



PRESS RELEASE

BEWARE AND STAY ALERT OF FAKE NEWS GENERATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) would like to remind the public to remain cautious of videos generated or manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI), which may appear realistic and legitimate but contain false or misleading information.
2. This warning follows the circulation of a fraudulent video that misuses BDCB's name and impersonates a senior government official to falsely claim that BDCB is promoting or endorsing an investment scheme. BDCB wishes to clarify that, as the regulator of Brunei Darussalam's financial sector, it does not offer financial products or services to the public, nor does it promote or endorse any investment scheme or platform.
3. Such videos are often circulated on social media and may use the identities, images or voices of government authorities and public figures to gain the public's trust. They may also feature sensational claims or promises of high returns to deceive individuals into making payments, disclosing personal or financial information, or accessing fraudulent websites or applications.
4. In this regard, BDCB strongly advises members of the public to remain vigilant and exercise caution by:

a. Verifying the source

Do not immediately trust or share videos and other content circulated through social media. Always verify whether the information has been published through BDCB's official website or official social media accounts. When in doubt, refer to BDCB's official channels or contact BDCB directly.

b. Being wary of impersonation and sensational claims

Be cautious of videos that use the names, images or voices of senior government officials, public figures or representatives of BDCB to promote investment opportunities. Members of the public should also be wary of claims promising high or guaranteed returns within a short period of time.

c. Avoiding unlicensed entities

Only deal with financial institutions and entities licensed or regulated by BDCB. Individuals who deal with unlicensed or unregulated entities will not be protected under BDCB's regulatory framework, which is intended to safeguard financial consumers by ensuring that only qualified and licensed entities provide financial services.

d. Protecting personal and financial information

Do not provide personal, banking or financial information, passwords, one-time passwords or security codes in response to suspicious videos, messages, websites or applications.

e. Reporting suspicious content

Report any suspicious financial activities to BDCB's Financial Consumer Issues at 2380007 or 8380007, or by email at fci@bdcdb.gov.bn.

5. Members of the public may also report suspicious content directly to the relevant social media platform and to the Brunei Computer Emergency Response Team (BruCERT) through its hotline at 2458001, email at reporting@brucert.org.bn, or WhatsApp at 7170766.
6. BDCB would also like to emphasise that the misuse of BDCB's name or logo, or the use of its name or logo without permission, is an offence under Section 74A of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Order, 2010. The offence carries a penalty of a fine not exceeding BND20,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years, or both.
7. Where such conduct involves impersonation for the purpose of cheating, it may also constitute an offence under Section 419 of the Penal Code, Chapter 22, which carries a penalty of imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years and a fine upon conviction. In addition, the dissemination of false information that is likely to cause public alarm is a criminal offence under Section 34 of the Public Order Act, Chapter 148. The offence carries a penalty of a fine of BND3,000, imprisonment for a term of three years, or both.
8. BDCB remains committed to maintaining Brunei Darussalam's financial stability and protecting the country's financial system and financial consumers. BDCB will continue to monitor suspicious and unlicensed financial activities and work closely with the relevant authorities to address fraudulent content.
9. For the list of financial institutions licensed by BDCB and the BDCB Alert List, please visit the BDCB website at www.bdcdb.gov.bn.

Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

Reference: BDCB/COMMS/3

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