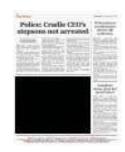


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JB grinds to halt as power goes out

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JOHOR BARU — Thousands of people were stuck in traffic gridlocks in several parts of the city centre here after a massive power outage yesterday.

The power disruptions reportedly also affected hundreds of businesses.

Most of the city centre, including parts of Larkin and Skudai, were without electricity from about 1pm.

The situation was made worse as Thursday is a half work day for most of the state's civil service and agencies. Johor marks its weekends on Fridays and Saturdays.

State police chief Datuk Mohd Khalil Kader Mohd said he ordered the traffic division to be deployed to critical areas of the city centre where traffic had come to a standstill.

The Johor Fire and Rescue Department said it was notified of the outage via reports of people trapped in stalled lifts.

"However, most of the victims stuck in lifts were freed by the respective building's lift maintenance teams," said a Johor Fire and Rescue Department spokesman.

A check with Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) CareLine showed that most parts of south Johor was affected.

"At the moment, the power outage is critical as the main station in Johor Baru with an output of more than 60 million



Traffic in most parts of Johor Baru came to a standstill after a massive power outage yesterday. — Picture by Bernama

watts has been affected," said a TNB CareLine personnel.

Electricity was restored in all the affected areas by 7.10pm.

Checks by Malay Mail showed that traffic lights in the city centre were functioning and traffic flow was back to normal about 8pm.

CareLine Facebook post confirmed that electricity supply to the city centre's main areas of Jalan Wong Ah Fook, Jalan Hang Tuah, Jalan Yahya Awal, Jalan Visata, Jalan Serampang and Jalan Harimau had also been restored.