

The Star : Pawn in SMS scam arrested

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PENANG: A durian picker who allowed his bank account to be used in a RM560,000 SMS scam reported here has been arrested in Pahang.

The man was picked up by Bentong police on Nov 26 and handed over to George Town police for questioning a few days later.

Sources said the 23-year-old man was introduced to a Chinese national by a friend a few months ago while visiting Kuala Lumpur.

The Chinese national asked him if he was interested in making some money. He was told to open a bank account and he would be given 2% of the money withdrawn.

The foreigner accompanied him to make five withdrawals amounting to more than RM50,000 over three weeks.

The withdrawals were made from various bank branches in Kuala Lumpur. The man went back to Pahang after being given RM1,000, the sources said.

A 32-year-old computer analyst was reportedly cheated of RM560,000 on Sept 10 after receiving a SMS notification about winning RM1.43mil in an Internet lucky draw.

She subsequently deposited the money into 14 bank accounts between July and August. A police report was lodged when her winnings failed to materialise.

It is learnt that two syndicates based in Hong Kong and Taiwan have conned many people in SMS scams over the past two years.