high demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across countries including, South Africa.

The modus operandi of these scammed is that they send bogus Request for Quote (RFQ) to procure different health equipment to unsuspecting companies under a guise of representing the Department.

They use the Department's name and corporate colours to deceive unsuspecting victims, who engage these individuals thinking they are dealing with health officials.

Some suppliers have been vigilant enough to see through some of these scams and brought the matter to our attention, whilst others have, unfortunately fallen victim and lost some money.

We caution suppliers to verify the authenticity of an RFQ prior to engaging with any individual or organisation that claims to represent the Department. And we advise companies to ensure they have an official and confirmed purchase order before they deliver any goods.

Most of these scams use incorrect contact details and email addresses including names of people. We therefore, plead with suppliers to verify any RFQ authenticity with our supply chain management offices at our health institutions and central office.

It should be noted that quotations are for procurement items below R500 000, whilst items above R500 000 are advertised for a period of 21 days open to all suppliers in good standing to compete.

The Department will not be held accountable for actions that result in companies or individuals being victims of such a scam. Anyone who suspects fraud or suspicious RFQ using the Gauteng Department of Health name and colours, is encouraged to contact the Vuvuzela hotline:

**Tel: 012-664-5568**

**Fax 012- 6640307**

**Fax2mail: 086 726 1681**

**Email: [office@thehotline.co.za](mailto:office@thehotline.co.za)**

**[www.hotline.co.za](http://www.hotline.co.za)**

To register as PPE supplier, please visit [covid19.gauteng.gov.za](http://covid19.gauteng.gov.za) and click on the PPE supplier menu to access the electronic form. It is important that all fields are completed. Should any difficulties be encountered, an enquiry should be send to [covid19\\_ppe@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:covid19_ppe@gauteng.gov.za).

**Ends/**

**For more information contact**

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