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## Businesswoman falls prey to phone scam, loses over RM200,000

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** A 47-year-old businesswoman incurred a loss of RM202,400 after falling victim to a phone scam in which the perpetrators claimed to be representatives from a courier company and the police.

Terengganu police chief Datuk Mazli Mazlan said the woman was contacted by the impostors in early February, and informed that she was implicated in a money laundering and drug-related crime.

He added that the scammers coerced the victim into divulging her online banking account information, including her password.

"She was then instructed to make several fund transfers to a specified account and to wait for three months for the investigation to be concluded before she could regain access to her bank account," he said in a statement yesterday.

Upon being alerted by her family members, the victim found her bank balance reduced by RM202,400, with 35 unauthorised transactions taking place without her knowledge.

Realising she had been deceived, she lodged a police report on Feb 28.

Mazli emphasised the importance of public awareness, cautioning individuals not to be swayed by calls from unfamiliar numbers and to terminate such calls if they feel apprehensive or suspicious.

He further advised against disclosing banking information to unknown individuals, stressing the prevalence of scams and the need for vigilance in dealing with unsolicited communications. — Bernama