



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, Quezon City



ITMS(IS)-230221-0001

MEMORANDUM

FOR : See Distribution
FROM : AD, ITMS
SUBJECT : **Cybersecurity Advisory | Romance Scam**
DATE : February 21, 2023

1. Reference: <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/romance-scams>.

2. Online dating apps and websites are becoming more popular, and since February is the month of love, it is critical that netizens understand how to protect themselves in the digital dating space. While online dating and social media platforms have become popular tools for finding love and friendship, they have also become popular tools for romance scammers.

3. Romance scams, also known as dating scams, occur when fraudsters use the anonymity provided by social media platforms to defraud those looking for love or friendship into giving them money, personal information, or gifts.

4. The scammers' goal is to establish a relationship with their victims as quickly as possible, endearing themselves to them in order to gain their trust.

5. Relative to the above, hereunder are some tips on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from romance scams:

- a. **Limit what you share and post in social media applications.** Scammers can use social media and dating sites to better understand you;
- b. **Research the person's photo and profile using online searches** to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere;
- c. **Go slowly and ask lots of questions.** Scammers will often try to get you to move quickly;
- d. **Protect your personal information.** Scammers may ask for private financial information or for inappropriate photos;

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- e. **Be cautious if you haven't met in person.** If they keep promising to meet you face to face but also seems to have an excuse to cancel, it should raise a red flag; and
 - f. **Don't send them money.** Never send funds to someone you have only communicated online.
6. You may visit <https://itms.pnp.gov.ph> to download learning materials regarding cybersecurity under the Computer Security Tab. Should you have any inquiries or concerns, you may contact ISSD at 8723-0401 local 6546 or email us at issd.itms@pnp.gov.ph
7. For widest dissemination.


JERICHT ROYALES
Police Colonel 

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