



Headline: Clerk loses RM115k after phone call from 'court official' Language: English

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Clerk loses RM115k after phone call from 'court official'

GEORGE TOWN: A clerk was cheated of RM115,000 in savings after receiving a call from a "court official" in Kuantan.

Police said the 55-year-old was the latest to fall victim to scammers.

On Monday, the victim answered the call and was accused of having an outstanding personal loan of RM50,000.

The line was then transferred to another man, who introduced himself as "Sergeant Lau" from Kuantan police station.

Balik Pulau OCPD Supt A.A. Anbalagan said the scammer then told the victim that he was involved in money laundering.

"He was instructed to deposit his savings into two bank accounts for investigation purposes.

"The next day, he did two transactions – RM60,000 and RM55,000 – before receiving a call, saying that the money will be returned once the investigation is over.

"Upon being told by his family that he had been cheated, the victim came to lodge a report," he said, adding that the case was being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating.

Supt Anbalagan said the man was the fourth victim of the Macau scam who had lodged reports with them.

On Friday, a 41-year-old residential manager lost RM13,600 when he was told by an unidentified caller that his firm owed RM85,700 in Goods and Services Tax.

A 25-year-old bus driver from Batu Maung and a 33-year-old technician from Gelugor also lost RM2,500 and RM5,000 respectively in similar scams.

Supt Anbalagan urged people to be wary of such calls.

The Macau scam often starts with a phone call from someone pretending to be an officer from a bank, government agency or debt collector.

The scammer will then claim that the potential victim owes money, has an unpaid fine or is involved in undesirable activities, often with a very short window to settle the payment, or face "dire consequences".

These victims will then be asked to make payments to get them off the hook.