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Sibu Macau scam cases dip in 2021 but losses increase

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SIBU: A total of 26 Macau scam cases involving losses of more than RM2.7 million were recorded in Sibu last year, said acting Sibu police chief Supt Collin Babat.

He said in a statement yesterday that comparatively, there were 38 cases in 2020 with over RM2.5 million in losses.

"Of the total cases recorded in 2020 and 2021, 41 cases have been brought to court while 23 cases are still under investigation," he said.

He added the Commercial Crimes Investigation Division (CCID) here had achieved its key performance index (KPI) in the number of cases charged, which is the best and highest in Sarawak.

"Each police report received will be investigated thoroughly in accordance with the provisions of the laws such as the Penal Code Act, Criminal Procedure Code, Money Lenders Act 1951, Computer Crimes Act 1997 and so on," he said.

Collin said investigations of commercial crime cases would typically involve bank accounts, phone numbers, social media accounts and others. He said for investigations involving bank accounts, the police must follow

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Supt Collin Babat



certain procedures to obtain information on bank account holders as provided under the Financial Services Act 2013, Islamic Financial Services Act 2013 and Development Financial Institutions Act 2002 before the information is released by the financial service provider.

"The police cannot take action arbitrarily and disregard the stipulated procedures and the laws. Therefore, all parties must provide space for the police to carry out their duties

transparently in accordance with the provisions of existing laws," he said.

He also said that various efforts had been made by the police to provide awareness to the public on the latest modus operandi of fraud crimes such as conducting talks in government departments, schools, communities, houses of worship and others.

In addition, the patrol activities carried out by Sibu police's Skwad Aman Wanita Sibu (Amanita) as well as announcements through

mass media and social media were also done to channel information to the community, he said.

He advised members of the public not to panic or feel anxious when receiving phone calls from unknown individuals claiming to be from any government department or financial institution.

"Disconnect the call immediately and check with the relevant authorities through a valid phone number or come in person to the department or institution to make confirmation. Do not call the telephone numbers provided by the suspect," he said.

He added they could check the suspicious telephone numbers and bank accounts through the CHECK SCAMMER CCID phone application or through the website <http://semakmule.rmp.gov.my> before making any financial transaction.

"The public can also contact the CCID Scam Response Centre at 03-26101559 or 03-26101599 or send Whatsapp or text messages to CCID Infoline at 013-2111222 for advice or information related to criminal cases online.

"If you feel you have been scammed, please come and lodge a police report at any police station near you," he said.