



Headline: Macau scam targets pensioners
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Macau scam targets pensioners

KUCHING: Sarawak recorded 130 Macau scam cases this year, involving over RM9 million in losses.

State Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) chief Supt Mustafa Kamal Ghani Abdullah said 61 victims were pensioners while 49 were working with the private sectors and another 20 government servants.

Out of the total, 71 were women.

The phone-based scammers often target pensioners using the standard modus operandi, impersonating as personnel from Bank Negara Malaysia, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), police as well as from the post office, health department, among others.

The senior citizens, he said, would panic when told that they were involved in drug or money laundering as well as having accumulated outstanding payment and unpaid fines.

"Once the victim panics, they are most likely to follow any instruction from the scammers, including to proceed to a room or place where there is no one else, before they can 'help' the victim to 'settle' their problems," he said.

"Although there have been various awareness programmes and news reports regarding these scams, the public, including doctors, teachers and lawyers still fall for it," he said in a statement, [here](#).

Although number of cases has dropped from 201 last year; Mustafa said the police continue to intensify their efforts to combat online scams.

A total of 58 suspects were nabbed, including two Indonesians.

Meanwhile, 26 suspects have been charged in court for 51 offences.

He advised the public to stay calm or ignore phone calls from unknown numbers.

"If they accuse you of committing crimes or any other offences or that you have unpaid debts, head to the nearest station and bank for more details.

"Never open a bank account or transfer money to someone (account) through phone calls," he stressed.