

Media Title : New Straits Times
Headline : CCID CHIEF: BE WARY OF SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS
Date : 17 February 2024
Section : NEWS/ Nation
Page : 5



'VERIFY ANY CLAIMS'

CCID CHIEF: BE WARY OF SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

Surge in cases with losses exceeding RM558 million up to Feb 11 sparks warning

HAKIM MAHARI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

POLICE have urged the public not to fall victim to scams on social media, emphasising the importance of exercising caution.

Bukit Aman's Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) director Datuk Seri Ramli Mohamed Yoosuf said the public need to be extra vigilant and cautious regarding any suspicious

activities or calls.

His warning comes amidst a significant surge in commercial fraud cases, with losses exceeding RM558.66 million as of Feb 11. He advised the public to verify any claims thoroughly before taking action, particularly those involving individuals claiming to be officials of agencies.

"I urge everyone not to fall prey to the investment scams circulating on social media. *Sudah berbuih mulut saya nasihat* (how many times I have to caution

about this).

"I implore all to refrain from seeking police intervention for investigation without thoroughly assessing the situation to avoid falling into these traps," he said during a press conference here yesterday.

Ramli said the misuse of modern technology by fraudsters, especially by targeting the elderly who may not be up-to-date on current affairs, was concerning.

He urged the public to refrain from entertaining dubious investment offers or answering calls promising lucrative profits and attractive returns.

"Only respond to calls from known banks or verified refer-



Datuk Seri Ramli Mohamed Yoosuf showing computers, handphones and other equipment used by a scam syndicate whose members posed as National Scam Response Centre officers to dupe the public, in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AZIAH AZMEE

ences. Don't hastily respond or pick up calls (from unknown sources) as there's no harm in ignoring such calls, even if they claim to be from government agencies."

He said it was also crucial to exercise caution when clicking on online links, even if they appear to be from familiar sources, to avoid falling victim to spyware or phishing attempts.

"Do not click on any link, even digital wedding invitations, or even if they are from people they know because there are many cases of phishing and the like.

"Let them contact us directly, 'back to basics' is better because although technology is advancing, its sophistication can lead to financial losses. It is timely for everyone to exercise a more cautious approach."