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Woman loses over RM700,000 to fake anti-scam officer

KUCHING: An elderly woman here lost over RM700,000 of her savings to a scammer impersonating a National Anti-Scam Response Centre officer.

Sarawak Democratic Action Party (DAP) chairman Chong Chieng Jen said the victim, who wished not to be named, had endured the psychological pressure of being scammed and reprimanded by her children for over a month.

"With no one else to turn to, she sought help from the state DAP," he said in a See Hua Daily News report on Saturday.

Chong said the victim received a phone call from the bogus officer in August, alleging that she was involved in a scam and needed a thorough investigation of her bank account.

He said the victim was later instructed to transfer her savings to a bank account claimed to be designated by Bank Negara Malaysia, following a call from a person impersonating a police officer.

"The scammers had forged

invoices and mailed them to the victim under the names of two different companies to cover up the purpose of the transfers," he added.

Chong said in September and October, the victim transferred RM388,000 and RM318,000, respectively, to the two companies designated by the scammers.

Out of fear, she dared not tell anyone, including her children, about the scam.

"Until recently, she heard about a similar scam while chatting with a friend, and only then did she realise she had been scammed."

The Stampin MP said the victim could not hold back her tears while recounting the scam at his office recently.

"She told me that if her children had known about the scam, they would definitely scold her."

According to him, the chances of recovering the victim's money are slim since the transfers happened weeks ago.

Despite this, Chong said his DAP team would do their level

best to assist in the relevant probe.

To help reduce the victim's stress, he contacted one of her sons and personally explained the ordeal she had endured alone throughout the scam process.

"It was fortunate that the victim's son, after hearing his mother's story, showed understanding and agreed that while recovering the money would be ideal, if it could not be done, he would not blame her."

He called on the people to remain vigilant, noting that fraud cases are becoming rampant, with scammers impersonating government officers and often targeting the elderly.

He also urged everyone to discuss with their family or verify with the DAP team if they receive any phone calls or WhatsApp messages requesting them to transfer money or provide account information.

"Never make decisions alone, and never transfer money in a hurry. Once money is transferred, it is often impossible to recover," he said.