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Housewife loses RM100,000 to scammer accusing her of involvement in criminal activities

KUCHING: A housewife from Kota Samarahan lost around RM100,000 to a Macau scam, after she was duped into believing she was being investigated for criminal activities.

Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Mancha Ata said the victim, in her 50s, had in April answered a phone call from an unknown person who claimed to be from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

"The victim was told she was being investigated over her involvement in 15 cheating cases.

The call was later transferred to another person who claimed to be from the police.

"The bogus policeman told the woman that she was also being probed for money laundering, and needed to transfer her savings to a third-party account for investigation purposes," he said in a statement yesterday.

Mancha said from mid-April to this month, the victim made 14 transactions to six different bank accounts given to her by the suspect, totalling about RM100,000.

"She also complied with the

suspect's instruction to tear all the bank slips and to not inform anyone of the money transfers.

"However, she later realised she had been cheated and lodged a police report on May 22," he said.

He went on to advise the public never to entertain calls from unknown numbers.

"If you do answer such calls and are accused of committing a crime, do not panic and immediately end the call. Also, never reveal any banking details to such callers," he said.