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CITIZEN CORNER

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AVOID THE CHOPPING BLOCK: THE LOTTERY SCAM ACT AND YOU

Since its emergence in the early 2000s, lottery scamming, scamming or “chopping” has become prevalent across Jamaica. In 2013, the **Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) & (Special Provisions) Act**, also known as the **Lottery Scam Act** was passed to address this concern. Based on the Act, those found guilty of chopping or scamming will be sentenced to prison and even have some property such as money seized!

How can one avoid being on the “chopping” block for scamming?

Here are suggestions on how we can safeguard ourselves from being linked to scamming:

Protect Your Banking Information-

You shouldn't give out your personal banking details easily. Don't allow any banking transactions through your account, especially if large sums of money are involved that you cannot justify.

Keep Track of Your Transactions-

Try to keep record of legitimate transactions done by you via your account, whether online or in cash. Records may be physical or online receipts.



Question the Source of Funding of Gifts Received-

Never accept any gift if you may be even a little suspicious of where the money came from to get it. This is especially if the person giving the gift is known to be directly or indirectly involved in scamming. Gifts may be motor vehicles, houses, jewellery or electronic Devices, such as phones, to name a few.

Avoid Bad Company

Try to avoid associating with persons linked to scamming, as it could save your life and also from prison.

Cooperate with the Authorities

Numerous lottery scams have been unreported due to victims being embarrassed. **The Lottery Scam Task Force** partners with entities such as the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) and specialised teams in the JCF in order to disrupt lottery scamming activities in Jamaica.

Conclusion

We cannot leave the JCF and other entities to tackle lottery scamming alone. Every citizen can play a part in helping to address this issue for the safety and security of us all.



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