

PRESS RELEASE

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WARNING ON FRAUDULENT SCHEMES THROUGH SMS OR "TEXT SCAMS"

HAGATÑA – The Consulate General of the Philippines wishes to warn the public of a criminal scheme being employed by some unscrupulous persons, who defraud unsuspecting individuals through short messaging service (SMS) or text messaging.

These swindlers use fictitious names or pose as government officials and operate by sending SMS/text messages informing people of winning millions of pesos in a raffle draw purportedly sponsored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) or other institutions.

If the victim responds positively to their message, they ask the victim to remit money or to deposit a certain amount in designated bank accounts, supposedly for the payment of tax and other fees as a precondition to getting the alleged prize. Once the deposit/remittance is made, the swindlers immediately withdraw/claim the money and the victim will no longer hear from the swindlers again.

Persons receiving such text messages or have been victimized by this fraudulent scheme are advised to report the matter immediately to the Anti-Money Laundering Council Secretariat, 5/F EDPC Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila, at telephone numbers (632) 302-3982 and (632) 524-7011 loc. 2372 or the Philippine Consulate General at telephone number 646-4620.

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