PUBLIC NOTICE

ECDC WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT FRAUDULENT PROPERTY LEASING IN BUTTERWORTH

The Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) is warning members of the public about suspected property rental scams in Butterworth.

ECDC has received reports of individuals allegedly offering its properties for rent using fraudulent lease agreements. The matter has been reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS).

We urge anyone looking to rent an ECDC property to verify the information with us before signing an agreement or making any payment.

If you are approached by someone offering an ECDC property for rent, please:

Contact ECDC directly to confirm that the property is available and that the person offering it is authorised to do so.

Do not pay money into personal bank accounts or make payments without first confirming ECDC's official payment details.

Report anyone you suspect of collecting rent or issuing lease agreements without ECDC's authorisation.

Keep any messages, advertisements, agreements or proof of payment that may assist with an investigation.

If you have already signed a suspicious lease agreement or made a payment, please report the matter to SAPS and through ECDC's independent Fraud and Ethics Hotline.

Please note: A lease agreement issued by someone who is not authorised to act on behalf of ECDC does not give anyone the legal right to occupy an ECDC property.

ECDC is also taking steps to address unlawful occupation of its properties, including pursuing evictions through the courts where necessary.

REPORT SUSPECTED FRAUD

Members of the public who have information about suspected fraudulent activities involving ECDC properties are encouraged to report these incidents through ECDC's independently managed Fraud and Ethics Hotline.

Toll-Free Hotline: 0800 11 66 55

Email: ecdc@behonest.co.za

Online: behonest.co.za

Reports may be made anonymously.

VERIFY BEFORE YOU PAY

Not sure whether a property or lease agreement is legitimate? Check with ECDC first.

For property verification and any other property-related enquiries, please email properties@ecdc.co.za

Issued by the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC)

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