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Two duped of more than RM900,000 in phone scams

➤ First victim threatened with arrest while second complainant accused of involvement in money laundering

IPOH: A private sector retiree in the Kerian district has claimed to have lost RM485,000 in a phone scam, said Perak police chief Datuk Seri Mohd Yusri Hassan Basri.

He added that the 72-year-old woman filed a report at about 11am on Monday.

"Initial investigations revealed that she was contacted by a man on Aug 4, who claimed to be from a courier company. He alleged that she had sent a package containing credit cards, identity card chips and ATM cards to a recipient and the delivery attempt was unsuccessful.

"The woman denied the claim but was connected to two individuals who posed as

police officers, one from the Ipoh police headquarters and the other from Bukit Aman."

Mohd Yusri said she was also accused of being involved in human trafficking and money laundering cases, then threatened with arrest and imprisonment.

Out of fear, she made 34 transactions to 11 bank accounts provided by the suspect between Aug 8 and Sept 6.

"The woman only realised she had been deceived when a visiting relative became suspicious as she was about to make another money transfer. She explained the situation when her family inquired and lodged a report."

In another case, a private sector employee lost RM473,225 of her Tabung Haji and Amanah Saham savings to phone scam syndicate members who impersonated an insurance agent, police officer and a lawyer.

Mohd Yusri said the 55-year-old woman from Bercham lodged a report on Monday after realising the syndicate had been duping her since January, Bernama reported.

"The woman received a call on Jan 25 from someone posing as an insurance agent, asking if she had received RM78,000 in insurance claims.

"About a week later, she received another call from someone claiming to be an officer from the Ampang Jaya district police headquarters, asking her to lodge a report to claim the insurance payout."

He said the woman was then connected to another individual impersonating a lawyer, who informed her that she was involved in a money laundering case.

On Feb 3, two other individuals called the woman and instructed her to withdraw her funds, following which she withdrew RM458,000 from her Amanah Saham and Tabung Haji accounts and transferred the money into her bank account.

"She also deposited RM35,000 in five transactions into three accounts on the instructions of one of the callers, purportedly to settle a compound for her 'criminal offence'.

"On Aug 25, the woman received a notice from her bank that there were 17 transactions totalling RM438,225 from her account to several unknown accounts between Feb 9 and March 28."

Mohd Yusri said both cases are being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating.