

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2012
Contact: 475-3324 ext.5020

Impersonator Poses as OAG Consumer Unit Advocate

Email address balvarez.guamattorneygeneral@ymail.com used to “authenticate” money wire transfers

The sakke scams, or identity theft scams that plague our island has morphed yet again, this time impersonating the advocate who aids the community in reporting and filing these scams.

A pseudo email was sent yesterday, Tuesday, May 22, 2012, from the address balvarez.guamattorneygeneral@ymail.com to a local consumer claiming that Bernie Alvarez, the Consumer Claims Unit Advocate of the OAG, “contacted Bank of America (BOA) and confirmed that....the consumer’s funds, worth over \$15million, are secured in the custody of BOA.” It further stated that the consumer should immediately send their bank account details and the transfer charges of \$700.

“This is clearly a very clever scam impersonating Ms. Alvarez and the email address of our Office. The Consumer Claims Unit of the OAG, or any other individual or unit within the Office for that matter, does not ever give endorsements to lotteries, sweepstakes or promotions whatsoever,” said Carlina Charfauros, the spokesperson for the AG’s office.

Local residents are urged to look carefully at email addresses.

“Scam artists will use parts or all of a real email address and add on to it as they did to mine,” stated Alvarez.

“If you notice, they used my work email address and added ‘ymail.com’ to the end; this is not my official email address.”

Last week, a similar scam was setup in that they used names and email addresses of well known individuals and companies.

“These scams are morphing and will continue to change; just a week ago there was an email scam circulating that mentions the governor and a prominent businessman’s name,” said Attorney General Rapadas.

“I cannot reiterate this enough, the names and companies will change, but the scam is still the same; they want to steal your identity so they can steal your money,” he continued.

Consumers, local banks and other businesses are asked to report any such emails to:
Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Advocate for the Office of the Attorney General at 475-3324 ext. 3340 or to email the information to: balvarez@guamattorneygeneral.com

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