Bintulu woman loses RM1.18 million to phone scam

KUCHING: A 55-year-old woman from Bintulu has become Sarawak's latest scam victim after she lost RM1.18 million to a phone scam.

Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Mohd Azman Ahmad Sapri in a statement yesterday said the victim, who works for an IT company, received a phone call from a man on May 22.

"During the phone call, the suspect claimed himself to be from Putrajaya and said that victim had registered her phone number in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. She was also told that the phone number was used to defame the Ministry of Health.

"The phone call was then redirected to two other suspects who claimed themselves to be 'Sgt Wong' and 'Insp Khoo' from the Kota Kinabalu police.

"In that call, the victim was told that she was involved in money laundering and that Bank Negara wants to check here bank account," he said.

Mohd Azman said the woman was then instructed to open a bank account and transfer all her money into the new account for 'investigation'.

"On May 23 and June 9, she opened three bank accounts in Bintulu and transferred RM881,000 and RM300,000 from her Employees Provident Fund and savings account into the three accounts.

"She was directed to give all her banking details, including passwords, to the suspects, who also told her to destroy the three ATM cards that came with the new bank accounts," he said.

He added the woman only realised that had been scammed after she told her husband of the phone calls that she had received.

The victim also contacted the bank which confirmed that the money in the three accounts amounting to RM1.18 million has been transferred to another account holder.

Mohd Azman advised the public not to entertain unknown phone calls and to immediately notify their partners, friends or family members of the phone calls received, and to check with the police station, banks or related agencies for confirmation.