Teacher loses RM100,000 to money lending scam

KUANTAN: A teacher from Pekan, who only wanted to borrow RM20,000 to overcome her financial problems, ended up losing RM100,000 when she was conned by a bogus online loan provider.

The 43-year-old woman’s ordeal began in April when she came across a personal online loan advertisement offered by a “cooperative” on Facebook.

The victim provided her contact details in the comment section as instructed before a representative, who identified herself as Miss Celine from Syarikat AI A Riyah Enterprise, contacted her on April 30.

After a series of discussions, the teacher provided a few supporting documents to the representative to secure a RM20,000 loan, and she was supposed to pay RM433.33 every month for five years to repay the amount.

Pahang police Commercial Crime Investigation Department Chief Superintendent Mohd Wazir Mohd Yusof said the victim made several payments to the loan agent between May 3 and June 9 with the amount totalling RM108,380.

“The victim made several transactions to an account number provided by the loan agent as part of the process for her loan to be approved.

“Due to the delay in receiving her money, the woman became suspicious and contacted Bank Negara Malaysia’s (BNM) Telelink to seek clarification.

“BNM advised her to lodge a report and she went to the district police station on Tuesday.

“We have tracked down the bank account holder,” he said, adding that police were gathering more details on the suspects.

Wazir said the syndicate’s modus operandi was to cheat victims by offering non-existent loans and coaxing victims to make various processing payments.