

# Dead man's identity used to scam UAE residents

Murdered business partner's documents used to dupe 325 people of Dh102m in investment fraud, police say

- By Rayeesa Absal, Staff Reporter
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Abu Dhabi A dead man's identity was allegedly used by a 28-year-old to con at least 325 residents in a fresh Dh102 million investment scam, details of which were revealed by the Abu Dhabi police yesterday.

The Emirati suspect used the identity of his business partner who was murdered in January, according to the police, to defraud money out of his victims.

The murder case has not been concluded yet as it is still under investigation.

"At least 325 people were conned out of Dh102 million in yet another real estate investment scam", Brigadier Omar Mohammad Al Muhairi, the Deputy Director of police operations, said in a statement .

The suspect, who was not identified by the police, has been apprehended. However, he has denied all charges against him.

Following the arrest, about 90 people came forward to report that they were conned by the man. The claims range between Dh7 million to Dh255,000, Brigadier Al Muhairi said.

He added that more people are expected to come forward.

### Cheque issues

The con came into light after a lawyer, working in the country, was made to do some legal work by the suspect and was issued a bad cheque for it. After growing suspicious about the company's activities, the lawyer reported the case to the police, who unearthed the scam. The suspect had a business with the murder victim, of which only 5 per cent of shares belonged to him.

Following the victim's death, the suspect bought shares from three other partners and changed the name of the company. The initials of the company were given as S.M.A.K.K. by the police.

The fake real estate company, which functioned without proper licence, only had a bank balance of Dh900, said Colonel Dr Rashid Mohammad Bu Rasheed, Head of the Organised Crime Section at the Criminal Investigation Department.

He said that the Central bank, Abu Dhabi municipality, Abu Dhabi security exchange and the Dubai stock exchange have been notified about the case for action.

All the bank accounts of the suspect, in the country and overseas, will be frozen, he said.

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