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Woman fined RM10,000 for acting as money mule in scam

SIBU: A 52-year-old woman was fined RM10,000 by the Magistrates' Court here after RM1,500 linked to an online loan scam was traced to her bank account.

Magistrate Romario Jonoi convicted Corina Hamdan, who was unrepresented, on her own guilty plea to a charge under Section 424C(1) of the Penal Code for dishonestly receiving stolen property.

She paid the fine.

According to the facts of the case, a civil servant lodged a police report after being duped by an online loan scam syndicate.

On April 1, the victim came across a loan advertisement on Facebook and was later contacted via WhatsApp by an individual claiming to represent a bank.

The victim was told she qualified for an RM20,000 loan but had to make several advance payments, including charges for government tax clearance and credit scoring.

She subsequently transferred RM320 to one bank account and RM1,500 to another as instructed.

A police investigation found that the RM1,500 transferred on April 4 was credited into an account registered to Corina.

The victim transferred the money after being induced by fraudulent representations in what was identified as an online loan scam.

The bank confirmed that the RM1,500 was credited into Corina's account.

She failed to provide a satisfactory explanation as to how she came into possession of the money.

Deputy public prosecutor Nuralisa Natasha Nazrulzam appeared for the prosecution.