



Headline: RM85mil seized, cops nabbed
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MACC targets illegal gambling syndicate and scammers

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PUTRAJAYA: A whopping RM85mil has been seized from a Macau scam and illegal gambling syndicate, but graft busters are now widening the net to nab more individuals, including police officers.

The Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission, which has nabbed 20 individuals (including eight police officers and a Chinese national) so far, will be making more arrests in the coming days.

Sources say that the RM85mil is the tip of the iceberg and the MACC expects to confiscate more of the illegally-gotten gains that will be put into the government's coffers.

Chief commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki (*pic*) said graft busters have crippled the syndicate's operations by freezing their accounts –

730 of it with RM80mil inside these accounts – as well as RM5mil in cash.

"When we began investigating this case, we were suspicious as to how the syndicate managed to operate freely for years without any enforcement taken against them.

"Then we found out that they were given protection by officers from a certain government agency," he said in an interview on MACC.fm.

Sources said the senior officers arrested are from Selangor police headquarters and Bukit Aman.

MACC investigators also seized 23 luxury cars of various makes – Bentley, Rolls Royce, Lamborghini, Ferrari and Porsche – believed to be purchased from returns from the illegal activities carried out by the individuals.



It is understood that celebrities and famous personalities were among victims of the scam, and Azam said some may have either knowingly or unwittingly accepted money from this syndicate for business purposes.

"I hope these individuals will come forward rather than having us call them. We already have a list of names so don't wait for us to call you," he said.

The Macau scam often starts with a phone call from someone pretending to be an officer from a bank, government agency or a debt collection agency.

Azam said that what MACC wants to do is for the millions of ringgit seized in this case be put into the government's coffers.

"This money is people's money

which the syndicate obtained by cheating them of their hard earned cash," he said.

Azam said after cheating the public of their money, the syndicate's modus operandi includes setting up shell companies to launder the money.

"This is where they help provide capital to those who want to set up businesses or become money lenders.

"I urge the public to be wary as they might get into trouble if money used to set up their business is from this kind of illegal activity.

"They may find themselves accused of being involved in money laundering," he said.

Watch the video
[TheStarTV.com](https://www.thestar.com.my/video)

