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POLICE TO HELP COMBAT CRIME

SESB loses RM200m a year to electricity thieves

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) said yesterday it loses about RM200 million per year as a result of electricity theft.

Chairman Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said SESB lost 17 per cent of its power supply grid, 10 per cent of which was "system loss", while seven per cent was "non-system loss" or theft.

From a financial perspective,

he said one per cent of electricity loss resulted in SESB incurring losses of RM30 million per year, hence non-system loss or theft caused SESB to suffer losses of RM210 million per year.

"This amount (RM210 million per year) represents 25 per cent of the total losses suffered by SESB. This amount is also adequate to help reduce SESB's dependency on government subsidies, which

is currently around RM850 million per year.

"This also means that if we can combat this theft, the financial sustainability of SESB will be much better. SESB is a victim of electricity thieves, which is why SESB takes serious measures to combat theft crimes," he said yesterday.

Madius said he paid a courtesy call on Sabah Police Commis-

sioner Datuk Jauteh Dikun at the Sabah Police Contingent headquarters here on Tuesday.

On the visit, he said SESB and the police exchanged views and agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating electricity theft in the state.

"I am confident and believe that this meeting will boost the existing cooperation between SESB and the police." **Bernama**