



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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NY PCG WARNS THE PUBLIC ANEW AGAINST TEXT SCAMS

NEW YORK – The Philippine Consulate General warns the public of scams sent through text message by deceitful individuals preying on Filipinos overseas.

This is not the first time unscrupulous personalities have sought to take advantage of unsuspecting Filipinos overseas. In 2005, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas sent out a warning against text scams, which was re-issued on 25 January 2008. The modus operandi of text scammers are as follows:

- They use fictitious names or pose as government officials
- They send fraudulent text messages to their victims saying that their mobile phone numbers won in a raffle allegedly sponsored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) or other institutions, most recently the fictitious GMA Charity Foundation .
- They tell their victims that to be able to claim their alleged prize, they should first send a certain amount for payment of tax or fees through a designated bank account or a remittance company.
- They also require their victims to send prepaid call card (load) to the scammers' prepaid mobile phone numbers.
- Once the money or prepaid call card is received, the victims would no longer be able to get in touch with them again.

The Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas advises that incidents similar to the above modus operandi should be reported immediately to the Anti-Money Laundering Council Secretariat, 5/F, EDPC Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila, Tel: 302-3982 and 524-7011 local 2372.

A Filipino national in Rome was recently victimized, receiving a series of text messages on 18 February 2008. The victim had already sent the activation codes for the phone cards requested by the time he went to the Philippine Embassy in Rome. Thankfully, he had not yet gone to the bank to make a deposit.

The Philippine Consulate General New York cautions Filipinos to be vigilant and asks the community to warn others of these scams.