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RM1.2B LOST

34,497 online scam cases reported last year

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 34,497 cases of online scams involving losses of RM1.218 billion were reported last year, the Dewan Negara was told yesterday.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah said based on the 2023 statistics, telecommunications crime cases, such as SMS contest scams, online impersonation scams and phone call scams, were among

the highest recorded cases, with 10,348 incidents resulting in losses totalling RM352.9 million.

“In this issue, the National Scam Response Centre (NSRC) also plays a role in coordinating rapid responses to online crime scams.

“Throughout 2023, a total of 6,434 investigation papers were opened through NSRC calls, involving a total loss of RM105.4

million. Out of this total, RM17,536,372.30 was successfully blocked before being withdrawn by criminals, and RM178,407.93 in seized funds were successfully returned to victims,” he said when replying to a question from Senator Manolan Mohamad.

He said 1,610 exhibitions and 3,727 talks on scams were conducted last year to raise awareness among the public. **Bernama**