

## Fake Police Uniforms and Pretend Official Trap:

### Postgraduate Student Loses Over HK\$1 Million



#### **Defrauding Tricks**

**Would you drop your guard at the sight of a police uniform?**

Recently, a postgraduate student let down their defenses during a video call when seeing the scammer wearing a police uniform and providing an “Police officer ID number.” In fact, fake police uniforms and arrest warrants are common tactics used in scams! Always remember: Mainland Public Security Bureau Officials will not call you while you are in Hong Kong, nor will they ask you to transfer money or pay “guarantee fees”.

#### **Recent Case**

A postgraduate studying finance in Hong Kong received an unknown call in August. The caller claimed that a phone number registered under the student's name in Chinese Mainland was involved in a fraud case and requested cooperation in the investigation. The call was then transferred to the so-called "Xiamen Municipal Public Security Bureau."

Later, the scammer posing as an officer from the Xiamen Municipal Public Security Bureau provided their officer ID number and even started a video call, allowing the victim to see the police uniform, thereby gaining his/her trust.

The victim, as instructed by the scammer, made multiple transfers for "fund verification" and maintained regular contact to report updates. The victim realized he had been scammed only after reviewing online anti-fraud information at the end of October. By then, the victim had lost over HK\$1 million.

### **Deception Statistics**

As of September this year, there have been 1,711 deception cases involving university students, with total losses reaching HK\$180 million. Among these, local students lost approximately HK\$16 million to telephone deception, while mainland students lost around HK\$87 million.

### **Police Advice**

- If the caller claims to be a " Mainland Public Security Bureau Officer" hang up immediately.
- Remember: Mainland Public Security Bureau Officer or law enforcement agencies will not call you in Hong Kong to handle cases.
- Mainland Public Bureau Security officers will never ask you to pay a "guarantee fees" or provide banking details and passwords.
- Do not disclose personal information, including your ID number, bank account details, etc.
- Even if the strangers who send you messages are able to tell your information, it does not mean they are genuine law enforcement officers. Scammers can obtain personal information of the public by unlawful means.
- If you suspect that you have fallen prey to a scam, please call the "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222" for enquiries.