



Headline: Campaign to raise awareness of online scams  
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**PENANG**

## Campaign to raise awareness of online scams

THE public has been urged to be more aware of the modus operandi of online forgery and scams.

Penang MCA chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said it was necessary for people to be aware and not to regard them lightly.

Although street crimes and criminal cases had declined markedly while the population stayed home during the Covid-19 outbreak, he said fraud cases had risen sharply.

"According to data released by the police, the outbreak in the past year has contributed to the rise in fraud cases.

"From 2017 to June 20 this year, the police received 21,011 cases of online shopping fraud, followed by non-existent loans (21,008 cases), Macau scams (9,161 cases), love scams (7,873 cases), investment scams (6,273 cases) and hacked business email (226 cases)," he said in an online forum on Facebook.

Tan, through the "Knowing Fraud and Anti-Fraud" online forum organised by the Bagan MCA division, also reminded the public to ignore and not to provide their personal data if they encountered fraud.

"Although the government educates the people through many institutions, there are still many victims.

"Money games have also been prevalent in the past two years, and this shows the problems lurking in our society.

"I hope the public will be extra cautious.

"Don't fall easily into traps to get rich fast and easy," he said.

Tan said Penang MCA would launch a full-scale anti-fraud campaign to combat fraud through various programmes online during the pandemic.

"We will cooperate with the police and relevant government departments to lower the crime rates and raise public awareness to say no to fraud," he added.

Also present during the online forum were Kuala Lumpur deputy police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Yong Lei Choo and Bagan MCA division chairman Dr Tan Chuan Hong.