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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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நிதியியல் உளவறிதற் பிரிவு
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

අංක 30, ජනාධිපති මාවත, කොළඹ 01, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
இல. 30, சனாதிபதி மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு - 01, இலங்கை
No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

Circular No; 03/2020

June 15, 2020

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To: CEOs/GM/MDs of the Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions are advised to be vigilant to emerging Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing risks

Further to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Email dated March 23, 2020 on the above,

The Financial Institutions (FIs) are advised to increase the vigilance/ due diligence and take appropriate measures to protect the financial system from possible money laundering/terrorist financing risks arising during the global COVID-19 Pandemic. Accordingly, your attention is drawn to following factors,

a) The FIU has been informed of several cyber-attacks and hacking incidents where the funds have been transferred using false/erroneous email credentials. Accordingly, FIs are requested to continue to remain alert against possible security breaches and take measures to prevent such incidents occurring, and alert the possible victims of such attacks immediately.

b) The disclosures received by the FIU from state intelligence and law enforcement agencies and STRs received has led the FIU to believe an increasing trend of terrorist financing, financial fraud and use of charitable organizations to exploit the vulnerabilities that arose with the global Covid-19 pandemic situation.

c) FIs should take precautionary measures against cyber criminals and hackers looking to take advantage of the current situation prevailing within and outside the country. As with the COVID-19 outbreak customers were encouraged to use more online/internet banking which may have led to unforeseen increase in system vulnerabilities.

d) FIs are advised to take precautionary measures, including immediately alerting customers on electronic transactions. In the event of such cyberattacks/hacking, inform the customer affected and take steps to inform the Police / Criminal Investigation Department if such attacks/hacking incidents are observed in addition to submitting a STR to the FIU.

Yours faithfully

Director
Financial Intelligence Unit

Cc; Compliance Officer

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