



Date: 31 July 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **CRIME ALERT – ELDERLY GOLD SCAM**

This advisory serves to alert you of recent spate of a gold cheating scam targeted at senior citizens. A total of eight cases have been reported between May till date.

2 A single culprit usually targets female elderly persons aged between 66 to 87 years old. The ruse employed by the culprit involves claiming that he is an acquaintance or friend of the victim's family members/relatives. The culprit would then convince the victim that he could assist in exchanging the victim's jewellery for more expensive ones before coaxing the latter into handing over her jewellery and then absconding with the loot.

3 While Police is keeping close tabs on the development of these cases, it is important that the senior citizens remain vigilant to prevent themselves from becoming the next victim.

### **Crime Prevention Measures**

- Do not fall for anything that sounds too good to be true especially if you are asked to surrender money or valuables. Examples of likely scams include the trading of old jewellery for newer pieces, fortune telling, magical talismans or objects like 'magic stones' or apples that would cure illnesses or avoid disasters, or any introduction to get-rich-quick schemes.
- If you are suspicious, consult your relatives and check with the police. Take note of the descriptions of the culprit(s), e.g. appearance, complexion, clothing, mannerism, movements and other physical details. This will help the police identify the culprit(s).
- Family members can play a key role by constantly updating their elders on the latest crime trend and the modus operandi.

6 If you have any information on the above cases or wish to report any suspicious persons fitting the description, please contact Police at police emergency number **999**.