



Headline: Graduate loses RM110,000 scholarship funds, savings to Macau Scam
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Graduate loses RM110,000 scholarship funds, savings to Macau Scam

KUCHING: A university graduate here lost RM110,000 in personal and scholarship funds when he fell victim of a Macau Scam on Monday.

This was revealed by Sarawak Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID) chief Supt Mustafa Kamal Gani Abdullah, who said the scam unfolded when the victim received a phone call from someone claiming to be an officer from a court in Melaka.

"The 24-year-old was told that a credit card had been issued under his name and that a sum of RM8,700 had been charged to the card over the past six months.

"The victim believed what was told to him as his house had previously been broken into during which his Mykad was stolen," said Mustafa Kamal in a statement yesterday.

According to him, the victim had his call 'transferred' to a person who introduced himself as 'Sergeant Lim'.

He so-called policeman told the victim that a bank account had also been registered under his name, and that the account had been used for money laundering purposes connected to a drug case.

Mustafa Kamal said the caller then questioned the victim about his joint account, which held a sum of RM100,000, to which the latter revealed that it was his scholarship money.

"The caller then 'advised' the victim to transfer the money into four different accounts pending an investigation into his alleged case.

"He did as he was instructed, and transferred the scholarship money as well as RM10,000 of his own money," he said.

He added the victim only realised he had fallen victim to a scam when he informed his mother and younger brother about what he had done, and was immediately told by them to lodge a police report.

Meanwhile, the CCID chief

revealed that a housewife here reported the loss of RM30,000 in a similar phone scam believed to be perpetrated by the same syndicate.

He said the incident, which also happened on Monday, occurred when the 36-year-old answered a call from a woman claiming to from a court in Kuching.

The housewife was told that a company had been registered under name in Penang, and that the company had an outstanding Goods and Services (GST) payment of RM96,800.

"The phone call was then 'transferred' to the Pulau Pinang Police Headquarters where a man, who also identified himself as 'Sergeant Lim', accused the housewife of being a member of a criminal gang involved in drugs and money laundering.

"Upon the man's instruction, the housewife made three transactions of RM9,999 each to an account number provided to

her," he said, adding she lodged a report the same day after realising she had been duped.

Meanwhile, Mustafa Kamal said three others – a businessman in Sibul, as well as a chef and female engineer in Miri – also became Macau Scam victims this week.

He said the 27-year-old businessman reported the loss of RM6,920; the 21-year-old chef, RM3,020; and the 28-year-old engineer, RM29,997.

"Six other individuals also reported being targeted by these scammers, but did not fall victim and avoided losing any money," he added.

Meanwhile in MIRI, an engineer and a cook became the latest victims of the Macau Scam, suffering losses of RM29,997 and RM3,020 respectively on Monday (Nov 26).

Commercial Crime Investigation Department Sarawak head Supt Mustafa Kamal Gani Abdullah said in a statement yesterday that

the engineer – a 28-year-old woman – had received a phone call from someone claiming to be a policeman from Johor police station.

"The man informed the victim that she was involved in a road accident on Nov 23 and that there was a teenage victim, who is currently hospitalised due to the incident.

"The phone call was then transferred to another 'policeman' from the same 'police station', who told the victim that she was involved in drug and money laundering activities," said Mustafa.

The victim was then told to contact a Bank Negara Malaysia 'prosecutor', who told her to transfer money to an account to prove that her income was not from money laundering.

"The victim followed the instructions and transferred RM29,997 to an account belonging to Stanley Engan John.

"She was also told to transfer

money from her other account to the same account given but was unsuccessful," said Mustafa.

The woman only realised she was a Macau Scam victim when she related the incident to a friend.

Meanwhile, the cook, 21, lost RM3,020 after receiving a call from an individual claiming to be from the Melaka Court.

The man told the victim that he had been charged with drug distribution and involvement in money laundering activities.

"The victim then received a call from a 'policeman', who claimed to be from Melaka police headquarters, saying he was involved in drug activities and money laundering.

"He was directed to transfer cash amounting to RM270 to an account under the name Ng Yong Aun and RM2,750 to an account under Aw Yu Hui," added Mustafa.

The victim later lodged a police report after suspecting it was a scam.