

FSCA Press Release

26 November 2024

The FSCA takes regulatory action against Mr. Mareo Nel

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) has imposed an administrative penalty of R1 million on Mr. Mareo Nel (Nel). The FSCA also debarred Nel for a period of 15 years. The regulatory action against Nel followed an investigation by the FSCA into complaints it received from Nel's clients.

The finding of the FSCA investigation was that Nel breached section 7(1) (a) of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act No. 37 of 2002 (FAIS Act). Nel rendered financial services by offering to trade in forex derivatives on behalf of clients. These financial services required Nel to be authorised as a financial services provider, which he was not.

Nel is accordingly prohibited from:

- providing, or being involved in the provision of, financial services;
- acting as a key person of a financial institution; and
- providing specified financial services to a financial institution, whether under outsourcing arrangements or otherwise.

Members of the public should always check:

- that an entity or individual is authorised by the FSCA to provide financial products and services, including for giving recommendations about how to invest.
- what category of advice the person is registered to provide, as there are instances where companies or people are registered to provide basic advice for a low-risk product and then offer advice on far more complex and risky products.
- that the FSP number utilised by the entity or individual offering financial services matches to name of the FSP on the FSCA database.

Executive Committee:

Commissioner: U. Kamlana | **Deputy Commissioners:** A. Ludin | K. Gibson | F. Badat

One of the following methods may be used to confirm the status and FSP number of a service provider or a person that claims to be an authorised service provider:

- 1) Toll-free number: 0800 110 443
- 2) Online search for authorised financial institution by license category:
<https://www.fsca.co.za/Regulated%20Entities/Pages/List-Regulated-EntitiesPersons.aspx>
- 3) Online search for a financial institution that is an authorised FSP in terms of the FAIS Act: https://www.fsca.co.za/Fais/Search_FSP.htm

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Enquiries: Financial Sector Conduct Authority
Email address: Communications@fsca.co.za
Telephone: 012 422 2919