



Headline: Elderly easy prey for fraudsters
Publication/Portal: The Star
Date: 21 February 2022

Language: English
Section: Nation
Page: 5

Elderly easy prey for fraudsters

By **RAHIMY RAHIM**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Scammers will normally target older victims with big savings and find ways to get them to transfer money to a fake account or reveal sensitive and private information about themselves, reveals Datuk Seri Michael Chong.

The MCA Public Services and Complaints Department head said he had received many complaints involving Macau scam cases over the years and has been highlighting them to help the victims.

"There have been some cases where they ask the victims to go to the bank to withdraw a huge sum or transfer money.

"I have already given my advice to bank associations to be aware when individuals suddenly want to withdraw huge amounts, and to verify either with their family members or relatives," Chong said.

He said the common modus operandi of these types of scams were to use fear tactics and threats against the victims.

"Sometimes they will scare by warning that savings or money might be at risk.

"They will use fake identities to dupe victims such as claiming to be from the relevant authorities or banks," he said.

In such cases, Chong warned the public to be careful when contacted by unknown numbers or

Types of Macau scams

- Scammers trick victims into transferring a large sum of money using local or international phone lines.
- Victims are duped into thinking they have won a competition or lucky draw.
- A Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is used to mask the scammer's voice to show that it was made from a trusted local number.
- Spoofing technique via a telephone call that appears to be from trusted officials either from the court, Inland Revenue Board (LHDN) or the police.
- The scammers, disguised as bank officers or police, claim that the victims have failed to make credit card payments or fines. Victims will be directed to contact an "official" allegedly from an established institution such as Bank Negara Malaysia and will be asked to transfer money to avoid being blacklisted or having their bank accounts frozen.

Source: PDRM
TheStargraphics

private lines.

"You have to be careful when an unknown caller asks for private information.

"The easiest way is for you to tell them that you prefer to handle such matters officially by way of letter," he said.

Chong said the Macau scam also involved the use of automated calls or messages to inform a person that he has outstanding fines or unpaid taxes.

Chong explained that the caller would claim that the name, Mykad and bank accounts of the victim are connected to drug related crimes and money laundering activities.

"I have already advised banks to be aware when individuals suddenly want to withdraw huge amounts."

Datuk Seri Michael Chong