



Headline: New Macau scam in Melaka alleges victims defrauded hospitals to get sleeping pills, 'aphrodisiacs' Language: English
Publication/Portal: The Star Online Section: Nation
Date: 7 May 2019 Page: -

New Macau scam in Melaka alleges victims defrauded hospitals to get sleeping pills, 'aphrodisiacs'

MELAKA: A new Macau scam in Melaka alleges individuals defrauded government hospitals to obtain sleeping and "aphrodisiac" pills, says state Health and Anti-Drug committee chairman Low Chee Leong.

Low said the new scam emerged after several individuals received calls from a bogus Health Ministry officer informing them they had committed serious offences by hoodwinking the hospitals to get additional supplies.

The scammer also threatened that the victims would not be able to use medical care at government hospitals throughout the country if they did not settle their cases by following his instructions.

"Sleeping pills dispensed by hospitals are prescribed by specialists and there are no such thing as 'aphrodisiac' pills given to patients at government hospitals," he said Tuesday (May 7).

Low said a slew of calls had been received by locals from a man claiming to be a Dr Ang Bee Jiu from the Health Ministry telling them that their names had been blacklisted after they were prescribed controlled medical pills or referred by another patient.

He said the scammer even managed to provide the last four digits of the victims' Mykad and their latest addresses.

"Dr Ang also gave the exact brand of the pills and asked the victims to settle the case quickly before the Health Ministry initiated legal proceedings," he said.

Low said it did not make sense as controlled medicines are dispensed according to proper standard operating procedures.

He said he referred to the Health Ministry and was told that this was the latest tactic used by Macau scam syndicates.

“This is a new strategy as the people are aware of their earlier moves.

"However, it is most disturbing that the scammer managed to obtain specific details of their intended targets," he said.

Low said a 52-year caller from Bukit Baru here was embarrassed when "Dr Ang" alleged that he had demanded additional supplies of tadalafil pills for erectile dysfunction from Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

“The victim had never sought treatment in Kuala Lumpur and was not suffering from erectile dysfunction.

“The poor chap was so nervous and came to see me when Dr Ang threatened to tell his wife if he didn't hand over a huge sum,” he said.

Low advised victims not to panic if they received calls from supposed Health Ministry officers and lodge police reports instead.

He said a 65-year-old woman in Sibul was scammed of RM590,000 by a caller who tricked her into believing she had committed a felony by obtaining sleeping pills from Sarawak hospitals in July last year.

He said the man claiming to be a health officer told the victim that her Mykad had been used to get sleeping pills from hospitals in Sibul and Miri while asking her to pay the sum of money to “settle her offence”.