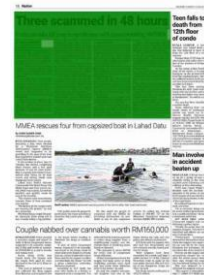


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Page : 16



# Three scammed in 48 hours

## Professionals fall prey to syndicates with losses totalling RM700k

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**JOHOR BARU:** Three professionals, comprising a doctor and two engineers, have fallen victims to scammers over the past 48 hours in three separate scams with losses totalling about RM700,000.

In all the cases, the syndicate members impersonated as bank officers, income tax officials, courier company workers and even policemen.

In the first case, a female doctor, in her 20s, who was at work received a call from a man, impersonating as an income tax officer, claiming that the doctor was a company director who owed taxes in Kelantan, amounting to RM250,000.

"When the victim denied it, the 'tax officer' then transferred the call to a 'police inspector' who claimed that her company was involved in drug related activities.

"The young doctor panicked

when told that she would be arrested at her workplace to assist in investigations," sources said, adding that the policeman then directed the doctor to transfer her money to different accounts for safekeeping until investigations were completed.

Sources said the suspects also forced the victim to take up bank loans to prove that her credit scoring was good and that banks trust her to give out the loans.

"The victim took out several loans amounting to almost RM80,000," the sources said, adding that the doctor realised she had been scammed when a huge amount of money was transferred out from her accounts.

She then lodged a police report after losing almost RM200,000 which involved her own savings and bank loans.

In a similar scam, an engineer, in his 40s, got cheated when he called a number which he purportedly received from a bank via an SMS about some purchases

totalling RM3,000.

"The victim immediately contacted the number and was then given another number to call Bank Negara to explain his situation," the sources said, adding that the bogus bank officer asked the victim to provide all his banking details for verification.

Source said the victim was so afraid that he not only revealed his banking details but also all the passwords for his wife's accounts and credit cards.

"The next day, he received another SMS, informing that he had made some purchases again and this time, when he checked his accounts, some RM300,000 had been transferred out," the sources said.

Meanwhile, a third victim, also an engineer, in his 50s, lost about RM130,000 in a parcel scam.

Sources said the engineer got a call from a courier company, informing him that there was a parcel for him containing some identity cards and ATM cards.

"The victim was then told to contact a policeman who threatened to arrest him for being involved in money laundering.

"He was told to move his money to a safe account and will be returned later," the sources said, adding that the victim realised he had been duped when the 'policeman' kept calling him, asking for more money.

A police official confirmed all three cases and that investigations were on-going under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating.

The official reminded the public to be cautious when contacted by people, claiming to be courier company agents, who would transfer the call to supposed enforcement officers.

He urged the public to use the Semak Mule mobile app or go to <https://semakmule.rmp.gov.my> to check if any bank accounts or phone numbers have been associated with suspicious activities to avoid falling victim to scams.