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# Retired government doctor duped of RM200,000

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** An 83-year-old retired doctor has lost RM200,000 after being tricked by scammers.

Kuala Lumpur commercial crimes investigations department (CCID) chief ACP Mohd Mahidisham Ishak yesterday said the former government hospital doctor received a phone call on Feb 25 from a scammer, who claimed to be a bank representative.

He said the caller told the doctor that his personal particulars had been fraudulently used for a credit card application.

“The scammer then transferred the call to an accomplice, who introduced himself as a Bank Negara official and told the victim that a police report had been purportedly lodged over the matter and that he would be assisted in the cancellation of the credit card. The scammers even sent the victim a copy of the police report through WhatsApp,”

Mohd Mahidisham said.

The victim was then asked for his online banking user identification details, login password and also the one-time password sent to his phone.

Mohd Mahidisham said the doctor later became suspicious of the call and contacted the bank to check on his account, and was told that RM200,000 had been withdrawn from his account in 14 transactions.

He said the victim also learnt that there was no credit card application made under his name, and lodged a

police report the following day.

Federal police CCID director Comm Datuk Kamarudin Md Din said the ruse often used by such scammers was to claim that the victim had been implicated in a money-laundering case and was being investigated by police.

He said with such tactics, the scammers intimidate their victims by threatening to freeze their bank accounts if they did not cooperate.

“Police do not carry out investigations via phone calls. Cases

involving money-laundering are investigated by the CCID and often, witnesses are called up to be present for a probe. Also, until and unless we find sufficient evidence in our investigations, we would not simply freeze bank accounts at our whim and fancy,” Kamarudin said, adding that such cases, which are known as Macau scams, are rampant.

He advised those receiving such calls to verify details first, and said there were 1,585 cases last year and 557 in the first two months this year.