

Police nab man over RM600k phone scam using mule account



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Police have arrested a man suspected of involvement in a phone scam syndicate that caused a victim to suffer losses amounting to RM600,850.

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GEORGE TOWN: Police have arrested a man suspected of involvement in a phone scam syndicate that caused a victim to suffer losses amounting to RM600,850.

Penang police chief Datuk Azizee Ismail said the arrest was made under Ops Mule NSRC, an operation targeting fraudulent schemes involving "mule accounts" used to facilitate illegal transactions.

He said the syndicate allegedly deceived victims by impersonating bank officers and police personnel, manipulating them into transferring money.

"The suspect, a 38-year-old trader, is believed to have allowed his CIMB bank account and ATM card to be used by the syndicate.

"Investigations revealed that he handed over his banking details and ATM card to another man during a face-to-face meeting in Seberang Prai Tengah around August.

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"Further investigation showed the suspect had initially met the individual via Facebook while applying for an online loan of RM500. He only received RM400, but was instructed to repay RM100 weekly," he said in a statement.

Azizee said the case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating.

Conviction under this section carries a sentence of imprisonment for not less than one year and up to 10 years, whipping, and a fine.

He also cautioned the public against sharing banking details, ATM cards or account information with others, stressing that doing so risks the account being misused as a mule account in scams.

"Permitting one's bank account to be used by syndicates is a criminal offence and can lead to legal consequences," he said.
