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Online **scam victims** lose RM830m in five months

➤ Fake investment schemes account for largest share of losses, posing a growing social and economic threat

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PETALING JAYA: Online scam victims lost RM830 million in the first five months of this year, with fake investment schemes accounting for the largest share of losses, said the Home Ministry.

In a written reply to the Parliament on Tuesday, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said fake investment scams caused RM361.63 million in losses between January and May, followed by telecommunication fraud at RM235.63 million.

He said online scam losses had shown a sharp increase in recent years, from RM1.57 billion in 2024 to RM2.97 billion last year, making it a growing social and economic threat.

Saifuddin said fake investment scams consistently recorded the highest loss value over the past three years, with losses rising from RM848.62 million in 2024 to RM1.46 billion last year.

He said telecommunication fraud also showed a significant increase, from RM497.12 million in 2024 to RM802.47 million last year, before reaching RM235.63 million up to May this year.

Love scams, however, recorded lower losses compared with other scam categories, with the trend remaining stable at RM45.87 million in 2024, RM47.44 million last year and RM17.76 million up to May.

Saifuddin said Selangor and Kuala Lumpur remained the two states with the highest online scam losses for three consecutive years.

He said losses in Selangor rose from RM446.16 million in 2024 to RM986.79 million last year, while Kuala Lumpur recorded an increase from RM293.30 million to RM782.86 million over the same period.

Other economically active states, including Johor, Penang and Perak, also recorded significant

year-on-year increases between 2024 and 2025, while Sabah and Sarawak showed almost equal loss trends, with both exceeding RM110 million last year.

He said Perlis consistently recorded the lowest online scam losses nationwide, with RM6.73 million in 2024, RM11.12 million last year and RM2.01 million up to May this year.

On fund recovery, Saifuddin said the National Scam Response Centre (NSRC), which has operated since 2022, had helped freeze RM32.49 million in scam funds, of which RM10.9 million had been returned to victims through existing legal procedures.

He said between 2022 and 2025, RM25.2 million was seized, with RM7.3 million or 29% returned to victims.

For the January-May period this year, RM7.25 million was seized, of which RM3.57 million or 49% had been returned to victims.

"The increase in the percentage of funds returned proves that the NSRC's function as the national scam response centre is becoming more effective and increasingly trusted by the public.

"The NSRC serves as a one-stop centre for reporting online scams and as a first line of defence in detecting early signs of fraud."

The written reply was to Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiangdee (PN-Beluran), who had asked the Home Ministry to state online scam losses over the past three years by case category and state, the victim fund recovery rate and measures to improve detection, freezing and restitution of funds.



Saifuddin said Selangor and Kuala Lumpur remained the two states with the highest online scam losses for three consecutive years. — **ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN**