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Scammers demand Bitcoins with fake MACC letters

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) cautioned the public yesterday to be wary of letters sent out by scammers attempting to get cash by tricking their victims into believing they were probed by the commission.

MACC has received at least 11 complaints from individuals who received the computer-generated letter that made them an offer to “close the investigations and destroy

evidence” for a payment of RM100,000 in Bitcoins within 30 days of receiving the letter into a cryptocurrency wallet via a QR barcode printed on the letter.

Three such letters were received by the public and made available by MACC to the press. One was addressed to a Datuk.

“MACC has commenced an investigation on them over a corruption case. Following the probe and evidence gathered, they are expected to be arrested and charged in court under Section 16 of the MACC Act 2009, where they face up to 20

years imprisonment and a fine of up to five times the value of the bribe involved,” the letter read.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki stressed that the commission had never sent out such letters and urged the public to be wary of the scam.

He said the commission had received many complaints from the public on the matter and urged those who receive such letters to contact the nearest MACC office or call its hotline at 1-800-88-6000.