

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

'NEGLIGENT BANKS MUST PAY BACK SCAM VICTIMS'

PM says compensation provided for under provisions of Criminal Procedure Code

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BANKS must reimburse customers for losses if their negligence had allowed scams to occur, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He said this was governed un-

der the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

"If negligence has been determined, the bank will have to pay.

"For example, to date, under Section 413 of the CPC, a total of RM138,407 (money belonging to scam victims) have been refunded, meaning some have received their money back.

"If it is found that the bank has failed to monitor according to the

regulations, it must compensate.

"So, I agree with the principle applied in the United Kingdom (which requires banks to pay compensation in cases of negligence) and it should be applicable here," he said during the Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap), who asked if banks could be held accountable if found to be negligent, resulting in the theft of funds from their customers' accounts.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Doris



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says he agrees with the principle applied in the United Kingdom, which requires banks to pay compensation in cases of negligence. **BERNAMA PIC**

Sophia Brodie (GPS-Sri Aman) asked the prime minister if the government was considering proposing a holistic and comprehensive law against online financial crime, such as the Scam Bill introduced in Singapore.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said there was a comprehensive review committee looking into laws regarding online financial crime, as well as a coordination effort with other Asean countries.

"Some (scams) happen due to

(bank account) user liability, where they agree to the use of their account, but some are completely unaware.

"So what we've identified is that if they are deceived because they were persuaded by relevant parties, then that's another issue.

"Many are not being informed (that their accounts are being used) at all. That's why the law has to be tightened and we hope that if possible, it will be ready and presented in the first session next year," he said.