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Housewife in Miri loses RM41,500 to phone scam

MIRI: An elderly housewife lost RM41,500 to a phone scam.

Miri District police chief ACP Alexson Naga Chabu said the woman, in her 60s, lodged a report on Thursday.

“An individual posing as the woman’s friend had called from an unknown number, informing her that he had lost his phone and wallet.

“The caller then requested financial assistance from the woman, claiming that the caller’s bank account needed to be updated,” he said.

Upon hearing this, the housewife then made an online transfer to a bank account, of which the number was provided by the caller.

The victim, said Alexson, made four transactions amounting to a total of RM41,500.

“The victim then became suspicious and called her friend’s real phone number and discovered that her real friend never lost his mobile phone and wallet.

“From there, she realised that

she had been cheated,” said Alexson.

He reminded the public to always be wary of any unknown individual making a sudden phone call and asking for financial assistance.

“People are advised to contact the National Scam Response Centre (NSRC) via 997 if they are victims of cybercrimes such as offers of quick loans, love scams, e-commerce scams, or phone scams, especially if there are fund-transfer or e-wallet transaction requests from unknown individuals,” he said.

The public could also check the suspect’s phone number and bank account via Check Scammers CCID, or <http://semakmule.rmp.gov.my> before making any financial transaction.

In addition, the public could contact the Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) infoline, either via WhatsApp or SMS, on 013-211 1222 to get advice or channel information regarding online crime cases.