



Financial Services Commission
Mauritius

Investor Alert – Social media and Fraud

In line with its objectives and functions, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) is issuing this Investor Alert in order for members of the public to be aware of fraudulent schemes that may involve social media.

Scams can come in different forms - most of them evolving over time to make it even harder to detect the warning signs. Financial scams can look and sound believable, with smooth-talking salespeople, slick websites or sophisticated brochures and prospectuses.

Mauritian residents are increasingly turning to social media, including Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, LinkedIn and other online networks for information about investing or dealing in financial products.

While we acknowledge that social media may provide useful information to potential investors, it is our duty to warn you that social media may also present opportunities for fraudsters. If you notice a new post on your wall or receive bulk e-mails or any other unsolicited information, you should exercise extreme caution.

The FSC is warning members of the public against unrealistic proposals made by some companies/individuals on the social media. The FSC recommends investors and members of the public not to respond to these invitations nor pass on these proposals to others prior to seeking appropriate advice.

How to protect yourself?

Only invest your money with financial institutions that are authorised and/or licensed to operate.

You can refer to the websites of the FSC (www.fscmauritius.org) and that of the Bank of Mauritius (www.bom.mu) which provide lists of all duly licensed entities.

Be very careful when you come across investment opportunities that:

- Offer unrealistically high returns;
- promise guaranteed returns;
- are risk free (guaranteed no risks)
- pressure you to buy right now.

Consider getting independent professional advice before making any investment decision.

The FSC reminds members of the public to use extreme caution when using social media either for investment or for any other financial activities.

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