



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

COVID-19 CYBER SECURITY ALERT

The Malawi Computer Emergency Response Team (MwCERT), which is a unit within the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), has noted with concern, the rapid spread and distribution of fake news and information related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The fake news and information is being posted and shared on several platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. Personal details of COVID-19 victims are also being shared without authorization of the people affected.

MwCERT wishes to remind citizens that the distribution of personal data without the consent of the data subject violates the right to privacy under section 21 (c) of the Constitution.

In addition, it is also an offence under section 84(8)(a) of the Electronic Transactions and Cybersecurity Act, 2016, which prohibits the communication, disclosure and transmission of personal data without authorization from the data subject.

The public is, therefore, advised to refrain from committing these acts as such conduct may attract serious legal sanctions.

MwCERT wishes to further advise the public to:

Beware of coronavirus-themed phishing emails as Cybercriminals are exploiting the coronavirus outbreak to send fake emails with dangerous links;

Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails and attachments related to COVID-19;

Use trusted sources such as legitimate, Government websites for up-to-date, fact-based information about COVID-19;

Desist from revealing personal or financial information in response to email soliciting such information;

Refrain from posting personal information related to COVID-19 victims;

Desist from sharing any unverified details on the coronavirus;

Be cautious of online advertisements selling hygienic products such as masks, hand sanitizers and other products; and

Report any incident of cyber related attack through the following contact details:

E-mail: mwcert@macra.org.mw / consumer-help@macra.org.mw / info@macra.org.mw / dg-macra@macra.org.mw

Phone: 01 810497

Fax: 01 811911

Postal reporting: Director General,
MACRA,
Private Bag 261,
Blantyre.

Physical reporting: MACRA House,
Salmin Amour Road, Ginnery Corner,
Blantyre.

Website: www.mwcert.mw or www.macra.org.mw

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