

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATUTORY OMBUD FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES  
PROVIDERS PRETORIA**

**Case Number: FAIS 00117/10-11/GP/3**

**In the matter between**

**NOSIPHIWO JULIANA MGIJIMA**

**Complainant**

**and**

**ORANGE INSURANCE LIMITED**

**Respondent**

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**DETERMINATIONS IN TERMS OF SECTION 14(3) OF THE FINANCIAL  
SERVICES OMBUD SCHEMES ACT NO. 37 OF 2004 (“the FSOS Act”) READ  
WITH SECTION 28(1) OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY AND INTERMEDIARY  
SERVICES ACT 37 OF 2002 (“the FAIS Act”).**

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**A. THE PARTIES**

- [1] The Complainant is Nosiphiwo Juliana Mgijima, an adult female, IT consultant residing at 12085 Nhlapho Street, Extension 4 Kwa-Thema 1575.

[2] The Respondent is Orange Insurance Limited, a registered insurer and financial institution duly incorporated according to the company laws of the Republic of South Africa (registration number 2003/031 307/06) with its registered offices at 22 Koelenhof Road, Northcliff Ext, 19, 1709

## **B. INTRODUCTION**

[3] This is a determination pursuant to a complaint against the Respondent insurance company. The determination is made in terms of Section 14 (3) of the FSOS Act read with Section 28(1) of the FAIS Act. The Respondent insurance company entered into an agreement with a licensed financial service provider known as Fleetsure (Pty) LTD. The Respondent had entered into a binder agreement with Fleetsure in terms of which Fleetsure was authorised to conduct the business of short term insurance for and on behalf of the Respondent. Pursuant to this agreement and for the period 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 Respondent provided short term cover for a number of Fleetsure`s clients.

[4] A dispute arose between respondent and Fleetsure and as a result Respondent failed to pay claims emanating from the short term policies placed by Fleetsure. The Complainant in this case is one of many policyholders who were not paid after claims were made in terms of their policies with the Respondent.

[5] Many policyholders filed a complaint with this Office after the Respondent refused to pay. The Respondent was requested to provide a written response to these complaints. For each of these complaints the Respondent relied on exactly the same response in the form of a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

[6] On the 15th of September 2010, this office made a determination in respect of another of these policyholders namely: Mr Innocent Sithembele Mthethwa. This determination was made under Case **Number: FSOS 06362/08-09/GP 3** and comprehensively dealt with the merits of the dispute between the Respondent and Fleetsure (the Mthethwa determination).

### **C. JURISDICTION**

[7] The Respondent is not a member of a recognised scheme as contemplated in Section 10 & 11 of the Financial Service Ombud Schemes Act 37 of 2004 ("the FSOS Act").

[8] Accordingly and in terms of Section 13 of the FSOS Act, the FAIS Ombud, in its capacity as Statutory Ombud assumes jurisdiction over the Respondent in respect of this complaint.

[9] The FAIS Ombud therefore deals with this complaint in terms of Section 14 of the FSOS Act.

#### **D. THE COMPLAINT**

[10] According to the Complainant, the following are the material aspects of her complaint:

10.1 The Complainant alleges that the Respondent failed to honour a claim arising out of an accident involving the complainant's motor vehicle, a 2008 Mazda 2 1.3, Dynamic bearing registration number and letters EBH 550 GP.

10.2 On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2008, the Complainant entered into a Comprehensive short term insurance policy contract with the Respondent through Inbrocon Insurance Brokers, the principal Intermediary and a licensed Financial Service Provider under license number: 9842.

10.3 The Complainant was furnished with a policy number: INBF100866, which was issued by the Respondent together with a schedule to the contract of insurance. The effective date for the complainant's cover was the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2008. As will appear in this



determination, Inbrocon Insurance Brokers' clients were part of the Fleetsure cell.

10.4 On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 the Complainant's vehicle was involved in an accident, and she duly submitted a claim through Inbrocon Insurance Brokers.

10.5 On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2008, the Respondent accepted the claim and duly issued an Agreement of Loss to settle the Complainant's claim amounting to R132 372.99. This was duly signed by the Complainant and submitted through her broker. A copy of the agreement of loss is annexed marked "A"

10.6. After the Complainant signed the agreement of loss, she was told by the Respondent that payments will be made within 14 working days; meanwhile they gave her a courtesy vehicle. She used the vehicle until its period of 31days lapsed then she had to return the vehicle.

10.7. The Complainant made several follow-ups in contacting the respondent without success. To date, the Respondent has failed to honour the complainant`s claim.

10.8 The Complainant wants the Respondent to honour the claim by paying her claim according to the policy agreement. Since the Complainant's vehicle was a write-off, the Complainant has been left stranded without any means of transport.

