

Govt hails results of recent crackdown on online crime

MONGKOL BANGPRAPA

»The government yesterday trumpeted the success of efforts to clamp down on online scammers, claiming more than 45,000 SMS spam numbers were suspended recently.

The Minister of Digital Economy and Society (DES), Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn, said his team had joined hands with the Bank of Thailand, the Thai Bankers' Association, the Royal Thai Police (RTP), the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) and internet service providers to stop text spam operators.

"We have suspended 46,219 scam numbers," Mr Chaiwut said, adding they were also reaching out to provide help to victims, and had overseen the launch of the thaipoliceonline.com portal where the public can

lodge complaints.

Between March 1 when the portal went live and Aug 31 there were 77,711 reports of online crimes which have led to 28,381 accounts being suspended, said Mr Chaiwut.

He said online shopping scams account for the largest share of crimes reported in the last six months with 28,837 cases, or 37.1% of the total.

The second most common type of fraud reported was bogus recruitment schemes with a 12.8% share, followed by online investment scams and online threats.

Mr Chaiwut said other crimes such as identity theft, romance scams, fake products being sold online, Ponzi schemes, online gambling, fake news, cryptocurrency scams and sexual threats were also reported.