KUANTAN: A man claimed to have lost RM141,590 to a Macau scammer who impersonated a telecommunications company staff and a police officer since last month.

Pahang Commercial Crime Investigation Chief Supt Mohd Wazir Mohd Yusof said that the victim, 59, claimed to have received a telephone call on April 27 from a man allegedly conducting an online check from a telecommunications company.

"The suspect said he received a complaint about his telephone number which had been used for illegal gambling activities and was asked to contact a police officer for further investigations.

"A few days later, the officer sent the victim a WhatsApp message, claiming that his phone number was blacklisted and that he must submit his personal banking details to the police," he told reporters here yesterday.

Mohd Wazir said the victim was also instructed to share his transaction authorisation code (TAC) which will be sent to his handphone or risk losing his savings.

According to the victim, when he checked his bank account on Tuesday, he found that four online money transfer transactions had been made between April 28 and May 4 without his knowledge.

When he contacted the 'police officer' to inquire about the matter, he was told that the money had been transferred to facilitate investigations into the case and will be returned to him later.

However, the victim felt uneasy over this and lodged a report at the Mentakab Police Station, Temerloh, on Tuesday.

Investigations are being conducted under Section 420 of the Penal Code which provides for a jail sentence of up to 10 years and caning, and a possible fine, if found guilty.

~ Bernama