



15 September 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Crime Alert: Lucky Draw Scam

Over the past months, there had been numerous cases where foreign workers had fallen prey to lottery scams. These scams are designed to dupe victims into parting with their money. Generally, the ruse employed by tricksters involved asking the victims to open an internet banking account to facilitate the transfer of the winnings.

Modus Operandi

2. The trickster would send a text message using Short Message Service ("SMS") to handphones of the victims to congratulate him/her for winning a cash prize in a lucky draw held by a well-known company. The trickster will usually use the following steps to mislead the victim:

Over the Handphone

- i. The SMS will direct the victim to contact the company's call centre with a foreign country code (Example, '+62') for claiming details;
- ii. When the victim calls the number, the trickster would congratulate the victim in winning the lucky draw and instruct the victim to open a local bank account (if he does not already have one) to facilitate the transfer of the prize money;
- iii. Upon opening the banking account, the victim may be asked to deposit more funds to facilitate the transfer of the prize money;
- iv. The victim would then be instructed to proceed to the nearest ATM to activate his Internet Banking details;

At the ATM

- v. The trickster would direct the victim to activate his internet banking account using the ATM.

- vi. The trickster will then ask the victim to reveal his Internet Banking User ID, Access Code and Personal Identification Number (PIN) to the trickster on the pretext of transferring the winnings into the victim's account;
- vii. With the given information, the trickster will proceed to log into victim's account and withdraw whatever money there is in the account.

Crime Prevention Measures

3. Foreign workers are advised to be aware of these scams and adopt the following measures to prevent falling victim:

- i. Ignore notifications of a win in a foreign lottery especially when there is no purchase of a lottery ticket.
- ii. Do not give your Internet Banking User ID and PIN information to anyone.
- iii. Do not take instructions on phone to change User ID and/or PIN.
- iv. Do not open a bank account to facilitate such requests.
- v. Do not to make any advanced payment to claim any prize money.
- vi. Do not to reply to such letters, e-mails, SMSes and calls.
- vii. Be wary of get-rich-quick offers. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it is probably a scam.

4. Those who receive such offers may wish to pass on the information, letters or emails to the Police at a Neighbourhood Police Centre. You may also call the **Police hotline** at **1800 – 255 0000** or **'999'** if urgent Police assistance is required.

Thank you and best regards,



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Poh Lye Hin
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National Crime Prevention Council