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Woman loses RM1.2 mln in phone scam, pawns RM500,000 jewellery

KOTA BHARU: A company investment manager lost about RM1.2 million after being duped by a scam syndicate through a phone call in Kota Bharu last July.

Kelantan police chief Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat said the woman, a single mother in her 50s, was believed to have received a call from an individual posing as an authority and claiming

that she was involved in a money laundering case.

He said, out of fear, the woman followed the suspect's instructions, withdrawing money from her bank accounts, including her Employees Provident Fund (EPF) savings, as well as pawning and selling jewellery worth nearly RM500,000.

"Most concerning, the

woman took about two months before lodging a police report, after all her money had been withdrawn and handed over to the perpetrators.

"She knew that she was not involved in money laundering, but because she was so frightened, she did not tell her family members or the police," he said in a press conference after the monthly assembly at

the Kelantan contingent police headquarters (IPK) on Tuesday.

Mohd Yusoff said the syndicate also used application spoofing technology to make the phone number appear as though the call was from the police, including using the Kelantan IPK's telephone number.

He said the police detected about 68 calls a day using the Kelantan IPK's number, and

the matter was now under investigation.

"Neither the police nor agencies such as Bank Negara Malaysia will call members of the public and instruct them to withdraw money or open a new account.

"If you receive such a call, hang up and contact the relevant agency through its official channels to verify the matter," he said.

He said the police had also sought assistance from Bukit Aman to track down individuals believed to be involved in the scam.

He said the incident began about two months ago before a report was lodged recently and, as of this year, the case was among those involving the largest individual losses recorded in Kelantan. — Bernama