



09 MAY, 2022

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The Edge, Malaysia



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The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) is actively collaborating with Tenaga Nasional Bhd, the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) and the Energy Commission (ST) to prevent power theft resulting from illegal cryptocurrency mining activities.

The ministry, in response to *Digital Edge's* cover story, "The Dark Side of Cryptocurrency Boom", said in an email reply that it is working with the agencies and regulators to curb "illegal connection electricity meter tampering by crypto miners to prevent more losses to the country".

However, the ministry did not mention any policies being discussed to regulate the contentious issue.

In February, KeTSA revealed that the country had lost RM2.3 billion worth of electricity – which equals 4.5 billion kilowatts per hour – to illegal crypto mining between 2018 and 2021. The number of incidents increased by 400% in the corresponding period.

According to Tenaga, 211 joint raids were conducted with ST, PDRM and local councils on 677 premises in Peninsular Malaysia from November 2020 to December 2021, and 244 arrests were made for power theft.

The ministry also took down an illegal bitcoin mining syndicate in 988 premises throughout the country through joint operations carried out with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and Tenaga.

Countries around the world have governed crypto mining on their own terms. Some countries such as China and North Macedonia have banned cryptocurrency completely,



including mining activities.

Others have legalised crypto mining. Dubbed as "Bitcoin's green haven", the Nordic regions' crypto mining rigs operate using renewable energy. Iran also provides licences to legal miners and offers a special electricity tariff.