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Clerk loses RM250,000 to phone scam

MIRI: A clerk here, in her 40s, has claimed to have lost some RM250,000 to a phone scam.

She reported having received a call from someone claiming to be a courier agent named 'Pang Hui Lee' from Perak last month, informing her about a parcel under her name that contained five identification cards, five ATM cards and five passports, sent by a person named 'Nor Azmi Bin Nazri' in Terengganu.

"However, the victim denied ever making such an arrangement; then, the call was passed to another number '+87052451072' to allow the victim to 'lodge a police report'.

"She then spoke to a person named 'Sergeant Lai' who claimed that the victim was involved in a human trafficking syndicate in Vietnam led by two individuals with the title of 'Dato'," said state police chief Datuk Mohd Azman Ahmad Sapri in a statement yesterday.

In fear, the woman wanted 'Sjn Lai' to help resolve the case, but the latter informed her that they must keep the matter confidential.

"The victim was also required to check with the suspect every three hours via WhatsApp, and (she) was then introduced to a 'Dato Wong' from Bukit Aman, who claimed that he could assist in resolving her case.

"The victim immediately contacted 'Dato Wong' and was told that a warrant of arrest had been issued against her, and that she would be arrested



**Datuk Mohd
Azman Ahmad
Sapri**

anytime to be produced in court."

Subsequently, the woman was instructed to surrender all the money in her bank account to be reviewed by 'Bank Negara Malaysia' as the police, according to 'Dato Wong', found that she was also involved in illicit money transfers.

"Out of fear, the victim informed 'Dato Wong' that she had four bank accounts under her name; she was later instructed to transfer the money in the accounts.

"The victim carried out nine online transactions from her bank accounts, totalling approximately RM250,000 (of transfers) into eight different bank accounts between the end of July and early August this year.

"The victim only realised she had been scammed after calls and WhatsApp messages were blocked by 'Sergeant Lai', before she finally disclosed the matter to her siblings."

She then lodged a police report for further investigation, said Mohd Azman.