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Bukit Aman sets up scam response centre to help the public

KUALA LUMPUR: A scam response centre has been set up by Bukit Aman, especially to deal with Macau scams.

The Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) Scam Response Centre, according to Bukit Aman CCID director Comm Datuk Zainuddin Yaacob, was set up as Macau scam cases are increasingly

causing millions of ringgit in losses.

"In 2019, 5,725 cases were reported involving RM254.5mil in losses. Last year, 6,003 cases were reported with RM287.3mil in losses.

"This year, we have seen 1,392 cases with RM38.1mil in losses.

"It is clear that such cases are on the rise and they must be curbed," he said yesterday.

It is believed that Macau scams originated from Macau or that the first victims came from there.

This has never been confirmed.

It often starts with a call from someone claiming to be a government or law enforcement agency, bank officer or debt collector.

The victim is then told that he or she owes money or has an unpaid

fine, often with a very short window of less than an hour to settle the debt or face "dire consequences".

These unsuspecting victims will then be asked to make payments to get them off the hook.

Comm Zainuddin said the one-stop centre, which was set up on Feb 15, could be reached at 03-2610

1559 and 03-2610 1599 from 8am to 8pm daily.

"Members of the public can contact the centre to inquire about scams.

"It can also receive information from victims or those with knowledge of scams. For example, the mobile number or bank account given by scam syndicates," he said.