

The Star : Trio who scratched and lost may not get back their cash

Written by Administrator

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SHAH ALAM: There is no guarantee that victims who have been swindled in scratch-and-win scams could get back their money even after the consumer tribunal rules in their favour.

Even if I give you the award, will you get back the money (from the companies)? asked tribunal president Ahmad Hisham Kamaruddin.

You should be more careful. Do not give the money just because someone asked for it, he said after awarding three victims at the court here yesterday.

Masnom Sirat, Kiranjit Singh and Zahрати Ibrahim came to the tribunal after they lost thousands of ringgit to two direct-selling companies that misled them into buying electrical products at inflated prices under a so-called scratch-and-win contest.

Masnom filed a claim that she was cheated of RM3,600 by a Klang-based company in Taman Bayu Perdana for a microwave oven, a vacuum cleaner, an infrared sauna and a digital stove.

She claimed a company agent approached her on Aug 6 and told her she could win handsome prizes of up to RM1.5mil.

I was told that I had won three prizes and a special prize.

I paid RM3,600 but regretted later because I was not interested in those products.

It was my fault. I should have known, she told the court.

Kiranjit Singh claimed that a woman from a company in Puchong approached him on Jan 18 and later took him to an office where he was told to scratch another coupon for more prizes. However, he had to pay them RM3,999.

I gave RM2,000, which was all I could afford, and was told there was a money-back guarantee, he said.

But the company never got back to me again, he claimed.

Zahрати said that she scratched a coupon thinking she could win RM15,000 when she was approached by an agent on Oct 1.

Instead, she lost RM1,000.
