



Headline: Macau scam ring crushed, 22 arrested

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## Macau scam ring crushed, 22 arrested

**IPOH:** Police have smashed a Macau scam syndicate, which was responsible for 76 cheating cases involving RM11 million, after they raided a condominium in Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur.

Twenty-two Malaysians, including four women aged 18 to 27, were nabbed in the operation at 5pm on Oct 30, Perak acting police chief Datuk Goh Boon Keng told a press conference yesterday.

The operation was jointly conducted by personnel from the Perak and Bukit Aman Commercial Crime Investigation departments.

Police also seized various equipment used by the syndicate, including 34 handphones, laptop computers and cars, as well as prepared scripts for conversation in Bahasa Malaysia and Mandarin to cheat victims.

"Police believe the two-year-old syndicate was previously operating overseas but returned to Malaysia because of Covid-19, and could not leave the country due to the movement control order.

"This is the first time a Malaysia-based Macau scam syndicate, preying on locals, has been smashed.

"Previous syndicates had call centres in Malaysia but targeted victims overseas or were based outside the country but preyed on victims in Malaysia."

The special operation squad had been keeping surveillance on the syndicate for a week, after a woman in Bandar Cyber here reported on Oct 19 that she had been conned of RM67,000 by one Insp Leong from Sabah, who had threatened her with arrest for allegedly laundering RM148,000.

"Acting out of fear, she made two transfers of RM43,000 and RM24,000 to an account as instructed before realising she had been cheated."

Goh said police would apply to extend a four-day remand of the 22 suspects, which expired yesterday.

He advised the public to be wary of people who asked them to transfer money after threatening them with arrest over the telephone.

"Police will never ask people to transfer money from one account to another," he added. - Bernama