

# Credit card scam is back

## Syndicates cheat victims by asking them to settle default payments

THE STAR 12/9/2009 M/S 17

**KUANTAN:** Syndicates preying on victims by telling them to transfer cash for "defaulted" credit card payments have resurfaced in Pahang.

State commercial crime chief Supt Zaini Jass said 13 such cases were recorded in June involving cash totaling RM112,551.

The victims, he added, included an accountant, a teacher, a flight officer and a pensioner.

"Eight cases happened in Kuantan while the rest were reported in Mentakab, Genting Highlands, Jengka, Lipis and Raub.

"In the most recent case, a mechanic was

cheated of RM23,990 over two consecutive days," he told reporters yesterday.

Supt Zaini said in the scam, syndicate members would contact the victims and identify themselves as bank officers from a renowned financial institution.

"The victims would then be told that they have defaulted on credit card payments to the bank although they did not even have a card.

"In order to further convince the victims, the syndicate members would give them the name of a so-called 'Bank Negara officer', with whom they could purportedly clarify

the matter," he said.

He added that many victims instead chose to follow the instructions and transfer their money into various banks to "settle" the payments.

Supt Zaini said initial investigations showed that the bank accounts into which the money was deposited into belonged to someone else who had no knowledge of the scam.

"The public must not be too gullible and give away their personal details, including bank accounts, to strangers," he said, urging them to be suspicious of such calls.