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Malacca to crack down on illegal gambling

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MALACCA: The state government here will set up a special task force to curb illegal gambling activities, the state legislative assembly was told yesterday.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Sulaiman Md Ali said the task force would comprise several agencies, including the Malaysian Multimedia Communications Commission, police, local authorities and the Education Department.

He said the task force would be chaired by the State Education, Technology and Telecommunications Committee chairman Datuk Rais Yasin.

"We will facilitate coordination of the establishment of the task force as soon as

possible to finalise the duties and responsibilities of the agencies involved," he said in reply to a question from Rosli Abdullah (BN-Kuala Linggi) on measures taken to curb illegal online gambling activities in Malacca.

Sulaiman also said the task force would convene once a month to assess the effectiveness of the campaigns and enforcement action that have been taken to comprehensively address the illegal gambling issue.

He added that awareness campaigns would also be carried out in 238 primary schools, 78 secondary schools and 45 higher education institutions in the state in efforts to curb the problem at the grassroots level.

"Police will also reopen its special operations room 24 hours a day to enable the public to channel complaints or information related to illegal gambling activities in their area and to allow prompt action to be taken."

Sulaiman said a total of 513 individuals were arrested through 501 raids mounted by authorities last year in operations to curb illegal gambling in the state, adding that during the period, a sum of RM107,614 in cash and items used in illegal gambling activities were seized.

He also revealed that electricity supply was also disconnected by Tenaga Nasional Bhd at 111 premises found running illegal gambling operations. - Bernama