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Civil servant loses RM600,000 to phone scam syndicate

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SIBU: A woman here was fleeced of nearly RM600,000 in a phone scam.

The 40-year-old civil servant lodged a report on Sept 12 claiming she had been cheated by a phone scam syndicate, says

Sarawak Commissioner of Police Datuk Mohd Azman Sapri.

"In early August, the woman received a call from a man who claimed to be from a courier company in Perak. The suspect told her she had sent a parcel which contained several identity cards," he said in a statement.

When the woman denied it, the

line was connected to a so-called Perak police station chief who scolded her for not cooperating with them.

"After that she received a message in her WhatsApp from another suspect who informed her that she was involved in money laundering," he added.

Azman said as the victim pan-

icked, she followed all instructions from the suspect.

She was also advised not to reveal anything to anyone.

She transferred RM20,000 to two accounts supposedly for "Bank Negara auditing".

Soon after that she was asked to deposit more money.

"She took out her savings and

also secured bank loans, all totalling RM580,000. The money was transferred to five different bank accounts," he said.

The woman realised she had been conned when the suspects could no longer be contacted.

The case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating.