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More K'gau folks are falling prey to scammers

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KENINGAU: Assistant Minister of Works, Datuk Robert Tawik said complaints related to scammers here is increasing, especially involving loss of money

He said that those affected were mostly entrepreneurs involving non-existent loan scams.

"It is very sad that there are cases in Keningau involving losses exceeding RM50,000," he said while officiating at the awareness forum, "Scammer dan Anda" held at the Sabah Handicraft Center hall here, recently.

The rate of cyber crime in the country is worrying, he said.

There are also frauds involving professionals among government and private sector employees who fell into the Love and Macau scams, some reaching millions of ringgit in losses.

Robert, who is also a Bingkor Assemblyman, said people who are literate in technology could avoid scams and cyber crimes.

"I ask the public to always be vigilant when answering phone calls from

unknown numbers," he said.

Robert said apart from more effective enforcement, an education-based approach to the community is important to lower cyber crime rates.

He believed that through such programme, the participants will gain more knowledge in order to avoid becoming victims.

"I understand that the programme is the first organised by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) in the state and I hope that the participants, who are government employees and entrepreneurs, can benefit from it," he said.

The forum, organised by MCMC and the Keningau District Police Headquarters, were also attended by Sabah MCMC Director, Izani Othman, District Police Chief representative, ASP Roslan Abdullah, Chief Assistant District Officer, Easter Michael Sutili, Community Development Officers, Tinus Majip (Bingkor), Adzra Jasni @ Addy (Liawan), Dominic Kogi (Sook), MCMC officers, heads of State and Federal Departments and community leaders.

In another event, Robert said that due to lack of awareness, many individuals are easily duped through scams involving income tax payments, utility bills, insurance and the purchase of non-existent items.

"This is the problem of individuals who have no knowledge about the dangers of cyber crime," he said after officiating at the Smart Village Programme: Cyber Security Workshop held at SK Bingkor hall here.

The one-day programme organised for the first time by the Department of Community Communication (J-Kom) in the State was attended by more than 200 participants consisting of community leaders, youth and parents from this district.

Robert hoped that through the workshop, the participants would be exposed to knowledge about cyber security in addition to combating this cyber crime that is spread through the internet and all social media platforms.

"My hope with the J-Kom programme is that the participants comprising community leaders and parents would be able to increase their knowledge so that they will



Robert in a group photo with the officials and participants at the programme.

not be deceived by cyber crimes," he said.

"I hope that the ongoing efforts of the Unity Government will be fully utilised by the participants who act as key communicators to share all the information through this workshop to families and all levels of the community in their respective areas.

"The community needs to be aware and concerned about this cruel and tyrannical cyber crime by deceiving the negligent.

Robert hoped that more such programmes would be implemented, especially in the interior, to ensure that more effective awareness and interventions are implemented.

He is confident and optimistic that this

program can have a direct impact on the community for the benefit of the children, the nation and the country.

"I appeal to parents to constantly monitor their children's internet usage," he said, adding that all parties need to play their respective roles as eyes and ears of the government.

Also present were J-Kom Deputy Director General (Management), Zamri Yusof, Director of the Research and Program Planning Division, Kazidi Mohd Zainuddin, Chief Assistant District Officer, Easter Michael Sutili @ Norhafizah Abdullah, SK Bingkor headmistress, Madalina Juanis as well as State and Federal government officials.