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# Lab technologist loses nearly RM400,000 to Macau scam

**BINTULU:** A medical laboratory technologist in her 40s here lost nearly RM400,000 after falling for a Macau scam.

Sarawak Deputy Police Commissioner Datuk Mancha Ata said the woman received a phone call in early June from an unknown man who claimed to be an officer from the 'Department of Communications and Digital'.

"The caller told the victim there were 27 complaints lodged against her in connection with gambling offences in Perak.

"The call was then connected

to a 'Sergeant Major Hong' who told the woman her name was linked to money laundering activities and online gambling," he said in a statement yesterday.

Mancha said the victim next spoke to another suspect who identified himself as 'Inspector Umar' who instructed her to transfer her money into accounts purportedly belonging to a Bank Negara auditor for investigation purposes.

"The victim went on to make 12 transactions amounting to



Datuk Mancha  
Ata

about RM100,000 to two bank accounts provided by the suspect.

"Between the middle of June to early July, she was also instructed to take out loans from three banks totalling RM300,000 and told to provide the ID and passwords for the three accounts – again for investigation purposes," he said.

Mancha said the woman later checked her three accounts and found over RM290,000 had been transferred to four bank accounts in 21 transactions.

She only realised she had been scammed after informing the matter to her husband, and

proceeded to file a police report, he added.

In this regard, Mancha once again reminded the public never to entertain calls from unknown numbers, and to inform family members or close friends if they do receive such calls.

"If you do happen to answer such calls, don't panic even if the person on the other end of the line accuses you of being involved in criminal activities. Remain calm and never disclose any personal information," he said.