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THE ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN MALAYSIA

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RM400mil lost to scams

Malaysians duped online over a period of 20 months

MALAYSIANS were duped of about RM400mil in online scams within 20 months, says Deputy Home Minister Datuk Mohd Azis Jamman.

“A total of 4,956 online cheating cases were reported last year, resulting in losses amounting to RM224,653,894,” he said.

And for the period between January and August this year, there were 3,533 cases with losses of RM186,027,122, he told Datuk Mohd

Fasih Mohd Fakeh (PH-Sabak Bernam).

He said that these cheating cases involved love scams, non-existing loans and the Macau Scam carried out in cyberspace.

“Of the losses in 2019, a total of RM79,483,843 involved the Macau Scam with 1,612 cases,” he said.

Although the police had carried out numerous awareness campaigns to educate the public, he said

it was ultimately a person’s attitude.

He reminded the people that “if it is too good to be true, then it is usually not (true)”.

A Facebook account, Cyber Crime Alert Royal Malaysia Police, had been set up to warn the public about scams, he said.

He said the police had set up an Internet Banking Task Force Group and a Cyber Crime Technical Committee to deal with online

cheating cases.

There is also a portal, <http://ccid.rmp.gov.my/semakmule>, for people to verify telephone numbers and bank account numbers that could be used by syndicates carrying out such scams, he said.

Besides police action to curb online scams, Azis said the Finance Ministry, Bank Negara and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry must also do their part.