

Beware of Nigerian Letter Fraud

Have you ever received an unsolicited email from a person who promises to be in a position to give you a large sum of money, usually in the millions of dollars, if only you would assist him (or her) with details of your bank account?

Well, if you have (and most people with email addresses have) then you have had contact with what has for a long time been referred to as Nigerian letter fraud or scam.

The Nigerian letter fraud has been around since the 1970's when it was delivered by snail mail. These days however, emails have been the mode of delivery of choice by these fraudsters.

In its simpler form, a genuine sounding person will send you an unsolicited email, giving you an authentic sounding tale of having come across some money but due to some difficulty, that person is unable to access it but will be able to reward you with up to 50% of the proceeds, usually in the millions of dollars, if only you would disclose your contacts and the particulars of your bank account. If you oblige, then the fraudster empties your bank account.

The person sending the letter or email (which mostly contains grammatical and spelling errors) has sometimes come across as a civil servant claiming to be a member of a contract awards committee, as a professional (doctor, lawyer), a woman (wife of a President who has passed away) and usually from Nigeria or other West African country where corruption is rife with little or no commitment from their Governments to stop it.

The fraudster may claim to have knowledge of the existence of a large sum of money, which she or he is unable to get out of the country due to foreign exchange restrictions, corruption or other plausible reason. Your help is requested and you shall get up to 50% of the amount for your minimal effort. This percentage works out to a good figure to enable many victims retire comfortably. Many Westerners are duped not only because the story sounds true but also because of the perception in developed countries of the high levels of corruption in developing countries.

The fraudster will also state that the victim will not be at risk in any way and all documentation shall be destroyed. The email shall normally portray a great sense of urgency on the victim to act quickly. In some instances, the fraudster may request you to forward some money to assist in transferring the money out of the country. You can be sure that you shall never see this money again. Indeed, once you reveal your bank account number, account name and the name and address of your bank, then fraudster shall be able to empty your bank account.

You should always remember that assisting anybody to attain what may be illegal money is a crime. Never reply to such an email if you ever receive it. Always delete the email and destroy any hard copy. Further, you should never accept an invitation to speak and meet with such a person. Contact the police immediately should you receive such an

invitation. You put yourself at the risk of being kidnapped and a ransom requested from your family in exchange for your freedom.

As an example, kindly the email below received by NCRWCC only this month, so that you never become the next victim of Nigerian letter fraud.

Article submitted by Researchers at the National Centre for Research on White Collar Crime , 2005 – Nairobi, Kenya

Email: ncrwcc@gmail.com



Date: Tue, 5 Apr 2005 15:09:36 +0200
To:
Subject: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
From: "dansuki" <dansuki@kayafmmail.co.za>
CC:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

LAGOS-NIGERIA

PHONE 234-8030774694.

FAX:234-1-7590800
PLEASE REPLY TO THESE BOXES.
dansuki4@indiatimes.com.
dasukione@zipmail.com.br

DEAR SIR,

WE WRITE THIS LETTER WHICH I PRAY SHOULD BE URGENTLY REPLIED.

I GOT YOUR CONTACT DURING MY YEAR OF SERVICE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I DR
DANSUKI DAN , PRESENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FINANCE IN THE FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HEADQUARTERS , LAGOS NIGERIA

I AM IN NEED OF YOUR GENUINE ASSISTANT AND TRUST BECAUSE AS A TOP OFFICIAL
OF RULING GOVERNMENT , I WANT TO SAFE GUARD MY INTEREST IN YOUR COUNTRY
BEFORE THE END OF THE TENURE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, MORE ALSO WE AS CIVIL
SERVANT ARE FORBIDDEN TO OWN OR OPERATE ACCOUNT HENCE A FOREIGNER IS
NEEDED.

I PRESENTLY HAVE AN OVER INVOLVED CONTRACT PAYMENT OF USD38.5M (THIRTY-
EIGHT FIVE HUNDREN THOUSAND US DOLLAR) WHICH HAS REMAIN UNCLAIMED SINCE
1997. MY SUPERIOR IN THIS PRESENDENCY HAVE MANDATE ME TO PRESENT A
NONEST FOREIGNER WHO CAN CONVENIENTLY PROJECT THIS FUND FOR US IN HIS
BANK ACCOUNT IN HIS COUNTRY. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN BE OF GREAT

ASSISTANCE TO US. THIS IS WHY I AM CONTACTING YOU AND ALSO REQUESTING FOR YOUR DISCRETION, MATURITY AND CO-OPERATION.

MY SUPERIORS HAS COMPLETED ALL ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS TO SEE THAT THIS FUND RECEIVES ALL THE REQUEST APPROVALS IMMEDIATELY YOU GIVE ME THE GO AHEAD.

ALL I NEED FROM YOU ARE THE FOLLOWING.

(1) BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

(2) NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF YOUR NORNINATED WITH TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

(3) YOUR PRIVATE TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS FOR EASY COMMUNICATION BE! TWEEN US.

I SHALL SEND YOU BY FAX DETAIL OF THE CONTRACT EXECUTED SOON AFTER I RECEIVE YOUR FAX MESSAGE. YOU WILL BE ENTITLED TO 30% FO THE TOTAL FUND IMMEDIATELY WE ARRIVE YOUR COUNTRY FOR SHARING. 10% WILL COVER ALL MISCALLANEOUS EXPENSES WE SHALL DO BOTH HERE AND IN YOUR COUNTRY. PLEASE ENDEAVOUR TO > REACH ME FOR MORE DETAIL. DO NOT HESITATE TO SEND ME A FAX MESSAGE AND CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I SINCERELY COUNT ON YOUR ASSISTANCE. REMEMBER .I AM HIGHLY PLACED OFFICIAL AND EXPECT ABSOLUTE DISCRETION FROM YOU IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR HONOUR FROM FOREIGN JOURNALIST WHO SEEK TO DESTROY MEMBER OF OUR RULING CIVILIAN GORVERNMENT

THIS TRANSACTION IS HITCH-FREE, SO YOU NEED NOT ENTERTAIN ANY FEAR AT ALL.

I EXPECT YOUR REPLY IMMEDIATELY.
BEST REGARDS,

DR DANSUKI DAN