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Page : 3



Govt staff scammed of RM13,000

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RANAU: A civil servant here suffered a loss of RM13,000 after being deceived by an individual posing as a police officer and the Ministry of Communications and Digital.

The victim, aged around 30, received a call from an unknown number claiming to be from the Ministry of Communications and Digital, on May 27.

Ranau District Police Chief Supt Mursalin bin Mahmud said the caller alleged that the victim's phone number was involved in spreading fake messages related to investments, job offers and gambling.

He said the call was then connected to another individual who was supposedly a police officer from the Perak Police Contingent (IPK) Headquarters.

"On May 29, the victim was ordered to transfer RM13,000 into an account in the name of Muhammad Azlan, supposedly for the purpose of 'account protection'.

"The victim was also ordered to send photos and personal information every

three hours as a 'self-report'," he said when contacted on Wednesday.

According to him, the victim finally realised that it was a scam and then lodged a report at the Ranau Police Station, Tuesday.

"The case is currently under investigation by police under Section 420 of the Penal Code.

"The public are advised not to panic if they receive a call from an individual claiming to be a police officer or any government agency," he said.

He added that the public is reminded not to disclose personal information, bank account numbers, identity card photos or carry out any financial transactions on instructions to make a phone call.

"The step that needs to be taken is to check the validity of the call immediately through the District Police Headquarters (IPD) or the nearest police station.

"Let's raise awareness and protect the community from becoming victims of fraud syndicates," he said.