

Media Title : The Sun  
Headline : Elderly man loses RM540,000 to scammers  
Date : 11 January 2024  
Section : National  
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# Elderly man loses RM540,000 to scammers

**JOHOR BAHRU:** An elderly man lost a total of RM540,047.97 to a phone scam syndicate.

Johor police chief Datuk Kamarul Zaman Mamat said police received a report from a 75-year-old retiree of a private company who claimed he had fallen victim to phone scammers.

He said the senior citizen received a phone call via WhatsApp in November last year, in which the caller asked the victim to press the Number 9 (on the keypad) and the call was connected to an individual claiming to be a police officer.

"The 'police officer' said there was a criminal record registered in the retiree's name. The call was then transferred to another individual

who introduced himself as a senior police officer, who stated he would be arrested and remanded.

"The retiree was told to lodge a report online and to follow all the instructions given. Due to fear, he followed the officer's instructions by withdrawing money amounting to RM543,000 from his account and depositing it into another account, which also belonged to him."

Kamarul said the retiree followed the man's instructions to leave his ATM card, along with the pin number for the account in which the RM543,000 was deposited at a location provided by the scammers.

The retiree was suspicious when a check

on his bank account last month found there was a transfer of money amounting to RM540,047.97 to several nominees whom he did not recognise.

"He then realised he had been duped and lodged a police report. The case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code.

"The public is urged to use the police *Semak MULE* app and website before making any payment, and to download the Whoscall app to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of fraud.

"If you have been a victim of fraud, contact the National Scam Response Centre at 997 as soon as possible." – Bernama