



06 MAY, 2026

Illegal Bitcoin miners steal RM700m in power annually

New Straits Times, Malaysia



STEPPING UP ENFORCEMENT

Illegal Bitcoin miners steal RM700m in power annually

KUANTAN: Electricity theft linked to illegal Bitcoin mining activities costs Malaysia an estimated RM700 million annually.

Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad said the authorities were stepping up enforcement against the offenders.

"The country faces about RM700 million in losses annually due to electricity theft by illegal crypto miners," he said at Perkampungan Seri Mahkota Permai here yesterday.

Rahman, along with officers from the Energy Commission and Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), had raided two houses during a special operation dubbed Op Steal.

"Today (yesterday), we raided two houses in Kuantan over theft of electricity for illegal Bitcoin mining.

"The first house consumed about 40,703 kilowatt-hours daily, with losses estimated at RM21,000 a month. In the second

house with 10 machines, losses was around RM13,700 a month."

Electricity supply to the two houses had been cut. However, no arrests were made.

Also present at the raids were Energy Commission compliance and enforcement division director Ismail Zaili Yusop, deputy chief executive officer (technical regulation and compliance office) Roslee Esman, and TNB chief distribution network officer Ahmad Sazree Abd Aziz.

"Op Steal will be conducted regularly, not only in Pahang but also in other states. I will be on the ground during these operations."

He added that efforts to combat

electricity theft would be intensified.

"The Energy Commission and TNB officers not only have the expertise to detect electricity theft, but they are also using modern technology, including drones, to track down illegal crypto mining operations."

He said both cases would be investigated under Section 37(3) of the Electricity Supply Act 1990, which provides for a fine of up to RM50,000, imprisonment of up to one year, or both, upon conviction.

Repeat offenders may face fines of up to RM100,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or both.

