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Sakke- Theft Scams Reported

Guam- The Office of the Attorney Generals' Consumer Protection Unit has seen an increase of unsuspecting victims fall prey to identity fraud and e-mail scams. The following cases have been reported to our office:

- A consumer was contacted by Yuan Don of Yuan Dong Technology Group in Hong Kong notifying her that she had won \$150,000 and that in order to claim her prize; she had to send in \$9,000 for taxes. When the consumer told the caller she did not have \$9,000 to send in, the caller asked for \$7,000, then \$3,000 and finally \$1,000 or to sign a promissory note to pay for the taxes. The consumer was then asked for her bank account number and bank information so that her winnings could be wired into her account.
- A small business owner received an email from Malam Amidu of the Hot Lotto Sizzler Africa Head Office stating that she had won \$1.5million dollars. The email stated that because she was active online, her email address was among one of 150 selected to be the recipient of the prize money. She was instructed to make contact via the information given below:

Office: Hot Lotto Sizzler Africa Head Office

Contact person name: Mr. Salifou Sanousi, Director of Operation, Hot Lotto Sizzler, Ouagadougou Burkina Faso, West Africa

Email: sizzlerpaymentoffice@terra.com

- A consumer received a phone call from an unknown person inviting him to a party sponsored by Asia Pacific Travel at Tagachang Beach, Yona. The gentleman attended the party but did not stay long. Two days later, an unidentified person called the consumer saying that he had won \$150,000 and in order to claim the prize he had to contact Sean from Asia Pacific Travel claims department in Malaysia at phone number 60172793051. The consumer then contacted Sean who informed him that in order to redeem his winnings, he had to send \$2,250.

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Another phone call was made to the consumer by a man who identified himself as Raymond Chong, an Operations Manager for a finance institute in Hong Kong instructing the consumer that he had a week to claim his prize otherwise it would be voided.

- Our Office received an email from a Ms. Maria Bongii Ntuli who claims to be the Deputy Minister of Social Development in South Africa. She feigns illness from cancer and a stroke and wrote she had just six months to live. She alleges that she and her deceased husband deposited \$30.5million into a financial institution in South Africa and would like to donate the money to a Christian individual or individuals who will carry out God's divine work. She further requests to contact her at her email address: mariabongii@w.cn to be the benefactor of the \$30.5 million. The following phone number was also listed: +27785380932.

We would like to urge the public not to send any money or give out any personal information such as name, date of birth, social security numbers and bank account information.

Any personal information requested, which may seem harmless to provide, opens the door to identity theft that could involve criminal and financial crimes. Consumers who are contacted by any of the aforementioned agencies are asked to report any calls or emails to Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Advocate for the Office of The Attorney General at 475-332 ext. 171 or to email the information to: balvarez@guamattorneygeneral.com

"I cannot stress this point more; if it sounds too good to be true, it is. You are strongly advised not to comply with such solicitations; it could put you in a terrible financial situation. Hang up immediately or delete emails that sound too good to be true..... The names of the people and companies may change, but the scam is the same: they want to steal your money or your identity so they can steal your money," said Attorney General Rapadas.

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