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Teacher falls victim to phone scam

GEORGE TOWN: A teacher lost RM890,000 after falling victim to a phone scam syndicate that falsely accused the victim of being involved in money laundering.

Penang deputy police chief Datuk Mohd Alwi Zainal Abidin said the 59-year-old woman filed a report on Monday at the commercial crime investigation division of the northeast district police headquarters, Bernama reported.

"According to the victim, she was at home when she received a phone call from an unknown number on May 10. A man, who introduced himself as a representative of a bank, told her a credit card had been misused in her name.

"The woman denied having the credit card, and the call was connected to an individual claiming to be a police officer in Johor, who said she was involved in a money laundering case," he said.

The "police officer" then asked the woman to transfer money for audit purposes, and that the money would be returned after investigation was completed.

Mohd Alwi said the victim made 27 online money transfer transactions to 23 different accounts from May 19 to June 5, involving a total of RM890,000.