



Headline: Macau Scam: Duo lose RM334,000
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Macau Scam: Duo lose RM334,000

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KOTA KINABALU: A civil servant in Ranau and a businesswoman in Kuala Penyu lost RM334,000 in separate cases to Macau scam syndicates.

Ranau District Police Chief, DSP Simiun Lomudin said the 41-year-old civil servant lost more than RM316,000 on March 4 after receiving a call from a man who introduced himself as an Inland Revenue Board (LHDN) officer.

The man claimed the victim had tax arrears of RM18,000 which need to be settled immediately to avoid being declared bankrupt.

"The victim denied having any arrears but was connected to a so-called Kuantan District Police Headquarters (IPD) line and was shocked when told he was involved in drug abuse and money laundering.

"The syndicate then said the victim's details may have been misused by others and instructed him to provide banking information to the syndicate for further investigation and review," he said.

The syndicate then gave the victim a Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) link (www.bnm.com) to fill in all the bank information belonging to the complainant



DSP Simiun



DSP Yusoff

(victim).

A few days later, the victim found a total of 17 transfer transactions had been made involving RM316,150 from his account to another individual's account.

The victim lodged a report and the case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code.

"This incident is the second reported in Ranau in 2022 using the same modus operandi.

"The first earlier this year also involved civil servants who suffered losses amounting to 557,000," he said.

He advised the public to check with the police or relevant agencies if they are unsure or suspect that there is an element of fraud to avoid becoming a victim.

He stressed that tax-related matters are not discussed through personal phone calls but through a LHDN official letter or email at @hasil.gov.my

He said besides the Macau Scam, there are various other fraud modus operandi such as vehicle sales and non-existent loans occur in this district where most of the cases involve victims of civil servants.

In BEAUFORT, a 37-year-old woman trader became RM18,570 poorer when she was cheated by someone who claimed to be a Pos Malaysia officer, said District Police Chief DSP Yusoff Zaki Mat Yaacob.

The victim received a call from an individual via 03-22733928/05-2451500 at 10.20am at her house in Kg Lambunau, Membakut on March 19.

"The caller said there was a parcel under her name containing an identity card and a bank card to be sent to Sarawak but appeared dubious and the victim's call was connected to a police station in Ipoh, Perak for verification.

"The victim spoke to a policeman with the rank of a sergeant and was told an inspection on her identity card found she had been involved in money laundering."

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Victim was told to keep things secret: Cops

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"The victim was told to keep her case a secret and a bail of RM10,000 was needed for the purpose of not arresting her. Subsequently, the victim panicked and provided her bank information, username and password via WhatsApp to contact number 014-2445036/010-5340736," Yusoff Zaki said.

He said the victim was promised that her money would be returned upon completion of the investigation where her money was transferred to the suspect in stages via Duit-Now into an account of a nominee Muhammad Haziq from March 19 until 26, this year.

The victim realised she has been cheated when the suspect often asked for money which made her lodge a report.

Early this month and in March, two doctors and a female nurse were made poorer over half a million Ringgit in total after being tricked by a Macau Scam syndicate disguised as police and the Ministry of Health.

On April 1, Tawau Police Chief ACP Jasmin Hussin said a male doctor in his 30s lost RM747,000 when made 16 transactions in several different accounts since the first incident on Jan 27, this year. He made the transactions from early February until March.

On March 6, Daily Express reported a female doctor in Kota Marudu who was also deceived in a Macau Scam syndicate and lost her savings of RM63,950 when received an unknown phone call from an individual introducing himself as an Inland Revenue Board (IRB) office where she was alleged to be involved in money laundering and drug smuggling activities. Another scam was reported by the paper on March 30 where a 44-year-old nurse became a victim of the same syndicate in Beaufort after being deceived of RM50,000 by a person posing as an official from IRB.