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Watch out for scammers' tactics of exploiting fear, greed, says Miri MP

MIRI: Scammers often exploit fear and greed to deceive their victims, said Miri MP Chiew Choon Man.

He said scammers typically manipulated victims either by tempting them with offers that seem 'too good to be true', or by instilling fear by impersonating authorities such as the police or government agencies.

"They prey on people's desire for easy gain, or they threaten and intimidate victims into panic so they act without thinking," he said when officiating at an anti-scam awareness talk held at the Miri Senior Citizen Activity Centre (Pawe) here yesterday.

Chiew cautioned the public to stay alert and not make decisions hastily whenever they receive suspicious calls, messages or WhatsApp texts.

"If you receive any information you are unsure about, the most important thing is to share it with



Chiew (seated front, third left), Zulhaidah (third right), Halifah (fourth right) and Ramakrishna (second left) take a group photo with the participants.

the people around you. Do not keep it to yourself out of greed, or fear that it might be true—discuss it with your family or friends first."

He also stressed that no legitimate authority would prohibit anyone from talking to others about such matters.

Chiew also expressed concern that scammers often targeted vulnerable groups such as students, housewives and

retirees—individuals who tend to spend more time alone and are therefore more susceptible to emotional manipulation.

"We've read cases of students losing their savings, housewives being deceived, and retirees losing their entire life savings. It's heartbreaking to see how scammers exploit their emotions and trust," he said.

Chiew shared that his own father had recently retired, and

said he empathised deeply with elderly scam victims.

"I cannot imagine how my father would feel if all his savings were wiped out because of a scam. They have worked so hard to enjoy a peaceful retirement, only to have everything taken away by deceit," he said.

He commended government agencies including the police, Bank Negara Malaysia and the Malaysian Communications and

Multimedia Commission (MCMC) for their ongoing efforts in combating scams.

Chiew also thanked the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living (KPDN) for collaborating in the awareness programme by presenting a session on consumer rights.

"I hope that the participants would not only benefit from the information shared but also act as messengers in spreading awareness among family and friends. Let us all play our part in protecting ourselves and our community. Together, we can make Miri a safer city, free from deceit and fraud," he said.

Also present were Persatuan Prihatin Sibuti and Miri chairwoman Zulhaidah Suboh, Pawe representative Halifah Mohd, and Miri Commercial Crime Investigation Division officer Insp Ramakrishna Raman.