

'Beware of scammers selling face masks, hand sanitisers online'

BY JENIFER LAENG ON MARCH 24, 2020, TUESDAY AT 12:02 AMNEWS, SARAWAK



Mustafa Kamal Gani Abdullah

MIRI: Police are calling on the people to be on the lookout for scammers when ordering face masks and hand sanitisers over the internet.

Sarawak Commercial Crime Investigation Department head Supt Mustafa Kamal Gani Abdullah said police have received 10 scam cases involving face masks between Feb 9 and March 22 this year.

"Miri and Sibü each recorded three cases while Kuching, two. Padawan and Bintulu recorded one case each.

"Total losses reported in these 10 cases exceeded RM350,000," he said when contacted yesterday.

He said due to the Covid-19 outbreak in the country, there has been an increase in the number of people offering to sell face masks and hand sanitisers via social media platforms such as Facebook and WeChat.

"Despite the high price imposed by these sellers, people continue to purchase out of desperation.

"After payment is made, the victim would end up not receiving what they had ordered. Some victims were also told after making payment, that the face masks they had ordered had run out of stock, but no refunds were given."

Mustafa advised the public that when it comes to making online purchases, one must not easily believe what is being advertised, especially those by unknown companies or individuals.