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Varsity student loses savings to phone scam syndicate

KUALA TERENGGANU: A public university student here lost RM187,800 after falling victim to a phone scam syndicate posing as a Touch 'n Go representative.

Kuala Terengganu district police chief ACP Azli Mohd Noor said last Monday, the 26-year-old received a call from someone claiming that she had misused the app and was involved in money laundering and drug trafficking.

The caller instructed her to make several bank transfers "for investigation purposes" and to clear her name.

"The victim made eight payments to six accounts between last Monday and Saturday, using her savings and money taken from her parents' account without their knowledge.

"In addition, she handed over

three bracelets, five rings and a pendant belonging to her mother to a female suspect by the roadside at Pantai Penarik in Setiu on Saturday," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the victim lodged a police report at 9.43pm the same day after realising she had been duped.

However, she could not provide a detailed description of the woman she met as the woman was wearing a face mask.

"I urge the public not to be gullible and instead use the Semak Mule app to verify phone numbers and bank accounts provided by suspects.

"They can also contact the National Scam Response Centre hotline at 997 for verification before transferring funds to third-party accounts," he added. – Bernama