



SURVEILLANCE LEADS TO ARREST

# SCAMMER LINKED TO RM3.5m JAIL RUSE HELD

Suspect claimed to have connections to help woman get her daughter released from Kajang Prison

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**A** 67-YEAR-OLD businesswoman was cheated out of RM3.5 million by a man who claimed that he had the "connections" to help get her jailed daughter released.

The businesswoman had paid the man RM3.5 million over 36 months, between March 2020 and June 2023.

The 38-year-old daughter has been in Kajang Prison since 2019, for offences under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 and the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012.

Johor deputy police chief

Deputy Commissioner M. Kumar said the 35-year-old man was arrested in Johor Baru on June 16, in a joint operation coordinated by state police and Bukit Aman federal police.

"It was not an easy arrest as we had to mount surveillance for several days and gather intelligence diligently before the arrest was made," Kumar said yesterday.

It is learnt that the suspect in custody was jobless and that he had contacted the victim via her Facebook page.

Sources close to the investigation revealed that the suspect, who had an enforcement officer's persona, had guaranteed the victim that he had "connections" with top-brass enforcement officers and could secure "an unconditional release" of her daughter if the payment was right.

After paying the suspect in installments over a period of more than two years, the woman started demanding for her daughter's release to be expedited.

By June this year, the man began making excuses, avoided her

calls and eventually went totally quiet.

The woman realised that she had been deceived, prompting her to lodge a police report.

Kumar said the suspect was arrested under Section 420 of the Penal Code, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment, whipping and also a fine.

He added that investigations were underway to tie up some loose ends.

Kumar declined to provide details on the 38-year-old prison inmate's previous arrest and the nature of her mother's business.

He urged the public to exercise caution when dealing with unfamiliar individuals on social media.

"There is relevant advice on the police's social media platforms on dealing with such cases.

"Please follow them to stay informed about the latest modus operandi of such crimes.

"When in doubt or if you suspect that you are a victim of a fraud, contact the National Scam Response Centre at 997 immediately."