



PERSATUAN BANK BANK DALAM MALAYSIA
THE ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN MALAYSIA

Headline: E-commerce scams spiked during MCO period
Publication/Portal: The Star
Date: 18 August 2020

Language: English
Section: Nation
Page: 10

E-commerce scams spiked during MCO period

CRIMINALS had a field day on the Internet as millions of Malaysians turned to the world wide web during the movement control order (MCO) period, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Mohamed Said said there were 2,500 e-commerce scam cases reported, with victims losing RM17mil.

Ismail noted that these cases were the highest among five types of scams during the MCO period between March 18 and Aug 4.

The others were fake bank loans

and SMS, love and Macau scams.

He was responding to Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim (BN-Baling) who asked the Home Ministry to state the number of financial scams or syndicates that had been active during the MCO period.

Ismail noted that there were 1,582 cases involving fake loans with RM18mil in losses, 1,001 Macau scams with RM50mil in losses, followed by love scams (481 cases) and losses of about RM18mil.

Scams through text messages (SMS) numbered 91 cases and

RM800,000 in losses, he added.

He said the police had taken steps to curb the problem, with increased operations against scammers and charging them in court.

“For the public, the police had gone down on the ground to raise awareness on the issue and had engaged with the local community, besides sharing information with other relevant agencies,” he said.

Ismail also said that the police had formed several task forces with Bank Negara Malaysia, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia

Commission (MCMC), Cyber Security Malaysia, financial institutions and telecommunication industry players.

“It is true that scams had increased, especially during the MCO period.

“The scam involving face masks online had losses of about RM18mil,” he added.

Ismail said the police faced challenges such as in identifying callers and dealing with other issues, including account thefts and fraudsters operating overseas.

He added that the authorities

needed the cooperation of other countries as well as Interpol.

Asked on the abuse of information on the MySejahtera app and private data by private companies, Ismail said the MySejahtera application was protected under the Personal Data Protection Act 2010.

“We will not simply expose any information provided in the app which is used by the police and MCMC.

“We will take action if there is any misuse of information of personal and private data,” he added.