

# OMG! What an evil scheme

## Retiree puts her faith in pious-sounding investment guru

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**SEREMBAN:** Conmen have now resorted to using God's name as they use every possible trick to make a quick buck from the gullible.

This was revealed by a 61-year-old government retiree from Sikamat near here after she lost her entire gratuity and some of her husband's savings totalling RM202,000 to an online investment scheme.

The victim, who only wished to be known as Ika, said she was added to a Telegram group on June 16 and the administrator introduced her to a scheme which offered unusually high returns.

"I was told that if I invested RM1,000, I would get a RM10,000 profit within three hours.

"The group admin always sound-

ed very religious and would tell me not to worry as God will help me as he did the other investors who apparently got huge returns.

"I decided to invest RM1,000 on June 20 after reading the so-called feedback from the other members of the group who showed photographs of them holding stacks of money, buying jewellery and even queuing up at the ATM to withdraw their profits," she said at Bukit Kepayang assemblyman Nicole Tan Lee Koon's service centre.

Her faith in the investment scheme increased when some group members revealed that they made between RM50,000 and RM150,000 a day.

However, when Ika asked for her profits, the suspect told her that she must pay certain expenses such as taxes, and administrative and mis-

cellaneous fees.

He encouraged her to keep on investing as times were good so the returns were high.

"I believed him and transferred the rest of the money in instalments into different bank accounts over the next 10 days.

"When I asked him for the profits which had apparently shot up to RM1.5mil, he said I would need to make payments totalling RM35,000 before I could get the money," she said.

When Ika told the suspect that she was broke, he asked her to transfer any amount for the time being.

"I transferred another RM5,000 but was then blocked from the Telegram account.

"I finally figured out that the other so-called investors were also playing along all the time to trap

me," she said.

According to them, it was difficult to withdraw the profits at the beginning but all investors would eventually get their money.

Ika then conducted checks on the investment group and found out that it was a scam.

Asked if she had consulted her husband before deciding to invest, Ika said: "No."

She has since lodged a police report.

Tan advised the public not to trust individuals peddling investment opportunities with unusually high returns on social media.

"This reminds me of the saying that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

"Even if you know the individual, you should exercise caution before investing your hard earned money," she said.