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Macau scammers having a field day fleecing victims

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PETALING JAYA: A retired teacher, a businesswoman and housewives are among the latest Macau Scam victims – some looking at six-figure losses.

A 51-year-old woman from Selangor lost RM458,000, while a 60-year-old woman from Johor is now poorer by RM317,500.

A 50-year-old woman from Sarawak is upset for losing RM221,000 while a 58-year-old man from Perak regrets parting with RM119,600.

The official Royal Malaysia Police Cyber Crime's Facebook page said they were among

the 29 people who were conned as of yesterday.

As for the modus operandi, the police cited the example of a scammer who would call a victim via the number 018-xxxx and claim the victim had made a RM50,000 personal loan from a bank in Kedah.

“To convince the victim, the caller would give a reference number and even the date when the loan was approved.

“The caller would then inform the victim that he still has more than RM3,000 in overdue repayments,” the post said.

To make the story more convincing, the caller would then connect the call to the Kedah police headquarters and would even

ask the victim to check online if the phone number matched.

The victim would then be required to talk to a few police officers, who the victim he must provide bank account details.

“After checking the victim’s MyKad, the bogus policemen would accuse the victim that he was involved in money laundering and drug-related crimes.

“They would then give the victim a choice of cooperating with the police or being remanded for 44 days with no surety, while his bank account will be frozen for two years and six months,” the post said.

The fake police personnel would then instruct the victim to transfer all his sav-

ings, including in Amanah Saham Bumiputera and Tabung Haji to the temporary account.

The Macau Scam often starts with a phone call from someone pretending to be an officer from a bank, government agency or debt collector.

The scammer will then claim that the potential victim owes money or has an unpaid fine, often with a very short window of less than an hour to settle the payment, or else they will face “dire consequences”.

These unsuspecting victims will then be asked to make payments to get them off the hook.