



# Housewife loses RM4,500 to police call scam — Foo

**KUCHING:** A 30-year-old housewife here lost RM4,500 after allegedly being deceived by scammers impersonating police officers, said Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) Public Complaints Bureau chief Milton Foo.

He said the victim, who wished to remain anonymous, received a call from a purported telecommunications company on May 22, alleging that her phone number had been used to spread fake news and might be suspended.

"The victim denied any involvement, but the caller claimed that they could transfer the call to the police from Bukit Aman to handle the case.

"Subsequently, a man introducing himself as 'Officer Lee' to the victim, saying that he took over the investigation, and demanded her cooperation," he told a press conference at the SUPP headquarters here yesterday.

The victim was then asked to provide her name, MyKad details as well as a selfie, sent at 9am, 1pm, 6pm and 8pm daily to check in with this 'Officer Lee'.

"She really believed that the perpetrators were genuine law enforcement officers, and complied with all the requirements from May 22 to 26," said Foo.

On May 27, the perpetrators sent her a court photo, claiming that the case on spreading fake news had been cleared, but an



Foo speaks at the press conference. — See Hua Daily News photo

investigation revealed that she was involved in another money-laundering case involving RM3 million, which was linked to a wanted criminal.

"The victim was terrified upon learning about the case and followed the scammers' instructions.

"The scammers asked for her bank account details, claiming that Bank Negara Malaysia needed to investigate whether her bank account was involved in money-laundering activities," said Foo.

The victim then transferred RM3,000 and RM1,500 on May 27 and May 28, respectively, to a bank account provided by the scammers.

The scammers then claimed that the investigation would

take eight days, and that if she was proven innocent, the money would be refunded in full.

Several days later, however, the scammers informed the victim that the money would not be returned and threatened her against lodging a police report, claiming that the wanted criminal would harm her and her family if she did so.

"The victim, whose husband works abroad, became so fearful that she moved back to her parents' house with her two children following the threat.

"She remains concerned about her family's safety because the scammers possess her personal information," said Foo.

He said after seeking assistance from the bureau, the victim eventually lodged a police

report.

"The scammers have since stopped contacting her," said Foo.

With regard to this case, the SUPP man advised the public to remain vigilant and never trust callers from unknown numbers, particularly those claiming to be enforcement officers or staff from telecommunication companies.

"Genuine law enforcement agencies will not take statements over the phone, and neither will they request money transfers for investigation.

"For criminal cases, the police will visit an individual in person or request him/her to come to the police station to assist with the investigation," Foo pointed out.

He further reminded the public never to disclose their MyKad number, address, bank account details, or personal photos to strangers via WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger or phone.

"If someone asks you to take a selfie and send it, it's 99.99 per cent a scam.

"Law enforcement agencies would never ask people to take selfies as a way to cooperate in an investigation," he stressed.

Foo thus advised people to hang up immediately if they received a suspicious call, and go to the relevant department counter or police station to verify the information to avoid falling prey to scammers.