

## Media Releases 2009

### South African Revenue Service would like to caution taxpayers against a new refund phishing scam

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**Pretoria, 21 October 2009** – A new phishing scam has been brought to the attention of the South African Revenue Service.

The scam involves emails purportedly from SARS sent to unsuspecting taxpayers informing them that they are due for a refund.

To claim the refund the users are directed to a fictitious website, which has been designed to look like the SARS website.

A message then tells users that “24 hour refund can be made to the listed banks, with logos of FNB, Absa, Standard Bank and Nedbank posted on the page. Users are requested to click on the link of their bank and supply their banking details.

SARS would like to remind taxpayers that they should never divulge personal and banking details to anyone over the telephone, email, fax or internet without establishing the true identity of the recipient.

If a refund is due to a taxpayer SARS automatically pays the refund into the taxpayers account, provided that the details are correct. If banking details are not correct the taxpayer must visit a SARS branch office with supporting documents to correct the bank account details.

The SARS Anti – Corruption and Fraud Hotline is 0800 002870

A print screen of the scam message being sent to email users is shown below:

Tax Refund Notification

After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity, we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of 2,462.50 ZAR. Please submit the tax refund request and allow 6-9 days in order to process it.

Click [Here](#) to submit you tax refund request

Note : A refund can be delayed a variety of reasons, for example submitting invalid records or applying after deadline.

Yours Sincerely

South African Revenue Service.

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Issued by SARS Communications

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