



# Scam: Pedicurist loses RM158,000; retiree RM170,000

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**KUCHING:** A woman in her 30s was cheated out of RM158,000 after applying for a part-time online job offer on a Facebook page.

Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Mancha Ata in a statement yesterday said the woman, a pedicurist working at a salon here, was given an online link to start the part-time job.

"According to the victim, she was not required to make any payments until she was asked to click on a given link to continue the part-time online job," he said.

Upon clicking on the link, the woman said she was asked to 'top-up' a certain amount by transferring money to bank accounts provided by the suspect.

"She went on to transfer around RM158,000 to nine



Datuk Mancha Ata

unknown bank accounts in the middle of this month.

"According to the victim, she received a commission of only RM397.30 from the online work," he added.

Mancha added the woman only realised she had been cheated when she failed to withdraw her RM158,000 and commission which had been placed in an e-wallet account.

He said the suspect had also asked the victim for an additional RM50,000 in order for her to

be able to withdraw the money from the e-wallet account.

In a separate case, Mancha said a Bintulu woman in her late 50s lodged a police report after losing RM170,000 of her savings to a phone scam.

He said the retiree had in mid-September received a call from someone claiming to be from Pos Laju, who informed her that there was a package under her name that contained a debit card belonging to another individual.

"The victim denied knowing anything about the package, after which the caller connected her to a 'Sergeant Ling from Bukit Aman'.

"Sergeant Ling told the victim her name was linked to money laundering activities involving a sum of RM300,000, before transferring the call to an 'Inspector Foo' who told her that her identity card had been used to open a bank account in Kedah.

"Threatening to arrest the victim, 'Inspector Foo' warned her not to reveal the matter to anyone and to give her full cooperation," Mancha said.

He said the line was then connected to one 'Tuan Chung' who instructed the victim to transfer all of her money into a new bank account for 'auditing purposes' by Bank Negara.

"The victim followed the instructions and transferred her savings totalling about RM170,000 at the end of September.

"The victim was also prohibited from checking the bank account and was required to report to the suspect on a daily basis."

Mancha said the woman only realised she had been cheated when she checked the new account on Nov 21 and saw that her savings had been transferred to seven bank accounts belonging to unknown individuals.