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## SAVINGS

# Retired teacher loses RM219,000 to phone scam

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** A retired teacher had her pilgrimage funds and other savings amounting to RM218,900 wiped out after falling victim to a phone scam.

District police chief Assistant Commissioner Azli Mohd Noor said the incident occurred when the 65-year-old received a call from someone claiming to be a representative of a medical centre on Aug 31.

He said the suspect informed the victim that she had an insurance claim amounting to RM68,800, which the victim denied. She was then asked to file a police report on the misuse of her personal information.



Assistant Commissioner Azli Mohd Noor

“On Sept 24, the victim was instructed to open an account purportedly under the control of ‘Bank Negara Malaysia’ for monitoring purposes and was asked to deposit RM5,000 as a fixed deposit,” said Azli.

She was told to transfer her other savings into the account, including RM201,900 from her Tabung Haji account.

“She realised she had been scammed after explaining the situation to her daughter on Sept 26. A check with the bank later found that the account had a balance of only RM100.”

Azli added that 20 transactions had been made, resulting in a total loss of RM218,900.