



Suits, ties and cybercrime

Over the last few decades, we have witnessed a shift from paper-based communication to digital-based! Nearly everything can be accomplished using a digital platform. There are over 1 Billion websites in the world and approximately 14 Billion devices connected to the internet. Not only have we turned towards a digital means of communication, but also for banking, shopping, socialising and business. Research shows that several hours are spent on both desktop and mobile devices each day. Although the benefits and potentials are endless, the door is opened for new types of risks and threats. It is estimated that cyber-related offences are escalating and currently exceed a value in excess of **R1 Billion** annually, with as many as 1 million people falling victim to cyber crime every day. What makes this type of crime so prevalent and so dangerous is that at the touch of a button, you can lose money, information, control and even your identity.

The Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill was introduced by the South African government and has been made available for comment. It is still uncertain how this 128 page document will be received and implemented in South Africa, however, having the legislation drafted is already one step in the right direction in terms of taking cyber crimes more seriously. Our cyber law experts who have done extensive research on cyber crimes and electronic communications will facilitate the following training courses throughout the year:

Cyber law in South Africa and Electronic Communications and Transactions Act (including an in-depth discussion on electronic signatures)