

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BY Atty. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "...Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble..." (Psalm 119:165, the Holy Bible).

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FILIPINOS NOW "THICK-FACED" AT DUPING FELLOW FILIPINOS: It has become highly noticeable that, nowadays, many Filipinos have become so "thick-faced" or shameless and no longer have any qualms in defrauding their fellow Filipinos just so they can earn a few pesos.

This is attested to by messages from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) which have been flooding the cellphones of many of our countrymen since the start of September 2017. The NTC says that there are, again, many text messages being circulated by unscrupulous persons which say that the recipients of the text messages won hundreds of thousands of pesos in a raffle contest which they did not participate in, in the first place.

The latest text messages in this scam say that the cellphone users won P500,000.00 from the PAGCOR, or the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, and that this amount could be received from the PAGCOR Chairman. If the cellphone users are duped into believing the text scam, they would then be asked to shell out money, allegedly to expedite the release of the raffle prize.

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SCAM IN TEXT MESSAGES ALREADY WIDESPREAD EVEN LONG BEFORE: I already wrote

about this kind of a scam before, in this column. For the benefit of everyone, here are parts of that column, once again: "Life must be very hard nowadays that many Filipinos seem to be having no other option to earn money but to dupe, or perpetrate fraud, or even outrightly commit robbery, against their fellow citizens.

"The latest case in point is the email circulating in the Internet saying that jobs are available from the Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Fraserhealth, or City Adventist Hospital, all in the US.

"Administrator Hans Cacdac of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said that his office received a clarification that the email is spurious or fraudulent, because these three companies are all denying they have available jobs for anyone. What is worse, however, is that the email is asking all interested job seekers to pay P3,000 to P5,000 as application fee, so they could already be deployed right away.

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GREED, ROOT OF SCAMS BY FILIPINOS AGAINST FILIPINOS: "In the same vein, there are also a lot of other emails and cellular phone text messages notifying the addressees and the cellphone owners that they have been chosen to receive huge amounts of money, in dollars and pounds yet, or that they won millions of pesos, either through a raffle or a lottery of some sort.

"Yet, the email addressees and the cellphone owners never at any point joined any raffle or purchased any lottery ticket. Surprisingly, however, many are still enticed to respond, and, much to their regret, later on find out that they were duped into sending either cellular phone loads or money supposedly to be used for processing the prizes to be given to them.

"The key here is this: those doing these scams know that many Filipinos are too greedy for sudden riches, and could therefore be easily victimized. Consequently, if we don't want to be victimized, we should not even pay any attention to anything that says we won or are entitled to so much money..."

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