



PERSATUAN BANK BANK DALAM MALAYSIA
THE ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN MALAYSIA

Headline: Despite wide publicity, people still falling prey to Macau scams Language: English

Publication/Portal: The Star

Date: 12 February 2021

Section: Nation

Page: 9

Despite wide publicity, people still falling prey to Macau scams

By **SIMON KHOO**

simonkhoo@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Fear of enforcement action by government agencies, poor awareness and lack of proper information are among the reasons why some segments of society are still falling prey to fraudsters, particularly Macau scams, says an NGO leader.

In expressing his concerns, Kuala Lumpur Crime Prevention Practi-

tioner Association chairman Bok Siew Mun said despite numerous reminders by the authorities, members of the public – even highly educated ones – continue to become victims.

“Lately, there has been quite a number of Macau scam cases involving substantial losses.

“More concerted efforts should be carried out to disseminate information to the people to make them aware of the existence of

these scammers.

“Scammers are getting smarter and taking advantage of new technology to create stories that will convince potential victims to give them money or their personal details.

“Recently, the police also shared that scammers are moving to rural and outskirt areas, targeting villagers and the less educated to make a quick buck,” he said, while reminding the public to double-check

before making any monetary transaction.

Bok said many rural residents were not IT-savvy and might easily fall prey to these scammers.

“They may end up losing their entire hard-earned life savings to these tricksters.”

In this area, Bok added that the association would be coming out with pamphlets and an easy online guide.

Up to November last year, the

police recorded over 5,200 Macau scam cases with losses amounting to RM256mil.

Federal Commercial Crimes Investigation Department director Comm Datuk Zainuddin Yaacob said police solved 2,676 cases with 1,420 people already charged in court.

The term “Macau scam” was coined as it is believed the scam originated from Macau or that the first victims came from there.