10.9 On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2010, the Complainant referred her complaint to the FAIS Ombud for further investigation and necessary action.

10.10 It is not in dispute that the complainant entered into a contract of insurance in terms of which she comprehensively insured her motor vehicle. The schedule to the policy that was issued to the complainant records the respondent as the insurer. Nor is it in dispute that after the complainant purchased the policy the insured vehicle was involved in an accident. The respondent does not dispute that it then received a claim from the complainant policyholder.

## **E. THE RESPONSE FROM RESPONDENT**

[11] As the complaint could not be resolved between the parties, it proceeded to investigation at which point the Respondent was requested to submit a

reply to the allegations, taking into account the requirements of the FAIS Act.

- 11.1 The respondent chose not to deal with this claim specifically but decided to treat this claim together with other similar claims, all of which represent policies issued through Fleetsure, with reference to a letter dated 17 February 2010.

The respondent's response can be summarised as follows:

- 11.2. The Complainant was at all times factually insured by Zurich Risk Financing SA Limited, previously known as SA Eagle Insurance Company ("Zurich").

- 11.3 The Respondent further contends that Ms Ilse Becker trading as Fleetsure Insurance had attempted to transfer her Fleetsure portfolio from Zurich to the Respondent.

- 11.4 The Respondent disputes the validity of the above mentioned transfer by Ms Ilse Becker.

11.5 The Respondent further contends that Ms Becker and Zurich failed to comply with statutory requirements prescribed for intended transfer of the Fleetsure Book of Business from Zurich to the Respondent, and as such concludes that the intended transfer was void and of no force and effect.

11.6 The Respondent further avers that the liability as insurer remained with Zurich and not with them.

11.7 According to the Respondent Fleetsure was not authorised to use its logo on documentation and correspondence.

11.8 This Office, according to the Respondent, cannot deal with the complaints as the question of its liability is subject to an inspection by the Financial Services Board (FSB). The Respondent claimed that the whole matter was *sub-judice* and that any action on the part of this Office will be premature. The Respondent requested that this Office stay proceedings pending the outcome of the FSB inspection.

11.9 The reason for non-payment is attributed to a dispute between respondent, Fleetsure and Zurich. This dispute was the subject of



an investigation by the Financial Services Board. The respondent insisted on not dealing with this complaint as an individual complaint and stated that the matter was *sub judice* in the hands of the FSB.

- 11.10 The respondent states that there was no valid contract of insurance as between itself and the complainant. According to the respondent the complainant was a client of Fleetsure and/or one of the latter's brokers. The Respondent submits that it was not at risk as Fleetsure was not authorised to issue policies on its behalf and that it was in any event not aware of the fact that Fleetsure was conducting business on its behalf.

The defences raised by the Respondent will be dealt with in this determination.

## **F. Findings**

- [12] For reasons stated in Mthethwa's case, I find that the Respondent was at risk and is liable to pay the Complainant in terms of the contract of insurance.

## **G. Conclusion**

[13] On the undisputed facts before this Office the following conclusions are made:

- 13.1. The respondent as an insurer was at risk in terms of the policy purchased by the complainant.
- 13.2. Complainant's policy was effected during the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.
- 13.3. The respondent has provided no legitimate basis in law to avoid paying the complainant's claim.
- 13.4. The complaint is upheld and the respondent is ordered to pay the Complainant's claim.

#### **H. Quantum**

[14] In terms of the agreement of loss, the complainant agreed to accept the amount of R 132,372.99 in settlement of her claim.

- 14.1 Accordingly an order will be made that Respondent pay to complainant an amount of R 132,372.99
- 14.2 The loss agreement was signed on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The complainant expected the amount to be paid by the end of December 2008. Accordingly, I intend to make an order that interest be paid on this amount from the 01<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 to date of payment.

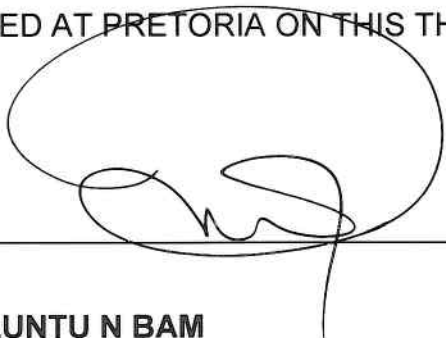
## I. ORDER

I make the following order:

The complaint is upheld.

1. The respondent is ordered to pay to the complainant:
  - 1.1 The amount of R 132,372.99
  - 1.2 Interest on the amount of R132, 372.99 at the rate of 15, 5% per annum from the 01<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 to date of payment.
2. Respondent is ordered to pay the case fee of R1000, 00 to this office within thirty (30) days of date of this determination.

DATED AT PRETORIA ON THIS THE 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2011.



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**NOLUNTU N BAM**

**OMBUD FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS**

