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Bachelor falls victim to Macau scam, loses RM490,000

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A FORMER odd-job worker in Mambau, Negri Sembilan, lost more than RM490,000 in a Macau scam.

The scammers transferred the money out of his savings account via 62 transactions in 11 days using TAC numbers he provided them.

According to a report in *Sin Chew Daily* yesterday, the money involved was not only the 51-year-old bachelor's own life savings but also his mother's retirement fund as well as money he inherited from his father.

At a press conference arranged by Mambau assemblyman Yap Yew Weng in Seremban on Sunday, the victim, identified only as Chen in the report, said a man identifying himself as Insp Wong from Ipoh called him on April 11, to tell him that he would be arrested for involvement in money laundering.

However, he said Insp Wong later told him to contact one Datuk Khoo who could help him.

Convinced that "Datuk Khoo" was his saviour, Chen provided

him with his personal particulars as well as ATM card numbers and PINs for savings accounts he jointly hold with his mother.

"Datuk Khoo" subsequently instructed him to withdraw all the money in the joint accounts in MBSB and AmBank and deposit it in his account in Hong Leong Bank.

He said between April 11 and 21, the "Datuk" would call him several times a day to ask for the TAC he received on his handphone.

Chen said on April 22, he became suspicious when the "Datuk" stopped picking up his calls.

He went to the bank to check and was told there was no more money in his savings account.

He lodged a police report the following day and sought Yap's help to warn others of the scam.

Apparently, the scammers were not satisfied after cheating him of RM490,551.

On April 25, a man identifying himself as Tan from the Bukit Aman police headquarters, told Chen he could help him hunt down the scammers and chop off their hands for RM3,000.

Chen, however, had wised up and ignored the caller.