

Financial Services Commission Mauritius

Warning against Unsolicited Offers - Freehold Land

The Financial Services Commission, Mauritius ("FSC") would like to alert members of the public of a phishing email from a certain Rena Chang ("Chang"). The latter claims to be looking for a buyer for a freehold land of 47 acres which allegedly belongs to GLC. He claims that the selling price of the land stands at RM 150 million which is below the original market price and is soliciting people to find a buyer for which a commission of RM 5 million will be earned.

Phishing refers to emails that seem to emanate from legitimate businesses, normally banks and other financial institutions or reputable organisations that trick people into disclosing their personal and banking information. These scammers are generally looking for information like your bank account numbers, passwords and/or credit card numbers, which they will use for their own benefit.

The FSC urges members of the public to exercise appropriate caution in respect of such emails and to avoid providing details of their bank accounts, credit card numbers, etc in their own interest.

The following could be used as a guideline to protect yourself from phishing scams:

- Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.
- Do not open suspicious or unsolicited emails (spam)—ignore them.
- Do not click on any links in a spam email or open any files attached to them.
- Never call a telephone number that you see in a spam email or SMS.
- If you want to access an internet account website, use a bookmarked link or type the address in yourself—NEVER follow a link in an email.
- Check the website address carefully. Scammers often set up fake websites with very similar addresses.
- Never enter your personal, credit card or online account information on a website if you are not certain it is genuine.
- Never send your personal, credit card or online account details through an email.

You may also wish to refer to the <u>Social Media and Fraud Alert</u> issued by the FSC on 11 July 2013.

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