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# Man fleeced out of RM11,600 by friend



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**SIBU:** An e-hailing driver here lost RM11,600 after being conned by a suspect disguising as his friend.

Sibu police chief, ACP Zulkipli Suhaili, said on Tuesday the 50-year-old victim received a call from an individual who claimed to be an old friend.

"The suspect informed him that his phone had gone missing and requested assistance from the victim to lend money for home repairs," he said in a statement yesterday.

Without a second thought, the victim made three money transfers amounting to RM11,600.

"The victim felt suspicious and realised that he had been deceived by the suspect following the successful money transfer, but his phone calls were blocked. Consequently, the victim headed to the nearby police station to lodge a report," he added.

He said an investigation is being carried out under Section 420 of the Penal Code, which could lead to jail time between one and 10 years, whipping, as well as a fine upon conviction.

Zulkipli advised the public not to easily believe calls or messages



**ZULKIPLI**

on loan offers received from friends or acquaintances, especially if the bank account used belongs to another individual.

"Verify by contacting the so-called friend or acquaintance for confirmation," he said.

The public can check the suspect's phone number and bank account through Check Scammer CCID or via the website <https://semakmule.rmp.gov.my/> before making any financial transactions.

The public can also visit Facebook pages Commercial Crime Investigation Department (JSJK), Cyber Crime Alert Royal Malaysia Police, and JSJK Sarawak for information on the latest fraud modus operandi.